

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

In Senate Chamber
Tuesday
March 11, 2025

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

Prayer by Reverend Gabriel Strawn of Redeemer Lutheran Church in Gorham and Sanford.

REVEREND GABRIEL STRAWN: Heavenly Father, you have established governments for the upholding of order, the punishment of evil, and the protection of your people. Cause the Holy Spirit to stir the hearts and minds of this Senate, that they each be inspired and invigorated to act as servants of the triune God, enacting laws and policies which reflect the order of your creation and ensure the safety of all who reside in the State of Maine. We ask this in the Name of your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator Richard T. Bradstreet of Kennebec County.

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

Medical Provider of the Day, Hannah Stonebreaker, PA-C of North Yarmouth.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Off Record Remarks

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

ORDERS

Joint Orders

Expressions of Legislative Sentiment recognizing:

Robert T. Callahan, of Gorham, Director of the Lewiston Regional Technical Center, who was named the 2024 Career and Technical Education Administrator of the Year by the Maine Association of Career Technical Education. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 197

Sponsored by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Senator: ROTUNDO of Androscoggin,
Representatives: SATO of Gorham, TERRY of Gorham.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

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

Senator **ROTUNDO:** Thank you, Madam President, Fellow Colleagues of the Senate. I rise today to honor Robert Callahan, the long-time director of the Lewiston Regional Center of Technology, for being named the 2024 Career and Technical Education Administrator of the Year by the Maine Association of Career Technical Education.

After earning his undergraduate and graduate degrees from Assumption University, Rob worked on the university campus as the Assistant Director of Student Activities. His career in Lewiston began as the Assistant Director and then Director of Adult Education for Lewiston public schools. He was hired as the Director of Lewiston Regional Technical Center in 2008, a position that he has held since then.

Rob has served two terms as the president of the Maine Administrators of Career and Technical Education and he has then been the legislative chair of this organization for four years, frequently testifying or providing information at the State Capitol. He has been deeply involved in the Western Maine Administrators Consortium, helping regional school administrators work toward and maintaining their certifications. Rob was the creator and facilitator of LRTC's expansion of programs in 2023, seeing his hard work and dedication to serving more students come to fruition when several new programs were opened at the Edward Little High School in Auburn. He continues to spearhead the expansion of even more programs planned for next year and in the future.

LRTC currently serves over 740 students in programs and is also home to 240 JMG students. His vision of providing as many opportunities as possible to students has propelled LRTC into the world of extended learning opportunities. There are currently over 35 students learning skills off campus from professionals in their field of study. Rob's creativity and leadership with the LRTC program is one prime example of his commitment to student learning.

Thank you, Rob, for all you've done for our city, and for career and technology centers throughout the state.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the Chamber, Director Rob Callahan of the Lewiston Regional Technical Center. He is the guest today of the Senators from Androscoggin, Senator Rotundo, and the Senator from

Cumberland, Senator Brenner. Would he please rise and accept the greetings of the Senate.

Pending - **PASSAGE**

The Joint Order was **READ**.

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

THE PRESIDENT: At this time, the Chair would recognize the Senator from Washington, Senator Moore.

Senator **MOORE:** Thank you, Madam President. This actually will be taken a little bit out of order because I know it's in the House Calendar, but today I would love to honor the Washington Academy Boys Soccer Team of East Machias, which won the Class C North Championship.

It's hard to think about soccer today, when we've been dealing with ice and snow, but in the fall, they did an outstanding job, and I am so proud of the boys and the great work that they did, along with their hardworking coaches who have kept them going. So, I'm honored to be able to honor them first since they were not -- the House has not gone into session, so I would bring that to your attention.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the Chamber, the Class C Northern Championship Soccer Team, including David Wood, Ashton Whitney, Alan Lassen, Cooper Robinson, Alex Jordan, Carter Wannemacher, Manny Albee, Linus Patterson, Jack Caricofe, Pau Castelle, Urko Rieno, Elias Huerta, Richard - I apologize if I'm getting your names wrong - Messasole, Ada Gungor, Juan Garda, Sam Davidson, as well as their coaches, David Whitney, Jonathan Marzoll, and Randon Mortland. They are from Washington Academy, and they are the guests today of the Senator from Washington, Senator Moore. Would they please rise and accept the enthusiastic greetings of the Senate.

Senator **INGWERSEN:** Thank you, Madam President. Madam President and my Fellow Colleagues of the Senate, you're probably wondering why I'm here today to celebrate a tiny little House of Pizza in Arundel. They didn't bring pizza today, although after speaking with him, I think he probably would have if I would've asked. That's how generous this House of Pizza is.

Arundel House of Pizza, or what we call Arundel HOP, is a small business restaurant serving pizza in a cozy little shop right on busy Route 1, or Portland Road, in Arundel. Their dough is homemade, which is made using honey and brown sugar, and their pizza is great. But owner Craig Allaire has not brought us pizza today - of course, unfortunately - what they and their family and staff have also been busy with since their founding only three years ago is giving back to the surrounding community. AHOP has shown time and time again that they are more than just a little pizzeria, they are a community partner. In 2024, Arundel House of Pizza donated nearly \$20,000 to the community through food drives and local charities. This is because for one day every month, the House of Pizza donates 20% of their sales to a local charity, to a nonprofit, or to a family in need. Community Outreach Services, the Arundel Conservation Trust, the 3 Towns 1 Community Fund, Community Gourmet, and many more organizations have been beneficiaries of their generosity.

That is why today I'm pleased to present this legislative sentiment to officially recognize the Arundel House of Pizza's contributions to Arundel and to the surrounding community and to the State of Maine. To Craig Allaire and his entire team, thanks so much for your kindness, thank you for your generosity, and for your dedication to making Arundel a better place for all of us.

Congratulations and keep up your awesome work.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the Chamber folks from the Arundel House of Pizza. Will they please rise and accept the greetings of the Senate?

Off Record Remarks

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Unfinished Business

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

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (3/4/25) matter:

JOINT ORDER - Expression of Legislative Sentiment
Recognizing Arundel House of Pizza

SLS 163

Tabled - March 4, 2025 by Senator **INGWERSEN** of York

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

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

JOINT RESOLUTION - Memorializing the Honorable Louis Scolnik, of Andover, Massachusetts

SLS 120

Tabled - February 25, 2025 by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin

Pending - **ADOPTION**

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

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

Senator **ROTUNDO:** Thank you, Madam President, Colleagues of the Senate. I was honored to call Judge Louis Scolnik a friend. He was a great jurist and an exemplary human being. His integrity, thoughtfulness, compassion, courage, and fairness continue to inspire me and those with whom he worked. I bring him with me when I come to the State House every day, and I think of him particularly when we take up issues that involve protecting peoples' dignity and worth. He would always say that when in doubt, rule for the underdog. Always do the right thing.

Louis Scolnik left the richest of legacies to the people of Maine. He will be deeply missed, but his extraordinary work lives on in the rest of us. Thank you.

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

Senator **TALBOT ROSS:** Thank you, and good morning, Madam President. I just wanted to give a few brief remarks as it relates to the life and legacy of this great, great American who we were pleased to be able to work with throughout lifetimes on civil rights. I remember him as a very, very kind individual, but also someone who my father spoke of so highly and appreciated at a time when it may have been very dangerous to do so his work with the NAACP and, in fact, helped found the first office for the NAACP for their work in the early 1960s. He will be remembered in all of our hearts, and I know that this life that he has lived is an inspiration to all of us.

Thank you, Madam President.

The Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Provide Electronic Notification to Victims of Crimes"
S.P. 408 L.D. 981

Presented by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Senator: HARRINGTON of York.

Bill "An Act to Require First Responder Training for Mental Health Crisis and Critical Incident Stress Recognition"

S.P. 427 L.D. 993

Presented by Senator NANGLE of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Senator: CURRY of Waldo.

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.

Bill "An Act to Allow Hunting on University of Maine System Property"

S.P. 420 L.D. 988

Presented by Senator TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Senators: BLACK of Franklin, CYRWAY of Kennebec, MARTIN of Oxford.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act Clarifying Exemptions from the Notification Requirements for Products Containing PFAS"

S.P. 419 L.D. 987

Presented by Senator FARRIN of Somerset.
Cosponsored by Senators: BERNARD of Aroostook, BLACK of Franklin, MARTIN of Oxford, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Resolve, to Create the Commission to Improve the Oversight of the Long-term Care System

S.P. 399 L.D. 980

Presented by Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc.
Cosponsored by Representative SHAGOURY of Hallowell and Senators: BAILEY of York, INGWERSEN of York, MOORE of Washington, RENY of Lincoln, Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, FOLEY of Wells.

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 Impose a Moratorium on the Ownership or Operation of Hospitals in the State by Private Equity Companies or Real Estate Investment Trusts"

S.P. 416 L.D. 985

Presented by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representative SHAGOURY of Hallowell and
Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland.

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

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Protect Consumers from Hidden Fees and Ensure Transparent Pricing for Live Event Tickets and Short-term Lodging"

S.P. 426 L.D. 992

Presented by Senator NANGLE of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Senator: President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland.

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

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding Service of Notice of Restricted Person Status to Hospitalized Patients"

S.P. 413 L.D. 983

Presented by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative KUHN of Falmouth and
Senators: BALDACCI of Penobscot, HAGGAN of Penobscot,
Representative: LEE of Auburn.

Bill "An Act to Eliminate the Crime of Felony Murder"
S.P. 418 L.D. 986

Presented by Senator BEEBE-CENTER of Knox.

Resolve, Requiring the Office of the Attorney General to Develop and Promote an Optional Online Registry Informing Landlords of Their Rights and Obligations

S.P. 424 L.D. 990

Presented by Senator CURRY of Waldo.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Require Every State and Municipal Building to Have at Least One Automated External Defibrillator"
S.P. 414 L.D. 984

Presented by Senator MOORE of Washington. (BY REQUEST)
Cosponsored by Representative ZAGER of Portland and
Representatives: DAIGLE of Fort Kent, GRIFFIN of Levant.

Bill "An Act to Prevent Conflicts of Interest When Voting on Municipal Employee Compensation"
S.P. 425 L.D. 991

Presented by Senator MARTIN of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Senator: CYRWAY of Kennebec.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Establish Equal Tax Treatment for the Mi'kmaq Nation"
S.P. 412 L.D. 982

Presented by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative SAYRE of Kennebunk.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Recognize Amateur Radio License Holders by Waiving Fees for License Plates Displaying Call Signs"
S.P. 421 L.D. 989

Presented by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, MOORE of Washington, NANGLE of Cumberland, Representative: GERE of Kennebunkport.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

ORDERS

Joint Orders

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

S.P. 423

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at 10:00 in the morning, or until the call of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, respectively.

READ and PASSED.

Sent down for concurrence.

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

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

S.O. 15

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 in the morning, in the Hall of the House for the purpose of welcoming the Honorable Dannel P. Malloy, Chancellor of the University of Maine System, the Honorable Dave Daigler, President of the Maine Community College System and the Honorable Craig Johnson, Interim President of the Maine Maritime Academy and request that they make such communication as they may be 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.

Off Record Remarks

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Non-Concurrent Matter

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

In Senate, February 25, 2025, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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

Joint Orders

The following Joint Order:

H.P. 500

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs shall report out, to the House, a bill that prohibits an educational institution in this State that receives state funds from being a member of or paying dues or fees to an organization that does not prohibit biological males from participating on teams in sports designated for "girls" or "females." The bill must provide that any state funding to such an educational institution that continues to be a member of or pay dues or fees to such an organization must be deappropriated or otherwise eliminated until the educational institution complies with the law.

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

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

Joint Resolutions

The following Joint Resolution:

H.P. 499

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE MUSLIM CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY MONTH OF RAMADAN

WHEREAS, Ramadan is the 9th month in the Islamic calendar, a significant holy month in the Islamic faith and a month of sacrifice in which Muslims fast the entirety of the month, abstaining from food and drink from sunrise to sunset; and

WHEREAS, commencement of Ramadan begins on the evening of February 28, 2025, and Ramadan continues for one lunar month; and

WHEREAS, Ramadan is the holy month when millions of Muslims in the United States fast not only to renew themselves spiritually but also to recognize their responsibility and obligations to society at large and to take care of those less fortunate, regardless of their religious or racial background; and

WHEREAS, Muslims in Maine contribute greatly to charitable organizations that help people from all faith backgrounds and also contribute greatly to society, serving as medical professionals, teachers, first responders, journalists, writers, artists, athletes, small business owners, professors, activists, community leaders and elected public officials; and

WHEREAS, Muslims in Maine have a long history of contributions to our State, including the building of one of the first mosques in North America in Biddeford in 1915; and

WHEREAS, Eid al-Fitr is celebrated by Muslims worldwide as the day that marks the end of the month-long sunrise-to-sunset fasting of Ramadan; 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, in observance of and out of respect for the commencement of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of fasting, prayer, charity, reflection and spiritual renewal, take this opportunity to recognize the onset of Ramadan and express our deepest respect to Muslims in Maine and throughout the world on this significant occasion; and be it further

RESOLVED: That We extend best wishes to all those of Muslim faith in Maine, the United States and across the world for a joyous and meaningful observance of Ramadan.

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

READ and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

The following Joint Resolution:

H.P. 504

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MARCH 2025 AS
SOCIAL WORK MONTH**

WHEREAS, social workers have paved the way for change by enhancing the well-being of all people, especially the most vulnerable in society; and

WHEREAS, social workers have helped lead the nation's struggle for social justice and continue to advocate for positive social change and, more than the members of any other profession, social workers recognize that more must be done to address the persistent social problems that plague the State; and

WHEREAS, social workers support diverse families in every community and understand that individuals and communities together can bring about change; and

WHEREAS, social workers advocate for the rights of the disadvantaged and oppressed; and

WHEREAS, social workers advocate for children's rights to a safe environment and a good education; and

WHEREAS, social workers advocate for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer rights; and

WHEREAS, social workers advocate for the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin or income with respect to development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, rules and policies; and

WHEREAS, social workers work to ensure good care is provided to older adults; and

WHEREAS, social workers help provide community support for veterans and their families after their service; and

WHEREAS, social workers strive to improve access to mental health treatment and health care services in order to save lives; and

WHEREAS, social workers effect change and put the ideals of citizenship into action every day through legislative, regulatory and social policy efforts; 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 March 2025 as Social Work Month; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the University of Maine, School of Social Work; the University of Maine at Presque Isle, College of Professional Programs, Social Work program; the University of Southern Maine, School of Social Work; the University of New England, School of Social Work; Saint Joseph's College, Social Work program; and the National Association of Social Workers, Maine Chapter.

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

READ and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

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 Daniel P Malloy, Chancellor of the University of Maine System, the Honorable Dave Daigler, President of the Maine Community College System and the Honorable Craig Johnson, Interim President of the Maine Maritime Academy an invitation to attend the Convention and make such communications as pleases them.

The following Joint Resolution:

H.P. 576

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MARCH 6, 2025 AS
BLACK BALLOON DAY**

WHEREAS, substance use disorder and the overdose crisis continue to devastate communities across Maine, resulting in the tragic loss of 490 lives in 2024 alone, leaving families, friends and communities in mourning; and

WHEREAS, Black Balloon Day, observed annually on March 6th, serves as an international day of remembrance to honor those lost to overdose and to acknowledge the profound impact of substance use disorder on individuals, families and society; and

WHEREAS, each life lost represents a parent, child, sibling, friend or neighbor whose full potential was never realized because of the disease of addiction; and

WHEREAS, the overdose crisis affects people of all backgrounds and communities, and there is an urgent need for increased awareness, prevention, treatment, harm reduction and recovery support services; and

WHEREAS, stigma remains a significant barrier to seeking and receiving care, and it is our collective responsibility to foster compassion, understanding and evidence-based approaches to substance use disorder; and

WHEREAS, families and advocates throughout Maine continue to share their stories, fight for better policies and work to ensure that no more lives are lost to preventable overdoses; and

WHEREAS, Black Balloon Day provides an opportunity for individuals and organizations to come together in remembrance and in solidarity, encouraging conversation and action to address this ongoing public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the urgency of addressing the overdose epidemic through continued policy efforts, funding for prevention and treatment programs and community-driven solutions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, pause in our deliberations to recognize Black Balloon Day, honor the 490 lives lost to overdose in Maine in 2024 and extend our deepest sympathies to the families and loved ones affected by this crisis; and be it further

RESOLVED: That we reaffirm our commitment to addressing substance use disorder and supporting those in recovery with compassion, urgency and dedication.

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

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Member can proceed.

Senator **BRENNER:** Thank you, President Daughtry. I rise today to honor the memory of Kari Morissette and over 5800 individuals who have -- who we've lost to overdose in Maine since 2009. As we approach Black Balloon Day, or I guess now we've since passed it on March 6th, a day of national remembrance for those lost to overdose, it is imperative that we reflect on these profound losses and renew our commitment to combatting the overdose crisis.

Black Balloon Day began in 2016 as a grassroots movement after Diane Hurley, a Massachusetts mother, lost her son, Greg, to an overdose. What started as a small tribute quickly grew into a nationwide event where families and communities displayed black balloons to symbolize the devastating loss of life due to a substance use disorder. One of the most poignant losses in our community was that of Kari Morissette, who passed away on May 6, 2022, at the age of 33. Kari was the Executive Director of Church of Safe Injection, an organization dedicated to harm reduction and the health, rights, and dignity of people who use drugs. Under her leadership the Church became a certified syringe service program through the Maine CDC, operating in Westbrook, Lewiston, Rumfield, Bethel, and Dixfield.

Beyond her organizational leadership, Kari was passionate -- she was a passionate advocate in our state legislature, tirelessly working for legislation to save lives, support harm reduction, connect individuals to recovery, and dismantle systems that oppress marginalized communities including LGBTQ+ individuals and the unhoused. Her unwavering commitment to equity and compassion touched countless lives and inspired many. As we remember Kari and the thousands of others lost to overdose, we must recognize that each statistic represents a person, a family member, a friend, and a neighbor. A ripple effect of those losses touch every corner of our state, underscoring the urgency of our response.

In the upcoming legislative session, we will have the opportunity to support bills that enhance treatment, recovery, harm reduction, and prevention efforts across the state. I urge my colleagues to view these legislative decisions through the lens of those we've lost and those we can still save by supporting comprehensive measures. We honor the memories of the individuals like Kari and move toward a future where fewer families experience such heartbreak. I also urge my colleagues to get trained to carry naloxone, the life-saving medication that reverses an overdose. Members of the harm reduction community are available throughout the day and onward to provide that training. Please see me or one of them if you're interested.

Let us commit to actionable steps that address this crisis head on, ensuring that our policies reflect the compassion and dedication that advocates like Kari exemplify. Together, Colleagues, we can all make a difference that saves lives. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Somerset - or as I was about to say, the County of Skowhegan - Senator Farrin.

Senator **FARRIN:** Thank you, President Daughtry, and esteemed colleagues. I rise today with a heavy heart and a determined spirit as we recognize Black Balloon Day, a day to remember those who were lost to overdose, and recommit ourselves to the actions necessary to end overdoses here in Maine.

For me, as many of you know, it is deeply personal. On July 27, 2022, my family experienced the unthinkable loss of our beloved daughter, Haley. Haley Lynn Farrin was only 26 years old. She was a daughter, a sister, a friend, and a bright light to all that knew her. Haley was born on June 10, 1996, in Skowhegan, Maine. She grew up in Madison, where she graduated in 2014. She later earned a degree in medical biology and a minor in psychology from the University of New England. She had a passion for helping others. She dreamed of becoming a doctor. But like so many of us, her path took unexpected turns. She battled some challenges and resilience, but she never let obstacles stand in her way. She loved horses, Friday night bike rides, Austin Powers movies. She was an adventurer who found joy in the Florida Keys where she spent time at the turtle hospital and where she even adopted a sea turtle. Her heart was as big as her smile and her love of giving back led her on a mission trip to Jamaica. She was a devoted Boston Red Sox fan and due to her father and stepfather, she was a Miami Dolphins fan, and she even had the honor of announcing play ball at Fenway Park. She was so many things, compassionate, determined, and deeply loved. But despite all of that, we lost her. And today, I stand here not just as her father, but as a voice for the countless families across Maine who have suffered the same unbearable loss.

As legislators, we must support those in recovery, invest in treatment and prevention, and remove the stigma that prevents people from seeking help. We must recognize that addiction is not a moral thing, it's a disease. It is one that claims lives every single day.

On March 6th and today, we remember those that we've lost, like my Haley. I ask that we stand together as fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, neighbors, and community members by committing to real action, real support, and real help for all Mainers.

And one last message, Madam President, as I look to the young faces down here in the well, no one is alone. Reach out - neighbors, family, friends, community, teachers, whatever - be a good friend, and know that there is help and support out there and we do not go through these challenges alone. Thank you, Madam President.

The Joint Resolution **was ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

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.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

The President requested the Sergeant-At-Arms escort the Senator from Cumberland, Senator **PIERCE**, to the rostrum where she assumed the duties as President Pro Tempore.

The Senate was called to order by President Pro Tempore **TERESA PIERCE** of Cumberland County.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Unfinished Business

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

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (3/4/25) matter:

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

H.P. 131 L.D. 209
(C "A" H-1)

Tabled - March 4, 2025 by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland

Pending - **CONSIDERATION**

(In Senate, February 11, 2025, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-1)** in concurrence.)

(In House, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-1) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "H" (H-9)** thereto in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.)

On motion by Senator **DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland the Senate **RECEDED** from whereby the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-1)**.

On further motion by same Senator, the Senate **RECEDED** from whereby it **ADOPTED COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-1)**.

On further motion by the same Senator, Senate Amendment "F" (S-6) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1) **READ**.

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

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM: The Member may proceed.

Senator **DAUGHTRY:** Thank you. Madam President Pro Tem, I rise to introduce this amendment to the committee amendment to LD 209, the supplemental budget.

A supplemental budget is akin to the careful budgeting that Maine families across our state practice. Many have heard me say this time and time again, the supplemental budget is really paying our bills. It is keeping our commitments to the 131st Legislature, to the policies and expenditures that were committed to by them, and making sure that our fiscal house is in order before we really jump into the meat and the policy of what belongs to us, the 132nd Maine Legislature. It's a necessary tool for maintaining the state's financial health. And throughout this process, Democrats and Republicans have stayed at the table to present a budget we can all stand behind. Our commitment to the Maine people has been unwavering, and we have addressed urgent budgetary needs vital to our constituents.

This responsible supplemental budget pays our bills for the remainder of the fiscal year, through June 30, 2025, as you heard me say, and includes language that reflects our commitment to finding consensus with our Republican colleagues on issues that are important to all of us. Critically, we reached an agreement last night with legislative leaders that prioritizes the healthcare needs of the people of Maine, a cause that we will always champion because all Mainers deserve to be able to live and thrive here. And I have come down off the rostrum for the first time since I've been Senate President to present this amendment myself, in my voice, and to highlight and explain both the strong bipartisan work that led to this moment, and also to remind folks what's at stake if we fail to enact this supplemental budget with two-thirds support.

Last month, Senator Marianne Moore introduced a new budget amendment, and in good faith, Senate Democrats engaged in discussions with our Republican colleagues. Myself and my fellow leaders, the Speaker of the Other Body, as well as the minority leaders and our majority leaders recognized there is a chance to find common ground. We decided to slow down, to take a beat, and to stay at the table.

We understand and I thank her for her amendment in bringing this to part of the conversation, and we understood that this issue was an urgent concern of members of both parties. Our direct care workers are a critical part of Maine's workforce. Providing them with their promised and well-deserved pay increase is the very least we all can do here in the Maine Legislature to pay tribute to the vital work that they do.

This amendment also puts limits on General Assistance housing provisions. While I recognize that General Assistance, or GA, is the last resort for many of our fellow Mainers who are experiencing difficult times, Democrats and Republicans agree that it's in need of reform. The change applies to GA housing assistance, which limits all GA assistance to 12 months in a 36-month period. In recent years, this Body has proactively and compassionately passed bills to make sure that children and Mainers do not experience homelessness, but we've also seen the need to address our General Assistance and make sure that it is not only meeting the needs of those who are the most vulnerable, but making it something that our municipalities are

able to work with.

While meeting with my fellow leaders and our staff, in many, many rooms, and many, many conversations, we also discovered that the people who administer this crucial aid in our municipalities do not have annual updates and training on the very rules, laws, and updates made to this measure. This amendment mandates annual training for administrators to GA and requires the Department of Health and Human Services to make clear to those administrators how to use the program and educate them on other resources available when GA is not available.

We can all agree in this building that GA is there for when Mainers need it most, that moment where there's a critical line that perhaps we can make a difference in someone's life, be able to get them back on stable footing, and be able to get them to a place where they can participate fully not only in our state but our economy. And to do that, we need to make sure the people who are administering this vital program have all the resources and that they're able to know what the law of the land is.

Also, all of us are deeply concerned about the solvency of MaineCare. This amendment enlists the services of a third party to review the program and ensure its operations are as transparent as possible for the Maine people and the Maine Legislature. The \$250,000 appropriation for the report draws down a \$250,000 federal match. And the amendment contains language - this is something I was very passionate about - to claw back those funds if the report does not adhere to the specifications of the RFP, ensuring that this work is done with extreme fiscal responsibility. DHHS will be required to issue a report on these findings and the Appropriations Committee will be required to report out a bill. A data-driven, evidence-based review of MaineCare that is able to show us the heart of the matter and also make sure that we are centering data at the center of these conversations and not hearsay, not anecdotes, and not brinkmanship. It will give us a chance to really look at what's going on.

I want to be very clear that the amendment in front of you is not just my own work. There are words, there are aspects, there are ideas and policies that belong to each of our caucuses. There's staff on both sides of the aisle who have worked tirelessly through the night to be able to find the common ground. I think everyone in this room, almost like an atlas, we all agree we want to see Maine thrive. We're all looking at the same goal, we know where we want to go. The problem is we can't agree what part of that atlas we're looking at and which route we're taking there. I want to thank my fellow leaders and the staff who have worked on this measure to try to find that common ground.

The famous political philosopher, Larry David, once said - and I know I'm not the first one to say this, but I feel like I should say it again, just so it's on everyone's minds - "A good compromise is when both parties are dissatisfied." There are parts of this compromise that I would not have written, and who would've thought many of those things would've been an amendment under my name when I first walked into this building when I was 25. However, if this bill does pass with two-thirds support, MaineCare providers will not have to restrict care for their patients. I am more than willing and will always put my name on something that makes sure that our most vulnerable do not get hurt.

I want to talk a little bit about what's at stake. Our treatment facilities and rural healthcare providers which operate on razor thin margins would risk shutting their doors. I am sure you

phone has been ringing off the hook, like mine has as well. I've heard from large hospitals, I've heard from small providers, I've heard crucially from folks who are on the frontlines trying to deliver supports to ensure that we are pushing back against the opioid epidemic and providing services to Mainers where they need it. And I've heard a lot from our nursing homes. I've heard from small nursing homes that if we do not pass this measure with two-thirds, we've already lost a lot of beds, this would further make sure that more of those close if we are not able to act together and put aside our partisan divides.

We've been assured that the stoppages to hospitals, nursing homes, doctors, direct care workers, mental health counselors, and so much more will be starting soon, but will not if we are able to pass this.

Again, I cannot stress in strong enough words in this moment that our hospitals and clinics are under extreme financial strain and every single day, every hour that these funds are delayed, we jeopardize their very existence and their ability to deliver these services to the Maine people. One example, Day One residential recovery treatment center in Portland has the only youth residential program to support substance abuse disorder in the entire state. Think about that. And they currently have ten children who live there full-time and receive life-saving services to try to give them their best chance to be able to stay here in Maine, to be able to frankly stay alive. And 97% of them are covered by MaineCare.

Expecting to be reimbursed by the State for the services they've already provided, Day One recently expanded services to have cash on hand to support their workforce and patients for one to two weeks. Thus, thinking about that, without this funding, they would face staff layoffs, may have to send their residents home, including the very children who reside there, who without the support they need, these are the kids who are enduring the most challenging time of their lives that we would be abandoning. We would be turning our backs and saying that our inability to come together, to recognize what a compromise, to see each other's work, would put those ten children out of this facility. And the adult treatment program at Day One would be faced with a very similar situation.

I could tell you about the nursing homes that I have on my island communities. I know many of you have them as well. I think everyone could pick up their phone or reflect on one moment where they've either talked to a Mainer who has received care from one of these facilities, who maybe is only getting their primary care from a clinic that they may have to if they're in rural Maine drive an hour to two hours to be able to receive their service. Imagine if they closed and now they're having to drive three, four hours to get that life-saving care.

It's not just about MaineCare. And I know you've all heard me talk about this a lot, and I'm going to make one more pitch to understand that it's not just about MaineCare in the supplemental. We have to think about our forest products industry. Those windows are closed. Look this way, my colleagues, what do you see? Trees. We are the most forested state in the nation. This measure also ensures that we protect our forest products industry by funding the spruce budworm remediation. According to the Maine Forest Products Council, outbreaks of the spruce budworm occur every 40 years or so, and the last outbreak was 40 years ago - before myself and the good minority leader were even around.

The cost of not acting has been estimated at \$794 million. Think about that. If we don't act today, not only are folks losing

their vital care, but we are losing \$794 million in our forest products industry. More than that, that puts four thousand jobs at stake. An outbreak can also have enormous environmental consequences, an increased risk of wildfire, poor water quality, and degraded wildlife habitat. To our north, in areas where they have not treated the spruce budworm, we have seen not only die-off of critical parts of this vital industry, but we have literally seen it go up in smoke.

I don't want the art of compromise to go up in smoke, too. I didn't run to not be able to do our job, to not be able to deliver for the Maine people. We have been working on this supplemental budget tirelessly. First, with the incredible members of the Appropriations Committee, and I want to give another thanks to our chairs and leads, who have stayed at the table, who have worked day and night to be able to get us to where we are today. And to my fellow leaders as well as their staff, who have taken call after call. We have pitched ideas back and forth and back and forth to try to find a common ground to make sure that we are able to get this done. And also, I think this is a chance for us to remind folks of what Maine is all about. Go out in the hall, look at some of the pictures, look at the Democrats and Republicans and Independents who line these Chambers. We are known for being different. We are known for not only doing our job, but for standing up and saying *Dirigo*.

Today, with this amendment, which is representative of a true bipartisan compromise, we're doing the right thing and accepting a deal that neither side is one hundred percent happy with. But we all know when and if, but most importantly when we pass this with two-thirds support, we are keeping our commitment to Maine. Thank you.

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

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I am intending to vote in favor of this motion to amend the bill.

I do think that this amendment represents improvement in the bill. And so, to echo a lot of the remarks that the Senator from Brunswick mentioned about the various components of it, I think many of them are much needed in this piece of legislation, and intend to support the motion in front of us. Thank you.

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

Senator **CARNEY:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I rise in support of this pending motion as well.

My district relies on MaineCare for health insurance coverage. This provides prenatal, well baby care, glasses and occupational therapy to school kids that give them a successful start in life, it covers children and adults for things like cancer and asthma and diabetes. A large percentage of the population of Maine actually relies on MaineCare to receive crucial healthcare that's essential to the quality of life and also vital lifesaving care. And so, in order to support the need for healthcare in my district, I'm strongly in support of the pending motion.

I also want to share that my district relies 23.12% of my district relies on MaineCare for their healthcare. And I would just like to share the other districts in our state and how much they rely on MaineCare as well. So, the least -- the county -- Cumberland is actually number 14, the county that has the

highest percentage of its population enrolled in MaineCare is Washington County at 45.65%, next is Somerset County at 41.84%, Aroostook at 40.70%, Piscataquis at 39.88%, Androscoggin at 37.57%, Oxford at 37.45%, Franklin at 34.6%, Waldo at 34.07%, Penobscot at 32.67%, next is Kennebec, 31.9, Knox which is 28.94, and then Hancock, Lincoln, Cumberland, of course, York, and Sagadahoc has the lowest rate, which is at 21.58%. And the reason that I read those statistics, everyone, is because I know that in my district, reliance on MaineCare for healthcare will save my constituents' lives and improve the quality of their life.

I'm not excited at all about the General Assistance housing limits. I would be inclined to vote against them, but I know that my community can't get by without MaineCare and the MaineCare payments that will be sustained by voting in favor of the supplemental budget, and so I'm going to be supporting it. Thank you.

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

Senator **MOORE:** Thank you, Madam Pro Tem. I just wanted to stand -- or rise at this point because originally, I voted against the supplemental budget and the reason for that was because it was missing the COLA, which was so important to me. And as I reviewed the Senate Amendment "F" and I worked through this, it does include the MaineCare shortfall that we know all of our providers are waiting for the funding. It's funding that we had -- service is already provided, I guess that would be how it's said. It does include the COLAs for those direct care workers that has been so near and dear to my heart that I've been ranting about for weeks. It does have some reform to the GA. Is it enough? Probably not, but it's a start. And we all know that we need to make some revisions to it. And I know as in HHS committee, we've got several bills that we will be looking at this session to take into consideration some other items. And it also calls for MaineCare reform, which is another really, really important item, I think, for all of us. This is a start, you know, with the idea of having a third-party independent entity conduct a review. It's also a start for the department to actually submit the methodology to seek -- excuse me, that's -- that it provides a report with the findings of the MaineCare program for fraud, waste, and abuse.

So, in view of this supplemental -- or Senate Amendment "F", it has the things that I would vote for, and I will support the supplemental budget. Thank you.

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

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Madam President. Pleased to stand before you today, and I just -- I think this Chamber and this Legislature got ourselves into a bit of a mess a few weeks ago through the appropriations process. And like many of you, it was a sad thing for me to see and is very frustrating. And I think a lot of the frustration was displayed on the floor of the Senate here when we originally took up this matter. And I'm very concerned about it because underlying that, and the conversations I've heard since then, is this real lack of trust. And we need to work at rebuilding that lack of trust among each and every one of us because we can't function without it and we can't serve the people without working with each other, trusting each other once in a while, not ascribing the worst motives to people all the time,

and actually having the conversations that will build that trust.

And so, I have to say I hope we can move beyond that bad place that we were at. I see this amendment as a good faith and a heartfelt effort to restore that trust and to begin the conversations that are going to be needed for us to dig into lots of issues beyond the budget this important year in the governance of the State of Maine. Paying our providers is absolutely critical, and I don't think any Member of this Chamber wants to see delayed payments to providers. Of course, us voting for this is not guarantee that our providers are going to get paid because we all know that we've had a problem with the administration of money by the Executive Branch in getting our providers paid. Some of these folks are months and months out, they're having to borrow money and pay big banking fees on lines of credit because the Executive Branch isn't getting payments out the door. And that is something that we're not solving in this bill, but it is something that other bills seek to solve and that we will be taking up this session.

Regardless of whether you plan to vote for enactment of this bill, this is an improvement, and it's a big step, I think, in carrying the conversations into a reality of people working together and talking with each other, and I commend leadership on both sides of the aisle for taking that step. It's not always easy.

So, I am very -- I just wanted to express my gratitude to President Daughtry, to Leader Stewart, and the other folks who have really been at the table trying to rebuild that trust, having honest conversations with each other, and I hope that it harkens to a bright and happy -- happier spring in the Maine Legislature.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Daughtry.

Senator **DAUGHTRY:** Thank you, Madam President Pro Tem. Just briefly, I want to respond to the comments from the Good Senator from Oxford and say that his points and also the good comments from the Good Senator from Washington are exactly what have driven the language in front of you. Not only making sure that the COLAs were part of it, but hearing the concerns about amendments and -- hearing the concerns about payments being able to reach our providers quickly, that's language that came from the Good Senator from Aroostook, Senator Stewart, and his team, ensuring that we were able to make sure that these payments were worded in a way that it'd be delivered efficiently.

And I just wanted to rise to say that hopefully on the last word on the supplemental is not the last word in the 132nd Maine Legislature. As both have said and others have said, we have a lot of work to do, and I'm really hopeful that we can take this first step together to ensure that in the coming days and weeks, we're able to talk about the priorities of us, of what it means to be the elected officials of the 132nd Maine Legislature. And I hope when the vote opens that you'll follow my light. Thank you.

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

Senator **INGWERSEN:** Thank you, Madam President Pro Tem. In the spirit of getting this supplemental budget passed with the two-thirds support it deserves, Democrats and Republicans agreed to an overhaul that would maintain strong support available through the GA program while reforming the program to include some limits.

This is an example of good, bipartisan governance, and making reforms when it's necessary to do it. We did this by listening to one another, it's taken time, and above all, by listening to our fellow Mainers. It's our fellow Mainers all over the state, regardless of which party they're in, they're depending on us, they're watching us today, to get the supplemental budget out the door with a two-thirds vote.

We took conversations around reforms incredibly seriously. Because considering any reductions to housing assistance at a time when Maine is experiencing a housing shortage, a housing crisis, and skyrocketing housing costs could risk a rise in homelessness, and this is very much a concern of mine. The last thing we want is to force municipalities to have to raise taxes or to make difficult budget decisions to make up for the lack of this critical housing support.

The Committee on Health and Human Services on which I serve, along with the Good Senator from Washington, indicated that GA needed a longer discussion, and we all agreed to put it aside for a while. And we were willing to do the work, the leaders on both sides of the aisle, leaders in many committees were willing to do the work to find common ground in this supplemental budget. It may not be what I completely want, I know it's certainly not what the Good Senator from Washington really would like to have seen, but it brings us to the middle, it brings us to somewhere we can work. To arrive here, we took time to look at month over month need within the municipalities. In this proposal, we allow GA to be used for housing up to 12 months within 36. People - renters and landlords, specifically - build their lives around 12-month increments. This reform allows Mainers to transition into long-term, stable housing.

Our towns, our administrators for GA in all of our towns, they know the individuals and families who have depended on this tool. Elderly Mainers depend on it to make ends meet when they're going through medical treatments. Victims of domestic violence have turned to it when fleeing abuse. GA administrators around the state know the names and the stories of the local people who turn to GA. They warned against dramatic caps, knowing that everyone's stories and circumstances are different, and that GA is definitely an avenue of last resort for lots of folks. Through this compromise, we are supporting these administrators with the training they need to provide the support they deliver to our communities and folks in these communities who need it the most. This element of the supplemental negotiation shows that both sides are supportive of giving the towns the tools they need to ensure the success and the stability of Mainers. It shows that we are careful stewards of our budget and willing to reach a compromise.

In short, we believe that nothing should stand in the way of healthcare for our Mainers. Passing the supplemental involves compromise so we can ensure that. It's time to get these needed funds out the door to our nursing homes, our rural healthcare providers, our home and community-based services, before they start having to eventually close their doors. I know that all of you, like me, have been getting a lot of emails and a lot of feedback from our constituents and our providers. They want us to vote for this today, and I hope you will. Thank you so much.

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

Senator **TIMBERLAKE:** Thank you, Madam President. I'd like to pose a question through the Chair, and my question through the

Chair is I guess I ask we talk -- we hear the Good Senator from Oxford, we talk about trust and things that have gone on this building and probably I've been here too long - and some would agree to that - but I've been here 15 years and it's only the last four years that we've done majority budgets. So, my question I would pose through the Chair is if they were to get a two-thirds budget, would they be willing to state on record here this afternoon before the vote that they would not do a majority budget and that we would do a two-thirds budget at the end of the year? Because if leadership was willing to make such a statement, they might find there was more trust built within this arena, but right now, I don't see the trust being there that anybody's convinced this is going to happen. So, I would hope to hear somebody say that, and you might be surprised what you get.

The Chair noted the absence of the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator **BICKFORD**, the Senator from Penobscot, Senator **HAGGAN**, and further excused the same Senators from today's Roll Call votes.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (33)

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

NAYS: Senators: CYRWAY, MARTIN

EXCUSED: Senators: BICKFORD, HAGGAN

31 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 2 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland to **ADOPT** Senate Amendment "F" (S-6), **PREVAILED**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-1) as Amended by Senate Amendment "F" (S-6) thereto **ADOPTED**, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Sent down forthwith for concurrence.

The President Pro Tem requested the Sergeant-At-Arms escort the Senator from Cumberland, Senator **DAUGHTRY**, to the rostrum where she resumed her duties as President.

The Sergeant-At-Arms escorted the Senator from Cumberland, Senator **PIERCE**, to her seat on the Floor.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

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

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Joint Resolutions

The following Joint Resolution:

H.P. 577

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 2025 AS CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

WHEREAS, dental caries is the most common chronic disease found in children; and

WHEREAS, through dental education and regular preventive dental care, tooth decay is almost completely preventable; and

WHEREAS, good oral health habits start in childhood, and parents and caregivers who are educated about the importance of oral health are empowered to embrace appropriate oral hygiene and dietary behaviors and make and keep dental appointments for their children; and

WHEREAS, research shows that, through supervised tooth brushing programs and preventive dental care, children can reduce the occurrence of dental-related illness, which starts as early as first grade and causes children in the United States to miss 51,000,000 hours of school time each year; and

WHEREAS, through a balanced diet, brushing and flossing after every meal and regular dental checkups, children can avoid dental caries and remain healthy; 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 designate February 2025 as Children's Dental Health Month and to encourage the raising of public awareness about the importance of preventive dental care for all children.

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

READ and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication:

S.P. 404

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

March 5, 2025

Hon. Matthea Daughtry
President of the Senate
132nd Legislature

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

Dear Madam President and Mr. Speaker:

On March 5, 2025, 20 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 March 5, 2025, as follows:

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Bill "An Act to Support Immersive Outdoor Education by Establishing the Outdoor School for All Maine Students Program" (EMERGENCY) (S.P. 384) (L.D. 895) (Sponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford) (Cosponsored by Representative CARLOW of Buxton and Senators: GUERIN of Penobscot, GROHOSKI of Hancock, BRENNER of Cumberland, RAFFERTY of York, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, Representatives: RIELLY of Westbrook, MURPHY of Scarborough)

Energy, Utilities and Technology

Bill "An Act Regarding the Calculation of Electric Rate Contracting Costs" (S.P. 386) (L.D. 897) (Sponsored by Senator LAWRENCE of York)

Bill "An Act to Clarify the Process to Transfer Funds Resulting from the Expiration of Unused Kilowatt-hour Credits to Be Used to Provide Assistance to Low-income Electricity Customers" (S.P. 394) (L.D. 905) (Sponsored by Senator LAWRENCE of York) (Submitted by the Public Utilities Commission pursuant to Joint Rule 204.)

Bill "An Act to Update the Solar Energy Development Reporting Date Deadline" (S.P. 395) (L.D. 906) (Sponsored by Senator LAWRENCE of York) (Submitted by the Public Utilities Commission pursuant to Joint Rule 204)

Bill "An Act to Address the Use of Electricity by Data Centers" (S.P. 402) (L.D. 912) (Sponsored by Senator CURRY of Waldo)

Health and Human Services

Bill "An Act to Provide Young Children Stable Access to Health Care" (S.P. 385) (L.D. 896) (Sponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative MEYER of Eliot and Senators: INGWERSEN of York, BRENNER of Cumberland, Representatives: LEE of Auburn, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, MURPHY of Scarborough, DEBRITO of Waterville, BOYER of Cape Elizabeth)

Bill "An Act to Exempt from Fees Certain Services Performed by the Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory for Criminal Investigations" (S.P. 393) (L.D. 904) (Sponsored by Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Senators: CYRWAY of Kennebec, BALDACCI of Penobscot, Representatives: NUTTING of Oakland, ARDELL of Monticello, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, BISHOP of Bucksport)

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Bill "An Act to Strengthen the Requirements for Medical Payments Coverage" (S.P. 388) (L.D. 899) (Sponsored by Senator BAILEY of York) (Submitted by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation pursuant to Joint Rule 204.)

Bill "An Act to Establish the Medical Debt Relief Program" (S.P. 391) (L.D. 902) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot)

Bill "An Act to Collect Data to Better Understand the Consumer's Health Insurance Experience" (S.P. 400) (L.D. 910) (Sponsored by Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc) (Cosponsored by Representative ARFORD of Brunswick and Senator: BAILEY of York, Representatives: MASTRACCIO of Sanford, CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham)

Housing and Economic Development

Resolve, Directing the Maine State Housing Authority to Negotiate for the Purchase of or Acquire by Eminent Domain the Land and Buildings Commonly Known as the Bangor Mall (S.P. 390) (L.D. 901) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Representative ROEDER of Bangor and Representatives: SUPICA of Bangor, RANA of Bangor)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Law Governing Zoning Ordinance Variances for Persons with Permanent Disabilities" (S.P. 396) (L.D. 907) (Sponsored by Senator LIBBY of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Senators: NANGLE of Cumberland, MARTIN of Oxford, Representative: WADSWORTH of Hiram)

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Ticket Sellers from Prohibiting the Transfer of Tickets to Third Parties" (S.P. 403) (L.D. 913) (Sponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield and Senators: FARRIN of Somerset, BAILEY of York, GROHOSKI of Hancock, BALDACCI of Penobscot, RENY of Lincoln, NANGLE of Cumberland, Representatives: ROBERTS of South Berwick, DUCHARME of Madison)

Labor

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Paid Family and Medical Leave" (S.P. 383) (L.D. 894) (Sponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston) (Submitted by the Department of Labor pursuant to Joint Rule 204.)

Bill "An Act to Support Rural Workforce Recruitment by Allowing Pay Differentials Based on Work Site Location and Employee Experience and Credentials Under the Maine Equal Pay Law" (S.P. 387) (L.D. 898) (Sponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook) (Cosponsored by Senator: BEEBE-CENTER of Knox, Representative: BUNKER of Farmington)

Bill "An Act to Protect State Retiree Pensions from Inflation" (S.P. 389) (L.D. 900) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Senator: BEEBE-CENTER of Knox)

Taxation

Bill "An Act to Eliminate the Sales Tax on Prepared Foods and Support the State's Hospitality Industry" (S.P. 397) (L.D. 908) (Sponsored by Senator MARTIN of Oxford) (Cosponsored by Senators: GUERIN of Penobscot, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, Representatives: RUDNICKI of Fairfield, JACKSON of Oxford, HENDERSON of Rumford, FLYNN of Albion)

Bill "An Act to Expand Property Tax Relief for Veterans and Their Survivors" (S.P. 398) (L.D. 909) (Sponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative GRAHAM of North Yarmouth and Senators: FARRIN of Somerset, RENY of Lincoln, NANGLE of Cumberland)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act to Regulate the Advertising of Cannabis Products" (S.P. 392) (L.D. 903) (Sponsored by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec) (Cosponsored by Representative NUTTING of Oakland and Senators: FARRIN of Somerset, BALDACCI of Penobscot, BERNARD of Aroostook, Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, DUCHARME of Madison, BOYER of Poland, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, LAJOIE of Lewiston)

Bill "An Act to Modify Ranked-choice Voting with Regard to Candidates Who Withdraw from an Election" (S.P. 401) (L.D. 911) (Sponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot)

Sincerely,

S/Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate

S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

Sent down for concurrence.

The Following Communication:

S.P. 417

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

March 6, 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 March 6, 2025, 7 bills were received by the Secretary of the Senate.

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, these bills were referred to the Joint Standing Committees on March 6, 2025, as follows:

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Bill "An Act to Ensure Human Oversight in Medical Insurance Payment Decisions" (S.P. 411) (L.D. 955) (Sponsored by Senator MARTIN of Oxford) (Cosponsored by Representative ZAGER of Portland and Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, CYRWAY of Kennebec, HARRINGTON of York, TIPPING of Penobscot, Representatives: Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, MORRIS of Turner, SOBOLESKI of Phillips)

Judiciary

Bill "An Act to Prevent Domestic and Sexual Abuse of Children and Increase Access to Protection from Abuse Orders by Allowing Children to File Protection from Abuse Orders on Their Own Behalf" (S.P. 405) (L.D. 950) (Sponsored by Senator BAILEY of York) (Cosponsored by Representative KUHN of Falmouth and Senators: TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland, CARNEY of Cumberland)

Bill "An Act to Change the Definition of 'Machine Gun' in the Maine Criminal Code" (S.P. 409) (L.D. 953) (Sponsored by Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Representative PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft and Senator: HARRINGTON of York, Representatives: MORRIS of Turner, POIRIER of Skowhegan, ARDELL of Monticello, WHITE of Guilford, HENDERSON of Rumford)

Labor

Bill "An Act to Exempt Agricultural Employers and Employees from the Maine Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program" (EMERGENCY) (S.P. 407) (L.D. 952) (Sponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin) (Cosponsored by Representatives:

GUERRETTE of Caribou, COOPER of Windham, CRAY of Palmyra)

State and Local Government

Bill "An Act to Amend the Law Governing the Membership of the Government Oversight Committee" (EMERGENCY) (S.P. 410) (L.D. 954) (Sponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec) (Cosponsored by Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford and Senator: President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland)

Transportation

Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Implement the Recommendation of the Calais Branch Rail Use Advisory Council to Create a Multi-use Trail (S.P. 415) (L.D. 956) (Sponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington) (Cosponsored by Representative MINGO of Calais and Representatives: TUELL of East Machias, STROUT of Harrington, MCINTYRE of Lowell)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act to Require Disclosure of Campaign Funding Sources" (S.P. 406) (L.D. 951) (Sponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford) (Cosponsored by Representative RIELLY of Westbrook and Senator: GROHOSKI of Hancock, Representative: SUPICA of Bangor)

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. 503

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

February 26, 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 26, 2025, 2 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 26, 2025, as follows:

Education and Cultural Affairs

Bill "An Act to Provide Free School Lunches to Special Purpose Private Schools That Receive Students from the Public School System" (H.P. 501) (L.D. 776) (Sponsored by Representative O'HALLORAN of Brewer) (Cosponsored by Representatives: BUNKER of Farmington, DEBRITO of Waterville, DILL of Old Town, HENDERSON of Rumford, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, MONTELL of Gardiner, ROLLINS of Augusta, WEBB of Durham)

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Bill "An Act to Standardize the Muzzle-loading Season Statewide" (H.P. 502) (L.D. 777) (Sponsored by Representative MASON of Lisbon) (Cosponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin and Representatives: BOYER of Poland, CAMPBELL of Orrington, COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, DRINKWATER of Milford, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, FOSTER of Dexter, GUERRETTE of Caribou, THORNE of Carmel)

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. 529

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

February 27, 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 27, 2025, 24 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 27, 2025, as follows:

Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Bill "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund Mass Timber Manufacturing" (H.P. 505) (L.D. 798) (Sponsored by Representative ZAGER of Portland) (Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset and Representatives: DUCHARME of Madison, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, GATTINE of Westbrook, WADSWORTH of Hiram, Senators: BLACK of Franklin, CYRWAY of Kennebec, President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin)

Education and Cultural Affairs

Bill "An Act to Address Certification Violations for School Staff" (H.P. 510) (L.D. 803) (Sponsored by Representative CROCKETT of Portland)

Bill "An Act to Require School Boards and Governing Bodies of Approved Private Schools to Implement Wearable Panic Alert Systems" (H.P. 515) (L.D. 808) (Sponsored by Representative MASTRACCIO of Sanford) (Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York and Representatives: CROCKETT of Portland, DODGE of Belfast, KUHN of Falmouth, MEYER of Eliot, MURPHY of Scarborough, RIELLY of Westbrook, SARGENT of York, Senator: RAFFERTY of York)

Bill "An Act to Remove Restrictions That Prohibit School Administrative Units from Making Purchases Through Cooperatives" (H.P. 524) (L.D. 817) (Sponsored by Representative MITCHELL of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland and Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, KUHN of Falmouth, MURPHY of Scarborough)

Energy, Utilities and Technology

Bill "An Act to Prevent Consumer-generated Electricity from Being Used by Anyone Other than That Consumer" (H.P. 508) (L.D. 801) (Sponsored by Representative CIMINO of Bridgton)

Bill "An Act Regarding the Approval of Transmission Lines" (H.P. 517) (L.D. 810) (Sponsored by Representative KESSLER of South Portland) (Cosponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock)

Health and Human Services

Bill "An Act to Fund the Provision of Advocacy Services to Persons with Intellectual Disabilities" (H.P. 507) (L.D. 800) (Sponsored by Representative GATTINE of Westbrook) (Cosponsored by Representatives: MCCABE of Lewiston, MEYER of Eliot, Senator: MOORE of Washington)

Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Design a Mentoring Program for Youth Who Have Extended Care and Support Agreements with the Department (H.P. 509) (L.D. 802) (Sponsored by Representative SACHS of Freeport) (Cosponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland and Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, COPELAND of Saco, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, ROEDER of Bangor, STOVER of Boothbay, WEBB of Durham, ZAGER of Portland, Senator: DUSON of Cumberland)

Bill "An Act to Provide Funding to Area Agencies on Aging for Community-based Services and Programs to Support Older Adults" (H.P. 521) (L.D. 814) (Sponsored by Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston) (Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, GRIFFIN of Levant, MEYER of Eliot, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, STOVER of Boothbay, Senators: BICKFORD of Androscoggin, President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, STEWART of Aroostook)

Bill "An Act to Provide Funding for Respite Care and Supplemental Services Provided by the Family Caregiver Support Program" (H.P. 522) (L.D. 815) (Sponsored by Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston) (Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, GATTINE of Westbrook, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, STOVER of Boothbay, ZAGER of Portland, Senators: President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin)

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Resolve, to Direct the Board of Licensure in Medicine and the Board of Osteopathic Licensure to Conduct a Study Regarding the Feasibility of Combining Those Boards (H.P. 512) (L.D. 805) (Sponsored by Representative MATHIESON of Kittery) (Submitted by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation pursuant to Joint Rule 204.)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Scope of Practice for Expanded Function Dental Assistants" (H.P. 513) (L.D. 806) (Sponsored by Representative MASTRACCIO of Sanford)

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish the Right to Hunt and Fish (H.P. 527) (L.D. 820) (Sponsored by Representative CARUSO of Caratunk) (Cosponsored by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec and Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, BOYER of Poland, DILL of Old Town, MORRIS of Turner, SMITH of Palermo, Senators: BRADSTREET of Kennebec, HICKMAN of Kennebec)

Judiciary

Bill "An Act to Allow a Motion to Extend a Protection from Abuse Order After Expiration of the Original Order" (H.P. 516) (L.D. 809) (Sponsored by Representative KUHN of Falmouth) (Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland and Representatives: LEE of Auburn, MEYER of Eliot, SINCLAIR of Bath, STOVER of Boothbay)

Bill "An Act to Provide State Recognition of the Kineo St. John Tribe" (H.P. 519) (L.D. 812) (Sponsored by Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan) (Cosponsored by Representatives: BOYER of Poland, MORRIS of Turner, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, RUDNICKI of Fairfield)

Bill "An Act Regarding State Recognition of Native American Tribes" (H.P. 520) (L.D. 813) (Sponsored by Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan) (Cosponsored by Representatives: BOYER of Poland, MORRIS of Turner, RUDNICKI of Fairfield)

Labor

Bill "An Act to Report Gender Wage Gaps" (H.P. 506) (L.D. 799) (Sponsored by Representative ROEDER of Bangor) (Cosponsored by Representatives: GEIGER of Rockland, MACIAS of Topsham, STOVER of Boothbay, Senator: TIPPING of Penobscot)

Marine Resources

Bill "An Act Regarding the Emptying of Elver Fyke Nets" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 523) (L.D. 816) (Sponsored by Representative STROUT of Harrington) (Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: EATON of Deer Isle, GIFFORD of Lincoln, HEPLER of Woolwich, QUINT of Hodgdon, RIELLY of Westbrook, SIMMONS of Waldoboro, THORNE of Carmel)

State and Local Government

Bill "An Act to Encourage Election Involvement by Making Election Day a State Holiday in Even-numbered Years" (H.P. 511) (L.D. 804) (Sponsored by Representative ARDELL of Monticello) (Cosponsored by Representatives: ALBERT of Madawaska, GUERRETTE of Caribou, HENDERSON of Rumford, QUINT of Hodgdon, THORNE of Carmel)

Taxation

Bill "An Act Concerning the Status of Battery Storage Systems with Regard to the Business Equipment Tax Exemption" (H.P. 526) (L.D. 819) (Sponsored by Representative SATO of Gorham) (Cosponsored by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland and Representatives: BLIER of Buxton, CARLOW of Buxton, DUCHARME of Madison, HENDERSON of Rumford, JAVNER of Chester, TERRY of Gorham, Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland)

Transportation

Bill "An Act to Limit the Number of Free Motor Vehicle Registrations That May Be Provided to a Disabled Veteran and Reimburse Municipalities for the Loss of Excise Taxes" (H.P. 514) (L.D. 807) (Sponsored by Representative DRINKWATER of Milford) (Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset and Representatives: CAMPBELL of Orrington, COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, GUERRETTE of Caribou, HYMES of Waldo)

Bill "An Act to Make Allocations from Maine Turnpike Authority Funds for the Maine Turnpike Authority for the Calendar Year Ending December 31, 2026" (H.P. 528) (L.D. 821) (Submitted by the Maine Turnpike Authority pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, section 1961, subsection 6.)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act to Require a Municipal Public Hearing and Vote Before a Sports Wagering Facility May Be Established" (H.P. 518) (L.D. 811) (Sponsored by Representative BRENNAN of Portland) (Cosponsored by Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, MOONEN of Portland, SALISBURY of Westbrook, SUPICA of Bangor)

Bill "An Act to Allow Expenditure of Maine Clean Election Act Funding for the Care of Candidates' Dependents" (H.P. 525) (L.D. 818) (Sponsored by Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston) (Cosponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland and Representatives: BOYER of Cape Elizabeth, EATON of Deer Isle, KUHN of Falmouth, LEE of Auburn, MCCABE of Lewiston, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, SUPICA of Bangor, Senator: RENY of Lincoln)

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. 130

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

March 10, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Grant:

Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (l) (a), I am temporarily appointing Assistant Majority Leader, Lori Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach, to the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, as House Chair replacing Representative Kristi Mathieson of Kittery, effective immediately.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding this temporary appointment.

Sincerely,

S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 123

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

March 3, 2025

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

RE: Appointment of D'arcy Main-Boyington of Hampden to the Gambling Control Board

Dear President Daughtry:

I am pleased to nominate D'arcy Main-Boyington of Hampden for appointment to the Gambling Control Board.

Pursuant to Title 8, MRSA §1002, this nomination is contingent on confirmation by the Maine Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs.

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 124

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

March 4, 2025

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

RE: Nomination to Maine Maritime Academy Board of Trustees

Dear President Daughtry:

I am pleased to inform you that I am nominating Hailey Fardon of Standish for appointment as the student member of the Maine Maritime Academy Board of Trustees.

Pursuant to Title 5 §12004-C and Public Law 1941, c. 37, §1, as amended by P&SL 1993, c 27, §1, this nomination is contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 125

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

March 4, 2025

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

RE: Nomination of Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development

Dear President Daughtry:

I am pleased to inform you that I am nominating Michael Duguay of Waterville for appointment as Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development.

Pursuant to Title 5, MRSA, §13057, this nomination is contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development.

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 120

**MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

January 27, 2025

The Honorable Matthea E. Larsen Daughhy
President of the Senate
132nd Maine Legislature
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003

The Honorable Ryan M. Fecteau
Speaker of the House
132nd Maine Legislature
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0002

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

Thank you for your invitation to address the Joint Session of the 132nd Maine Legislature on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, regarding the State of the Maine Community College System. I accept your invitation and appreciate the opportunity to share with you our recent accomplishments and future goals.

Sincerely,

S/David Daigler
President

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 121

**UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR**

January 30, 2025

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

Honorable Ryan M. Fecteau
Speaker of the House
132nd Maine Legislature
2 State House Station

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau,

Thank you for your generous invitation to address a Joint Session of the 132nd Maine Legislature.

I look forward to speaking with you and your distinguished colleagues on the State of the University of Maine System on

Tuesday March 11 at 11am. I am especially pleased to share the incredible progress our System has made in expanding affordable access to postsecondary education for learners of all ages, developing Maine's future workforce, and serving as the state's largest and strongest public partner in advancing our students, communities, and economy.

I look forward to seeing you on March 11 and again, thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely,

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

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 122

**MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

March 3, 2025

Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughhy
President of the Senate
Maine State Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

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

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau,

I am pleased to accept your invitation to address a Joint Session of the 132nd Maine Legislature on March 11, 2025 concerning the State of Maine Maritime Academy and other matters. I look forward to joining Chancellor Malloy of the University of Maine System and President Daigler of the Maine Community College System, our peers in Maine's public higher education community. Members of our Board of Trustees and staff will also be glad to attend that day. We look forward to seeing you and thank the Legislature for its consideration of the role Maine Maritime Academy plays in our state's economy and education landscape.

Sincerely,

S/Craig Johnson
Interim President

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 128

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

March 5, 2025

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

Dear Madam President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Labor has had under consideration the nomination of John S. Beliveau of Portland, for reappointment to the Maine Public Employees Retirement System Board of Trustees.

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

YEAS	Senators	2	Tipping, M. of Penobscot, Bradstreet, D. of Kennebec
	Representatives	4	Roeder, A. of Bangor, Archer, M. of Saco, Beck, M. of South Portland, Drinkwater, G. of Milford
NAYS	Senators	0	
	Representatives	2	Collins, A. of Sidney, Macias, R. of Topsham
ABSENT		5	Sen. Rafferty, J. of York, Rep. Geiger, V. of Rockland, Rep. Libby, L. of Auburn, Rep. Skold, C. of Portland, Rep. Soboleski, M. of Phillips

Six members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and two in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of John S. Beliveau of Portland, for reappointment to the Maine Public Employees Retirement System Board of Trustees be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Michael Tipping
Senate Chair

S/Amy Jean Roeder
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

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

Senator **TEPLER**: Thank you, Madam President, Men and Women of the Senate. I rise to briefly say that I am going to be voting for these nominations. However, I have a concern about something that is not being addressed at MainePERS. And I strongly considered not voting for these nominations as a form of protest.

We have gotten COLAs for regular members of the MainePERS, people who have regular retirements. However, people who have a disability retirement have not received a COLA. There has been no COLA recently for those on disability retirement through MainePERS. And this seems to me deeply unfair and also problematic for people with disability retirements as they cannot work and cannot supplement their income.

So, I simply want to register with this Body my concern that this has not happened and would appreciate consideration of this issue in the future.

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

Senator **GROHOSKI**: Thank you, Madam President, Colleagues in the Senate. I rise today in opposition to the renomination of John Beliveau to the Maine Public Employees Retirement System Board of Trustees.

This board is entrusted with safeguarding the retirement security of thousands of Maine workers. Yet, under the tenure of this nominee, we've seen board actions that I do not think reflect that mission. Let's start with executive compensation. MainePERS now has the highest paid senior management of any public retiree systems in New England. In just a few short years, total compensation packages for the top staff have skyrocketed, reaching nearly half a million dollars for one staff member. Meanwhile, many retirees who rely on this system are left navigating broken appeals processes and bureaucratic burdens, as our colleague from Sagadahoc alluded to. And while leadership salaries soar, our pension dollars are being funneled into risky investments, including fossil fuel infrastructure that runs counter to Maine's divestment law, and private equity funds based in foreign tax havens like Luxembourg and the Cayman Islands. Investments in Russian LNG tankers not only contradict our climate goals, but potentially aid foreign adversaries.

We need board members whose votes prioritize sound governance, fiscal responsibility, and ethical investment. Board members who will protect the interests of retirees, not enrich executives or bankroll profits overseas. For these reasons, I will be voting against this renomination as well as that of the next nominee, Shirrin Blaisdell, for the MainePERS Board of Trustees, but I will speak just this once. Thank you very much.

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

Senator **TIPPING**: Thank you, Madam President. I just rise to acknowledge the concerns that have been voiced by my colleagues here and say that I agree, I think there are significant items to be addressed here around both compensation and around compliance with Maine's divestment law. I think there's some unfortunate advice that -- legal advice that's been given that the board seems to be following around how exactly they can pursue that strategy that we have entrusted them with.

I would say, however, that for me personally and for the committee, reflected by this vote, we felt that those were policy decisions that didn't necessarily reflect on these specific nominees. And I just want to read on behalf of the Maine Association of Retirees, which is the nonprofit organization whose mission is to represent the interest of Maine public retirees, which includes state educators, members of participating local districts, judges, and us here in the Legislature, that they testified in support of Shirrin Blaisdell and John Beliveau. They felt that they had extensive experience, they appreciated that they were willing to serve on the board, and that they strongly believed, quote, "That they will continue to represent the best interests, values, and opinions of the public sector of retirees and MainePERS."

Having said that, I hope we continue to have conversations about these policy matters and can continue to address them as a Senate. Thank you.

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

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#34)

YEAS: Senators: BRENNER, FARRIN, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, NANGLE, RENEY

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

ABSENT: Senators: TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: BICKFORD, HAGGAN

6 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 26 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, and 6 being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of **John S. Beliveau** of Portland for reappointment to the Maine Public Employees Retirement System Board of Trustees was **CONFIRMED**.

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 129

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

March 5, 2025

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

Dear Madam President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Labor has had under consideration the nomination of Shirrin Blaisdell of Manchester, for reappointment to the Maine Public Employees Retirement System Board of Trustees.

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

YEAS	Senators	2	Tipping, M. of Penobscot, Bradstreet, D. of Kennebec
	Representatives	4	Roeder, A. of Bangor, Archer, M. of Saco, Beck, M. of South Portland, Drinkwater, G. of Milford
NAYS	Senators	0	
	Representatives	2	Collins, A. of Sidney, Macias, R. of Topsham
ABSENT		5	Sen. Rafferty, J. of York, Rep. Geiger, V. of Rockland, Rep. Libby, L. of Auburn, Rep. Skold, C. of Portland, Rep. Soboleski, M. of Phillips

Six members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and two in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of Shirrin Blaisdell of Manchester, for reappointment to the Maine Public Employees Retirement System Board of Trustees be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Michael Tipping
Senate Chair

S/Amy Jean Roeder
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

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

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#35)

YEAS: Senators: BRENNER, FARRIN, GROHOSKI,
MARTIN, NANGLE, RENY

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

ABSENT: Senators: TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: BICKFORD, HAGGAN

6 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 26 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, and 6 being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of **Shirrin Blaisdell** of Manchester for reappointment to the Maine Public Employees Retirement System Board of Trustees was **CONFIRMED**.

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 127

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

March 5, 2025

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

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

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

L.D. 523 An Act to Change How the Office of the
Attorney General Investigates Officer-involved
Shootings

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Anne Carney
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Amy Kuhn
House Chair

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 126

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

March 05, 2025

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

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, we are writing to notify you that the
Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary has voted unanimously to
report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 227 An Act Regarding Liability for Acts of Violence
Occurring in the State House or Legislative
Space in the Burton M. Cross Building

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Anne Carney
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Amy D. Kuhn
House Chair

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

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Joint Resolutions

On motion by Senator **MOORE** of Washington (Cosponsored by
Senator: TIPPING of Penobscot), the following Joint Resolution:
S.P. 422

**JOINT RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING APRIL 18, 2025 AS WORLD AMATEUR RADIO
DAY**

WHEREAS, amateur radio, also known as ham radio, provides a
bridge between people, societies and countries by creating
friendships and sharing ideas; and

WHEREAS, April 18, 2025 marks the 100th anniversary of the
founding of the International Amateur Radio Union, the entity that
promotes the international cooperation and communication that
are the hallmarks of amateur radio; and

WHEREAS, there are nearly 780,000 federally licensed amateur
radio operators in the United States and approximately 4,500 in
the State of Maine; and

WHEREAS, amateur radio is a valuable resource and, during
emergencies or natural disasters, such as the ice storm of 1998,
Hurricane Katrina, the Boston Marathon bombing and countless
other emergency situations, is often the only dependable way to
communicate locally or internationally; and

WHEREAS, many Maine amateur radio operators serve their
local and county emergency management agencies by training
and holding exercises to prepare for when their skills are needed
during times of emergency; and

WHEREAS, Maine amateur radio operators routinely volunteer
their equipment and time to provide public service
communications for such events as the Dempsey Challenge, the
Trek Across Maine, the TD Beach to Beacon 10K Road Race, the
New England Forest Rally, the Kenduskeag Stream Canoe Race,
the Can Am Crown International Sled Dog Race, the Loon Echo
Bike Trek, the Mount Desert Island Marathon, Autism Awareness
walks and races and the Northwoods Gravel Grind; and

WHEREAS, amateur radio operators of all ages provide a great
inspiration for today's youth by routinely practicing not only voice
communications and the old-fashioned but reliable Morse code
but also many modern digital modes, using the ionosphere as
well as a fleet of satellites and the International Space Station to
make contacts; 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 and acknowledge the accomplishments
and public service provided by amateur radio operators as they
celebrate World Amateur Radio Day on the 100th anniversary of
the founding of the International Amateur Radio Union; and be it
further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the American Radio Relay League and the International Amateur Radio Union.

READ and **ADOPTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Ought to Pass

The Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** on Bill "An Act to Reorganize and Simplify Certain Exceptions in the Use Regulation Law"

H.P. 68 L.D. 103

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

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

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

The Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** on Resolve, to Rename the Bridge on Main Street Between Biddeford and Saco the General Wallace H. Nutting Memorial Bridge

H.P. 43 L.D. 79

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

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

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

The Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** on Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in the Town of Carmel the Kevin M. Howell Memorial Bridge

H.P. 95 L.D. 162

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

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

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

The Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** on Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in the Town of Roque Bluffs the Hope Bridge

H.P. 245 L.D. 345

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

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

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

Ought to Pass As Amended

The Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Support Implementation of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Projects" (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 27 L.D. 63

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-11)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-11)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-11) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Senate

Change of Committee

Senator INGWERSEN for the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on 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

Reported that the same be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Ought to Pass

Senator NANGLE for the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** on Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in Newfield the Dam's Mills Veterans Memorial Bridge

S.P. 193 L.D. 460

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.

Senator NANGLE for the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** on Resolve, to Rename the New Ten Mile River Bridge on Pequawket Trail in Brownfield the Brownfield Veterans Memorial Bridge

S.P. 197 L.D. 463

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.

Senator NANGLE for the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** on Resolve, to Rename the Brackett Mill Bridge in Denmark the Brackett Mill Veterans Memorial Bridge

S.P. 198 L.D. 464

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.

ENACTORS

The Committee on **Engrossed Bills** reported as truly and strictly engrossed the following:

Act

An Act to Eliminate the Provision of the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992 That Allows an Employer Member of a Group Self-insurer to Insure Its Employees Through a Fronting Arrangement

S.P. 67 L.D. 131

PASSED TO BE ENACTED and having been signed by the President was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

House Papers

Bill "An Act to Allow Municipal Fire Departments with Trained Personnel to Conduct Sprinkler Plan Reviews"

H.P. 652 L.D. 1005

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 Provide Funding for Low-income Electric Ratepayer Assistance"

H.P. 642 L.D. 995

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

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

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Medical Providers and Certain Others from Reporting Prescribed Medication-assisted Treatment of Parents to Child Protective Services"

H.P. 648 L.D. 1001

Bill "An Act to Allow Testing of Pregnant Persons for Drugs Directly Before and After Childbirth"

H.P. 653 L.D. 1006

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 Create the Weatherization Plus Program and Weatherization Plus Fund"

H.P. 643 L.D. 996

Bill "An Act to Allow Residential Use Development in Commercial Districts"

H.P. 644 L.D. 997

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 to Protect Children's Identification by Requiring Public Schools to Use the Name and Gender Specified on a Child's Birth Certificate"

H.P. 649 L.D. 1002

Bill "An Act to Update the State's Informed Consent Laws Regarding Drug-induced Abortion"

H.P. 654 L.D. 1007

Bill "An Act to Require the Attorney General to Seek Legislative Approval Before Filing Any Civil Suit on Behalf of the State and to Authorize Citizen-initiated Petitions to Move for Dismissal"

H.P. 655 L.D. 1008

Bill "An Act to Restore Full Civil Rights to Possess Firearms to Persons Previously Convicted of Certain Nonviolent Felony Crimes"

H.P. 656 L.D. 1009

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 Establishing the Retirement Benefit Improvement Fund"

H.P. 650 L.D. 1003

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

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

Bill "An Act to Ensure the Proper Operation of the State"

H.P. 651 L.D. 1004

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

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

Bill "An Act to Amend the State's Vehicle Inspection Law by Requiring Inspections Biennially"

H.P. 657 L.D. 1010

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

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

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

House Papers

Bill "An Act Regarding an Employer's Authority to Prohibit an Employee from Storing a Firearm in the Employee's Vehicle"
H.P. 645 L.D. 998

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

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

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

Bill "An Act to Require Correctional Facilities and Substance Use Disorder Treatment Facilities to Release Prisoners and Patients to a Responsible Adult"
H.P. 647 L.D. 1000

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

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

On motion by Senator **INGWERSEN** of York, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Include Employees of the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission in the State's Group Health Plan"
H.P. 646 L.D. 999

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

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**.

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

Bill "An Act Regarding the Enforcement Provisions of the Law Governing Private Road Maintenance"
H.P. 641 L.D. 994

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

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

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

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

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

Senator **CARNEY:** Thank you, Madam President. I rise today to speak regarding Women's History Month. In order to celebrate Women's History Month, I'd like to share the story of Abbie Burgess, whose heroism as a teenager inspired my children and me the countless times we read Keep the Lights Burning, Abbie, during their childhood.

Abbie Burgess was born on Matinicus Island in 1839 and moved with her family to Matinicus Rock in 1853, when her father, Samuel Burgess, was posted to that lighthouse station. Abbie quickly learned to light the whale oil lamps and perform other duties around the rock. She capably tended the two lighthouses at the Matinicus Rock station with her father and also helped care for her mother and her younger siblings.

In January 1856, when Abbie was just 16, her father, Samuel Burgess, left in his sailboat for the monthly trip to the mainland to get supplies for the family, leaving Abbie home alone on the island with her mother and young sisters. That same afternoon, a fierce storm began to approach Penobscot Bay. Soon, the waves grew large as the wind increased and the gale continued to worsen over the next three days. On January 19th, Matinicus Rock was practically underwater. As surging waves flooded the family home, Abbie moved her mother and sisters to the north lighthouse tower. She later wrote, and these are her words, "The new dwelling was flooded, and the windows had to be secured to prevent the violence of the spray from breaking them in. As the tide came, the sea rose higher and higher till the only enduring places were the light towers. If they stood, we were saved. Otherwise, our fate was only too certain. But for some reason, I know not why, I had no misgivings and went on with my work as usual. For four weeks, owing to rough weather, no landing could be affected on the rock. During this time, we were without assistance of any male member of our family. Though at times greatly exhausted with my labors, not once did the lights fail. Under God, I was able to perform all my accustomed duties, as well as my father's."

A huge wave did, indeed, sweep over the island and destroyed the keeper's house, but not before Abbie saved her family as well as the family chickens. She kept the lights burning so that ships would not run aground on the dangerous rocks as the storm continued to pelt Matinicus Rock with wind, snow, and ice. As the storm persisted, Abbie began to ration the meager supplies to keep her mother and sisters from starvation. The storm and rough seas made it impossible to land at Matinicus Rock for four weeks. When Samuel Burgess finally made it back to Matinicus Rock, he was relieved to find his family alive and

well.

Abbie Burgess continued to tend lighthouses for the rest of her life, keeping mariners and her family safe in sunny and stormy times.

I highly recommend reading *Keep the Lights Burning*, Abbie, to your kids or grandkids or watching the Reading Rainbow show about this remarkable 19th century Maine teenager. I have a copy of the book at my desk if anybody would like to borrow it. My children and I learned a lot from Abbie, especially to believe in ourselves, to act with courage even though you're scared, and to have faith that you can keep the lights burning when all hope seems lost.

In 1891, as she neared death, Abbie Burgess wrote, quote, "I wonder if the care of the lighthouse will follow my soul after it has left this worn-out body. If I ever have a gravestone, I would like it to be in the form of a lighthouse or beacon." She died in South Portland in 1892 at the age of 53 and was buried in a cemetery at Spruce Head. Half a century later, a small lighthouse was unveiled at the foot of her grave. Thank you.

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

Senator **GROHOSKI:** Thank you, Madam President. I, too, rise today as one of the 15 women in the Senate, to join all of our colleagues in recognizing significant women for Women's History Month. I have chosen to celebrate Rachel Carson, who is a noteworthy marine biologist and nature writer.

Most famously, Rachel catalyzed the global environmental movement with her book *Silent Spring*. Now, I, too, have a copy of this on my desk, but I don't think it will be as quick of a read as the book that the Senator from Cumberland has. Published in 1962, it described the dangers of chemical pesticides, resulting in the nationwide ban on DDT and other pesticides. While her research focused on pesticides, much of her writing rings true for other contaminants of concern today, like PFAS and plastics.

I didn't have to reread far into my copy of the book to find this passage that I had highlighted some years ago. Quote: "Along with the possibility of extinction of mankind by nuclear war, a central problem of our age is the contamination of man's total environment with substances of incredible potential for harm. Substances that accumulate in the tissues of plants and animals and even penetrate the germ cells to shatter or alter the very material of heredity upon which the shape of the future depends." End quote.

A year after *Silent Spring* was published, approximately 15 million Americans tuned in to a CBS Reports TV special, the *Silent Spring* of Rachel Carson. And for perspective, this number of viewers was similar to the average number of viewers who typically tuned in to President John F. Kennedy's broadcast press conferences. Combined with President Kennedy's science advisory committee report, the CBS special made pesticides a national topic of conversation.

This weekend, I drove by a bald eagle sitting stoically in a snowy field. It's hard to imagine that we came very close to losing this iconic species, and we might have, were it not for Rachel Carson. After the Second World War, DDT was widely applied as a new pesticide to control mosquitos and other insects. Both DDT and its residues washed into waterways, where aquatic plants and fish absorbed it. When the eagles ate the contaminated fish, the chemicals weakened the eagles' eggshells, making them too thin to incubate or hatch. Before the

ban on DDT in 1972, the eagles died almost to the point of extinction with just 417 nesting pairs known to exist in 1963.

Long before *Silent Spring*, Rachel was a trailblazer for women. In 1936, she had outscored all other applicants on the civil service exam, to become the second woman ever hired by the U.S. Bureau of Fisheries. She remained there for 15 years, eventually becoming the editor in chief of all publications for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In recognition of her service to that agency, a significant national wildlife refuge spanning 50 miles of coastline in York and Cumberland Counties bears her name.

Because Rachel was born in Springvale, Pennsylvania, it's sometimes a little-known fact that she moved to Southport Island in Maine. In the 1950s, while living on Southport Island, she continued to write, publishing *The Edge of the Sea*. Around this time, she had a relationship with a summer resident, Dorothy Freeman, making Rachel an important figure for LGBTQ+ history in Maine and America. Through her achievements, Rachel proved that both women and LGBTQ+ people belong in scientific fields.

When the warmer weather returns, I hope you'll head over to my colleague from Lincoln County's district and explore Rachel's cottage at the edge of the sea on Southport Island. Perhaps the place that inspired Rachel's sense of wonder and impactful writing will speak to you as well.

Thank you, Madam President.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

ENACTORS

The Committee on **Engrossed Bills** reported as truly and strictly engrossed the following:

Emergency Measure

An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025

H.P. 131 L.D. 209
(S "F" S-6 to C "A" H-1)

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

Senator **MOORE:** Thank you, Madam President. I just feel it's necessary to stand up and say just a few words real quickly. I know there's some concern in my caucus, and I do bring want to bring that up.

MaineCare needs reform, we can all agree upon that. Do we need to look at things like copay, eligibility? Absolutely. Do we

need General Assistance reform? Oh, my goodness, yes, we absolutely know that. But we need to pay our providers what we owe them. We need to pay our direct care workers the salaries that we promised them. We need to get this passed so we can roll up our sleeves and get to work and work on these important reforms that are so desperately needed.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator **HARRINGTON:** Thank you, Madam President. I find it really regrettable that we're here today.

You know, just a few weeks ago, we sat here and I made it very clear that if we're going to pass a Medicaid bailout bill, that we need to fix Maine's broken Medicaid system. We've had several weeks to accomplish that, to move that ball, and regrettably, here we are today, with an amendment that we passed earlier that made a bad bill somewhat better, and we did get some reforms that were moving the ball in a positive direction for Maine. But unfortunately, it did nothing to address the Medicaid system in this state.

And for that reason, I will be voting against it, and I think we need to do more in this state to fix our Medicaid system. Thank you.

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 22 Members of the Senate, with 11 Senators having voted in the negative, and 22 being less than two-thirds of the entire elected Membership of the Senate, **FAILED ENACTMENT, in NON-CONCURRENCE.**

Sent down for concurrence.

On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland, **ADJOURNED**, pursuant to the Joint Order, until Tuesday, March 18, 2025 at 10:00 in the morning, or to the call of the President, in memory and lasting tribute of the Honorable Louis Scolnik of Andover, Massachusetts.