

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

In Senate Chamber
Thursday
March 13, 2025

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

Prayer by Senator Donna Bailey of York County.

SENATOR BAILEY: Thank you. Good morning. A common question I, like all of you, am often asked is why do you run for office? My short answer is usually; to help others. But the long answer is; a can of cranberry sauce. Let me explain.

I grew up, as many of you know, in extreme poverty, and know when children grow up in poverty, they also grow up in obscurity. This is also true of adults who live in poverty, but worse for children who can't advocate for themselves and can't vote. Even well-intentioned folks in the best of communities tend to ignore these children, clump them together with other struggling families, or simply fail to see them at all.

So, what's this to do with cranberry sauce? Well, I was lucky because there were times in my childhood when I felt seen and believed my community cared about me and my family. One of those times was when I was five years old and my mother told my brothers and me that we shouldn't expect much of a Thanksgiving meal that year. Mom explained there simply wasn't enough money to buy any extra food. Then, miraculously, the day before Thanksgiving, people from the Salvation Army brought us a box of food, filled with everything for a true Thanksgiving meal - a turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, gravy, rolls, pie, and to my amazement, even a can of cranberry sauce. I remember exclaiming to my mother, look, they even included a can of cranberry sauce. They thought of everything.

To that 5-year-old girl, it was incredible that others cared enough about us to not only give us food for Thanksgiving, but to remember even the smallest of details so our feast would be complete. That cranberry sauce told me that we were seen and we mattered. And so, that box of food was transformed from a symbol of our poverty into an affirmation of our dignity.

Everyone deserves to be seen and know that they matter and everyone deserves to be treated with kindness and respect, no matter who they are or their circumstances. So, when the days are long and the meetings seem endless, as often happens around here, I remember and ask you to please remember the can of cranberry sauce and that 5-year-old girl. Because I know what we do here in Augusta matters. In fact, it matters very much to everyone across the state. And I ask you to also remember that even the smallest gesture can sometimes have an unforeseen big impact on someone, somewhere, who may one day stand in front of the Maine State Senate sharing her story about a can of cranberry sauce. Thank you.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator Stacy Brenner of Cumberland County.

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

Off Record Remarks

The Following Communication:

S.C. 134

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

March 12, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Grant,

Please be advised that in accordance with Senate Paper 423 of the 132nd Legislature, the Maine Senate will convene for Session at 11 a.m. on Thursday, March 13, 2025.

Sincerely,

S/Matthea E. Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication:

S.P. 449

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

March 12, 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 12, 2025, 19 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 12, 2025, as follows:

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Bill "An Act to Provide Funding for Fort McClary" (S.P. 436) (L.D. 1019) (Sponsored by Senator LAWRENCE of York) (Cosponsored by Representative MATHIESON of Kittery and Representative: MEYER of Eliot)

Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Bill "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Develop Maine Talent and Innovation by Improving the Infrastructure of the University of Maine System" (S.P. 431) (L.D. 1014) (Sponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative DUCHARME of Madison and Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, DUSON of Cumberland, LIBBY of Cumberland, Representatives: DODGE of Belfast, MURPHY of Scarborough, SARGENT of York, MITCHELL of Cumberland, BRENNAN of Portland)

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Bill "An Act to Expand the List of Crimes That Do Not Qualify for Immunity Under Maine's Good Samaritan Laws Concerning Drug-related Medical Assistance" (S.P. 442) (L.D. 1024) (Sponsored by Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Representative PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft and Senator: CYRWAY of Kennebec, Representatives: NUTTING of Oakland, ARDELL of Monticello)

Education and Cultural Affairs

Bill "An Act to Change the Residency Requirements for State Funding for Student Tuition at the Maine School of Science and Mathematics" (S.P. 428) (L.D. 1011) (Sponsored by Senator BERNARD of Aroostook) (Cosponsored by Senators: STEWART of Aroostook, LIBBY of Cumberland, Representatives: BABIN of Fort Fairfield, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft)

Bill "An Act to Fund the Operations of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Laboratory" (S.P. 429) (L.D. 1012) (Sponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset) (Cosponsored by Senator: TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, Representative: GOLEK of Harpswell)

Health and Human Services

Bill "An Act to Include Food Provided or Served at Emergency Shelters in General Assistance Reimbursement" (S.P. 434) (L.D. 1017) (Sponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative MEYER of Eliot and Senators: HICKMAN of Kennebec, INGWERSEN of York, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, Representatives: GATTINE of Westbrook, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, PLUECKER of Warren, ZAGER of Portland, DEBRITO of Waterville)

Resolve, to Establish the Task Force to Study Equitable Access to Maternal Health Care and Birthing Facilities (S.P. 446) (L.D. 1028) (Sponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative BOYER of Cape Elizabeth and Senators: MOORE of Washington, INGWERSEN of York, CARNEY of Cumberland, BRENNER of Cumberland, Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, JAVNER of Chester, ZAGER of Portland, DAIGLE of Fort Kent)

Bill "An Act to Ensure General Assistance for Housing Does Not Reduce Assistance for Other Basic Necessities and to Increase Presumptive Eligibility and State Reimbursement for General Assistance" (S.P. 447) (L.D. 1029) (Sponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative GATTINE of Westbrook and Senators: CURRY of Waldo, TIPPING of Penobscot, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, Representatives: GERE of Kennebunkport, ZAGER of Portland, RANA of Bangor, DEBRITO of Waterville, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth)

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Bill "An Act to Protect Health Care for Rural and Underserved Areas by Prohibiting Discrimination by Participants in a Federal Drug Discount Program" (S.P. 435) (L.D. 1018) (Sponsored by Senator BAILEY of York) (Cosponsored by Representative MORRIS of Turner and Senators: President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, MOORE of Washington, BALDACCI of Penobscot, Representatives: NUTTING of Oakland, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, MATHIESON of Kittery, DUCHARME of Madison, FREDERICKS of Sanford)

Housing and Economic Development

Bill "An Act to Establish the Manufactured Housing Community and Mobile Home Park Preservation and Assistance Fund" (S.P. 433) (L.D. 1016) (Sponsored by Senator RENY of Lincoln)

Resolve, to Reestablish and Continue the Work of the Blue Economy Task Force (S.P. 441) (L.D. 1023) (Sponsored by Senator DUSON of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative RIELLY of Westbrook and Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland, MOORE of Washington, RENY of Lincoln, LAWRENCE of York, Representatives: HEPLER of Woolwich, STOVER of Boothbay)

Judiciary

Bill "An Act to Protect and Increase Access to Justice in Civil Legal Matters for Persons with Low Incomes" (EMERGENCY) (S.P. 440) (L.D. 1022) (Sponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan and Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, MOORE of Washington, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, Representatives: MOONEN of Portland, DHALAC of South Portland, RANA of Bangor, KUHN of Falmouth)

Bill "An Act to Strengthen the Law Regarding Relief for Improvident Transfers of Title" (S.P. 445) (L.D. 1027) (Sponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook) (Cosponsored by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach and Senators: BAILEY of York, MOORE of Washington, GROHOSKI of Hancock, Representatives: POIRIER of Skowhegan, LEE of Auburn, BABIN of Fort Fairfield, HENDERSON of Rumford, CARUSO of Caratunk)

Labor

Bill "An Act to Remove Certain Cost-of-living Adjustment Restrictions for Retired Members of the Law Enforcement Bargaining Unit Who Are 65 Years of Age or Older" (EMERGENCY) (S.P. 439) (L.D. 1021) (Sponsored by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative MURPHY of Scarborough and Senators: CYRWAY of Kennebec, HARRINGTON of York, Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft)

Bill "An Act to Allow Federal Civil Service to Count for Purposes of Maine Public Employees Retirement System Benefits" (S.P. 443) (L.D. 1025) (Sponsored by Senator HARRINGTON of York) (BY REQUEST)

Marine Resources

Bill "An Act to Provide Mapping Services for Aquaculture Lease Siting" (S.P. 444) (L.D. 1026) (Sponsored by Senator RENY of Lincoln) (Cosponsored by Representative FARRIN of Jefferson and Senators: MOORE of Washington, GROHOSKI of Hancock, Representatives: HEPLER of Woolwich, STOVER of Boothbay, CRAFTS of Newcastle, STROUT of Harrington)

State and Local Government

Bill "An Act to Protect Taxpayers by Requiring Referenda on Significant Municipal Debt" (S.P. 430) (L.D. 1013) (Sponsored by Senator NANGLE of Cumberland)

Transportation

Bill "An Act to Require a Minimum of 2 Persons on a Crew for the Operation of Freight Trains" (S.P. 432) (L.D. 1015) (Sponsored by

Senator RAFFERTY of York) (Cosponsored by Representative DODGE of Belfast and Senator: BALDACCI of Penobscot, Representatives: MURPHY of Scarborough, MITCHELL of Cumberland)

Bill "An Act to Repeal the Laws Providing for the Construction of a Connector to Gorham and to Resell Land Taken Under Those Laws to Previous Property Owners" (S.P. 437) (L.D. 1020) (Sponsored by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Senator: CARNEY of Cumberland, Representatives: GATTINE of Westbrook, WARREN of Scarborough, OSHER of Orono, MURPHY of Scarborough, SATO of Gorham, TERRY of Gorham)

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. 615

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

March 5, 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 March 5, 2025, 36 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 March 5, 2025, as follows:

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Bill "An Act to Require the Issuance of Maine Agricultural Fair Licenses Every 4 Years" (H.P. 597) (L.D. 932) (Sponsored by Representative HALL of Wilton) (Cosponsored by Representatives: COOPER of Windham, JACKSON of Oxford)

Bill "An Act to Increase the Maximum Permissible Size of Recreational Campfires" (H.P. 604) (L.D. 939) (Sponsored by Representative JACKSON of Oxford) (Cosponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin and Representatives: COOPER of Windham, CRAY of Palmyra, DILL of Old Town, GUERRETTE of Caribou, HALL of Wilton, PLUECKER of Warren)

Bill "An Act to Safeguard Sustainable Food Sources Provided by Certain Maine Farmers" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 607) (L.D. 942) (Sponsored by Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield) (Cosponsored by Senator GUERIN of Penobscot and Representatives: GUERRETTE of Caribou, MINGO of Calais, ROBERTS of South Berwick, Senator: CURRY of Waldo)

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Bill "An Act to Amend the Law Governing Items Identified as Prison Contraband" (H.P. 595) (L.D. 930) (Sponsored by Representative O'HALLORAN of Brewer) (Cosponsored by Representatives: BABIN of Fort Fairfield, BISHOP of Bucksport, DILL of Old Town, DRINKWATER of Milford, HENDERSON of Rumford, MCINTYRE of Lowell, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, Senator: HAGGAN of Penobscot)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Law Allowing Incarcerated Pretrial or Presentence Individuals to Be Credited Time for Participation in Voluntary Work Projects in a Jail" (H.P. 596) (L.D. 931) (Sponsored by Representative O'HALLORAN of Brewer) (Cosponsored by Representatives: BABIN of Fort Fairfield, DILL of Old Town, MCINTYRE of Lowell, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, PUGH of Portland, ROEDER of Bangor, SACHS of Freeport, SINCLAIR of Bath)

Education and Cultural Affairs

Bill "An Act to Require Parental Permission for Certain Surveys and Questionnaires Administered to Minors in Schools" (H.P. 584) (L.D. 919) (Sponsored by Representative LYMAN of Livermore Falls) (Cosponsored by Senator TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin and Representatives: DAIGLE of Fort Kent, DRINKWATER of Milford, EDER of Waterboro, FREDERICKS of Sanford, GRIFFIN of Levant, HAGGAN of Hampden, SOBOLESKI of Phillips, Senator: LIBBY of Cumberland)

Bill "An Act to Require Chaplains in School Administrative Units" (H.P. 592) (L.D. 927) (Sponsored by Representative PAUL of Winterport) (Cosponsored by Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot and Representatives: EDER of Waterboro, FLYNN of Albion, FOSTER of Dexter, WHITE of Guilford, Senators: CYRWAY of Kennebec, HARRINGTON of York, MARTIN of Oxford)

Bill "An Act to Increase to 100 Percent the State Share of Funding for Special Education Costs of All School Administrative Units" (H.P. 598) (L.D. 933) (Sponsored by Representative DILL of Old Town) (Cosponsored by Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, DODGE of Belfast, HEPLER of Woolwich)

Energy, Utilities and Technology

Resolve, to Increase Access to Energy Efficiency Programs by Low-income and Moderate-income Residents (H.P. 611) (L.D. 946) (Sponsored by Representative WARREN of Scarborough)

(Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, GOLEK of Harpswell, Senator: TIPPING of Penobscot)

Environment and Natural Resources

Resolve, to Review Efficiencies in the Licensing of Solid Waste Disposal Facilities by the Department of Environmental Protection (H.P. 585) (L.D. 920) (Sponsored by Representative CAMPBELL of Orrington) (Cosponsored by Senator MARTIN of Oxford and Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico, SOBOLESKI of Phillips, THORNE of Carmel, WOODSOME of Waterboro)

Resolve, Directing the Department of Environmental Protection to Report on Air and Soil Chemical and Metal Levels and on Soil Testing on Solar Panel Farm Sites (H.P. 600) (L.D. 935) (Sponsored by Representative QUINT of Hodgdon) (Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and Representatives: BAGSHAW of Windham, CARUSO of Caratunk, COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, DAIGLE of Fort Kent, HENDERSON of Rumford, MASON of Lisbon, PAUL of Winterport, STROUT of Harrington)

Health and Human Services

Bill "An Act to Implement Certain Local Spending and Sourcing Requirements Regarding the Statewide Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program" (H.P. 603) (L.D. 938) (Sponsored by Representative FLYNN of Albion) (Cosponsored by Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, BOYER of Poland, BOYER of Cape Elizabeth, CHAPMAN of Auburn, COLLINS of Sidney, MORRIS of Turner, OLSEN of Raymond)

Bill "An Act to Require the ASPIRE-TANF Program to Be Administered by State Employees" (H.P. 608) (L.D. 943) (Sponsored by Representative ARCHER of Saco) (Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York and Representatives: CROCKETT of Portland, DHALAC of South Portland, MACIAS of Topsham, ROEDER of Bangor, SAYRE of Kennebunk)

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Bill "An Act Regarding Charges to Uninsured Patients for COVID-19 Vaccines" (H.P. 582) (L.D. 917) (Sponsored by Representative MORRIS of Turner) (Cosponsored by Representatives: PAUL of Winterport, POIRIER of Skowhegan, QUINT of Hodgdon, SWALLOW of Houlton)

Bill "An Act to Allow a Qualifying Religious Organization to Self-insure for Automobile Insurance" (H.P. 583) (L.D. 918) (Sponsored by Representative FOSTER of Dexter) (Cosponsored by Senator GUERIN of Penobscot and Representatives: BABIN of Fort Fairfield, CIMINO of Bridgton, CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, MORRIS of Turner, WADSWORTH of Hiram, Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, HAGGAN of Penobscot)

Housing and Economic Development

Bill "An Act to Promote Investment in Housing" (H.P. 581) (L.D. 916) (Sponsored by Representative GERE of Kennebunkport)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Powers and Responsibilities of the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority" (H.P. 610) (L.D. 945) (Sponsored by Representative SACHS of Freeport) (Cosponsored by Representatives: COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, DUCHARME of Madison, GERE of Kennebunkport, JULIA of Waterville, ROBERTS of South Berwick)

Bill "An Act to Clarify Licensing Jurisdiction for Manufactured Housing Communities" (H.P. 614) (L.D. 949) (Sponsored by Representative GOLEK of Harpswell) (Cosponsored by Senator BRADSTREET of Kennebec and Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, GERE of Kennebunkport, MALON of Biddeford, MINGO of Calais, YUSUF of Portland, Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, CURRY of Waldo)

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Bill "An Act to Establish a Permit to Hunt Coyote over Bait" (H.P. 602) (L.D. 937) (Sponsored by Representative MASON of Lisbon) (Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and Representatives: ALBERT of Madawaska, BABIN of Fort Fairfield, BLIER of Buxton, CAMPBELL of Orrington, DRINKWATER of Milford, FOLEY of Wells, MORRIS of Turner, WOOD of Greene)

Bill "An Act to Increase Cash Prizes for Fishing Derbies" (H.P. 605) (L.D. 940) (Sponsored by Representative ALBERT of Madawaska) (Cosponsored by Senator BERNARD of Aroostook and Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, BABIN of Fort Fairfield, DAIGLE of Fort Kent, GUERRETTE of Caribou, MASON of Lisbon, SWALLOW of Houlton)

Judiciary

Bill "An Act to Expand Use of Electronic Proceedings in the Judicial Branch" (H.P. 586) (L.D. 921) (Sponsored by Representative FREDETTE of Newport) (Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and Representatives: BLIER of Buxton, WADSWORTH of Hiram, Senators: FARRIN of Somerset, MARTIN of Oxford)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Procedure for Filing a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights and Responsibilities" (H.P. 587) (L.D. 922) (Sponsored by Representative KUHN of Falmouth) (Submitted by the Judicial Department pursuant to Joint Rule 204.)

Resolve, Directing the Judicial Branch to Authorize the Lease of a Courthouse That Meets Accessibility and Functional Needs in the Town of Newport (H.P. 589) (L.D. 924) (Sponsored by Representative FREDETTE of Newport) (Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and Representatives: BLIER of Buxton, WADSWORTH of Hiram, Senators: FARRIN of Somerset, MARTIN of Oxford, STEWART of Aroostook)

Labor

Bill "An Act Requiring Employers to Disclose Wage Ranges in Job Postings" (H.P. 606) (L.D. 941) (Sponsored by Representative ARCHER of Saco) (Cosponsored by

Representatives: JULIA of Waterville, MACIAS of Topsham, ROEDER of Bangor, Senator: TIPPING of Penobscot)

State and Local Government

Bill "An Act Regarding Employees in the Office of the State Auditor" (H.P. 579) (L.D. 914) (Sponsored by Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook) (Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and Representatives: DILL of Old Town, GREENWOOD of Wales, HASENFUS of Readfield, ROLLINS of Augusta, TUELL of East Machias, Senators: HICKMAN of Kennebec, MARTIN of Oxford)

Bill "An Act to Modernize Deed Duplication from Microfilm to a Digital Image" (H.P. 580) (L.D. 915) (Sponsored by Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook) (Submitted by the Secretary of State pursuant to Joint Rule 204.)

Bill "An Act to Maintain Public Access to Town Ways in Maine" (H.P. 593) (L.D. 928) (Sponsored by Representative WHITE of Guilford) (Cosponsored by Senator LIBBY of Cumberland and Representatives: ALBERT of Madawaska, FOSTER of Dexter, MASON of Lisbon, MONTELL of Gardiner, PARRY of Arundel, RAY of Lincolnville, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, THORNE of Carmel)

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Improve Representation and Simplify Legislative Redistricting (H.P. 609) (L.D. 944) (Sponsored by Representative WARREN of Scarborough) (Cosponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford and Representative: BOYER of Poland, Senator: GROHOSKI of Hancock)

Taxation

Bill "An Act to Promote Research and Development in the State by Amending the Research Expense Tax Credit" (H.P. 591) (L.D. 926) (Sponsored by Representative SAYRE of Kennebunk) (Cosponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland and Representatives: CROCKETT of Portland, MALON of Biddeford, RIELLY of Westbrook, ROBERTS of South Berwick, SARGENT of York)

Bill "An Act to Provide 100 Percent of the Maine Resident Homestead Property Tax Exemption Amount to Seniors and Veterans" (H.P. 599) (L.D. 934) (Sponsored by Representative WOOD of Greene) (Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and Representatives: CAMPBELL of Orrington, MASON of Lisbon, POMERLEAU of Standish, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, SMITH of Palermo, WHITE of Ellsworth, Senators: FARRIN of Somerset, HARRINGTON of York)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Mining Excise Tax" (H.P. 601) (L.D. 936) (Sponsored by Representative HASENFUS of Readfield) (Cosponsored by Representatives: CROCKETT of Portland, LAVIGNE of Berwick, QUINT of Hodgdon)

Transportation

Bill "An Act to Promote Accredited Institutions of Higher Education in Maine by Removing Requirements for Supplemental Guide Signs on the Interstate Highway System" (H.P. 588) (L.D.

923) (Sponsored by Representative FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor)
(Cosponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock)

Resolve, To Create a License Plate To Recognize the
Semiquincentennial of the United States of America
(EMERGENCY) (H.P. 590) (L.D. 925) (Sponsored by
Representative CARLOW of Buxton) (Cosponsored by Senator
BENNETT of Oxford and Representatives: SARGENT of York,
SAYRE of Kennebunk, Senator: LAWRENCE of York)

Bill "An Act to Clarify Overnight Docking at Mainland Ports for
Certain Island Ferry Vessels" (H.P. 612) (L.D. 947) (Sponsored
by Representative MATLACK of St. George) (Cosponsored by
Senator BEEBE-CENTER of Knox and Representatives: EATON
of Deer Isle, GEIGER of Rockland, RAY of Lincolnville)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act to Increase Access to Medical Cannabis for Seniors
and Veterans" (H.P. 594) (L.D. 929) (Sponsored by
Representative OSHER of Orono) (Cosponsored by Senator
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and Representatives: BOYER of
Poland, FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor, FROST of Belgrade,
LOOKNER of Portland, SUPICA of Bangor)

Bill "An Act to Reduce Administrative Burdens and Expand
Access in the Laws Governing Cannabis" (H.P. 613) (L.D. 948)
(Sponsored by Representative PLUECKER of Warren)
(Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and
Representatives: BOYER of Poland, JULIA of Waterville,
Senators: BRENNER of Cumberland, President DAUGHTRY of
Cumberland, HICKMAN of Kennebec)

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. 625

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

March 6, 2025

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

Honorable Matthea Daughtry
President of the Senate
132nd Legislature

Dear Mr. Speaker and Madam President:

On March 6, 2025, 9 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 March 6, 2025, as
follows:

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Bill "An Act to Establish the Offense of Aggravated Operating
Under the Influence Resulting in the Death of a Pet" (H.P. 621)
(L.D. 962) (Sponsored by Representative WHITE of Ellsworth)
(Cosponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock and
Representatives: BISHOP of Bucksport, CLOUTIER of Lewiston,
FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor, MCINTYRE of Lowell, SAYRE of
Kennebunk, SMITH of Palermo, SWALLOW of Houlton)

Education and Cultural Affairs

Bill "An Act to Integrate Asian American, Native Hawaiian and
Pacific Islander History into the Statewide System of Learning
Results" (H.P. 616) (L.D. 957) (Sponsored by Representative
SATO of Gorham) (Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of
Cumberland and Representatives: DANA of the Passamaquoddy
Tribe, MITCHELL of Cumberland, OSHER of Orono, RANA of
Bangor, SARGENT of York, WHITE of Ellsworth, WOOD of
Greene, Senator: INGWERSEN of York)

Health and Human Services

Bill "An Act Facilitating the Discharge of Hospitalized Patients to
Nursing Facilities" (H.P. 619) (L.D. 960) (Sponsored by
Representative JAVNER of Chester) (Cosponsored by Senator
BERNARD of Aroostook and Representatives: DAIGLE of Fort
Kent, MCINTYRE of Lowell)

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Bill "An Act to Address Maine's Health Care Workforce Shortage
and Improve Access to Care" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 620) (L.D.
961) (Sponsored by Representative MATHIESON of Kittery)
(Cosponsored by Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc and
Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, BOYER of Cape
Elizabeth, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, SHAGOURY of
Hallowell, Senator: BRENNER of Cumberland)

Housing and Economic Development

Bill "An Act to Standardize Subsidized Housing Application
Forms" (H.P. 622) (L.D. 963) (Sponsored by Representative
COLLINS of Sidney) (BY REQUEST) (Cosponsored by Senator
BRADSTREET of Kennebec and Representatives:
DRINKWATER of Milford, FLYNN of Albion, HAGGAN of
Hampden, MATLACK of St. George, SMITH of Palermo, Senator:
TIPPING of Penobscot)

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Bill "An Act to Change the Definitions of 'Sunrise' and 'Sunset' in the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Laws to Better Allow for Variations in Timing Across the State" (H.P. 623) (L.D. 964) (Sponsored by Representative SIMMONS of Waldoboro)

Judiciary

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Eminent Domain on Tribal Lands" (H.P. 617) (L.D. 958) (Sponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor) (Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: CARUSO of Caratunk, DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, DILL of Old Town, HENDERSON of Rumford, KUHN of Falmouth, MINGO of Calais, POIRIER of Skowhegan, SMITH of Palermo)

State and Local Government

Bill "An Act to Require the Automatic Repealing of Agency Rules" (H.P. 624) (L.D. 965) (Sponsored by Representative LIBBY of Auburn)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act to Require the Development of Better Cannabis Testing Criteria and Processes" (H.P. 618) (L.D. 959) (Sponsored by Representative FREDERICKS of Sanford) (Cosponsored by Representative: BOYER of Poland)

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. 640

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

March 7, 2025

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

Honorable Matthea Daughtry
President of the Senate
132nd Legislature

Dear Mr. Speaker and Madam President:

On March 7, 2025, 14 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 March 7, 2025, as follows:

Education and Cultural Affairs

Bill "An Act to Change the Entity Responsible for Operating the Career and Technical Education Center in Machias to Regional School Unit 37" (H.P. 632) (L.D. 972) (Sponsored by Representative STROUT of Harrington)

Bill "An Act to Establish the Community Partnerships with Public School Systems Grant Program" (H.P. 633) (L.D. 973) (Sponsored by Representative BRENNAN of Portland) (Cosponsored by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin and Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, GATTINE of Westbrook, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, MOONEN of Portland, MURPHY of Scarborough, SACHS of Freeport, SALISBURY of Westbrook, STOVER of Boothbay)

Resolve, to Increase the High School Graduation Rate by Creating the Maine Promise Initiative (H.P. 634) (L.D. 974) (Sponsored by Representative BRENNAN of Portland) (Cosponsored by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin and Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, GATTINE of Westbrook, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, MOONEN of Portland, MURPHY of Scarborough, SACHS of Freeport, SALISBURY of Westbrook, STOVER of Boothbay)

Health and Human Services

Bill "An Act to Increase General Assistance Reimbursement for Municipalities and Indian Tribes" (H.P. 638) (L.D. 978) (Sponsored by Representative ZAGER of Portland) (Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representative: ARATA of New Gloucester, Senator: TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland)

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 113: Assisted Housing Programs Licensing Rule, a Late-filed Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Health and Human Services (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 639) (L.D. 979) (Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 8072 and approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council.)

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Bill "An Act to Increase Emergency Medical Services Provider Training Opportunities" (H.P. 629) (L.D. 969) (Sponsored by Representative GOLEK of Harpswell) (Cosponsored by Representatives: CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, RIELLY of Westbrook, SIMMONS of Waldoboro, THORNE of Carmel, Senator: CURRY of Waldo)

Resolve, Requiring the Maine Health Data Organization to Develop a Plan for Measuring Gaps in Home and Community-based Services (H.P. 637) (L.D. 977) (Sponsored by Representative CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham)

Housing and Economic Development

Bill "An Act to Reinvigorate Maine's Workforce and Ensure Student Job Readiness by Providing Funds for the Career Exploration Program" (H.P. 627) (L.D. 967) (Sponsored by Representative EDER of Waterboro) (Cosponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford and Representatives: COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, GERE of Kennebunkport, JULIA of Waterville, MALON of Biddeford, MINGO of Calais, ROBERTS of South Berwick, Senator: CURRY of Waldo)

Bill "An Act to Prioritize Affordable Housing by Expediting Reviews for Affordable Housing Projects Applying for Funding from the Maine State Housing Authority" (H.P. 630) (L.D. 970) (Sponsored by Representative MALON of Biddeford) (Cosponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford and Representatives: COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, GERE of Kennebunkport, GOLEK of Harpswell, MINGO of Calais, ROBERTS of South Berwick, YUSUF of Portland, Senator: CURRY of Waldo)

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Bill "An Act to Repeal the Law Regarding Checking Baitfish Traps" (H.P. 631) (L.D. 971) (Sponsored by Representative STROUT of Harrington) (Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: HEPLER of Woolwich, MASON of Lisbon, THORNE of Carmel, TUELL of East Machias, WOOD of Greene)

Resolve, to Restore Accessible Public Transportation to Swan Island in Perkins Township (H.P. 636) (L.D. 976) (Sponsored by Representative CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham) (Cosponsored by Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc and Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, HEPLER of Woolwich, LEMELIN of Chelsea)

Judiciary

Bill "An Act Allowing Access by State Agencies and Hospitals to Certain Confidential Probate Court Records If the Access Is in the Public Interest" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 626) (L.D. 966) (Sponsored by Representative KUHN of Falmouth) (Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.)

Bill "An Act to Repeal Laws Allowing Abortion and to Criminalize Abortion" (H.P. 635) (L.D. 975) (Sponsored by Representative GRIFFIN of Levant) (Cosponsored by Representative: LEMELIN of Chelsea)

Marine Resources

Resolve, to Study Stakeholder Input Involving the Appointment of the Commissioner of Marine Resources (H.P. 628) (L.D. 968) (Sponsored by Representative GOLEK of Harpswell) (BY REQUEST) (Cosponsored by Representatives: EATON of Deer

Isle, SIMMONS of Waldoboro, STROUT of Harrington, 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:

S.C. 136

THE STATE OF MAINE
132nd LEGISLATURE
AUGUSTA, MAINE

March 12, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Grant,

Pursuant to our authority under Title 12, MRSA, Chapter 419, §4652, we are pleased to reappoint Allison Hepler of Woolwich to the *Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Commission* effective immediately.

Furthermore, we are reappointing Senator Cameron Reny of Lincoln as a permanent proxy member of the commission, who may also attend meetings of the commission. Additionally, Senator Reny may vote in the event of Representative Hepler's absence.

Please let us know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 132

Sincerely,

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SECOND LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

March 11, 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. Underwood of Presque Isle, to report the following bill Leave to Withdraw:

L.D. 668 An Act to Abolish Ranked-choice Voting

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Craig V. Hickman
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Laura Supica
House Chair

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 133

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SECOND LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

March 6, 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 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 113 An Act to Require Food Labels to Disclose Use of Messenger Ribonucleic Acid Vaccine Material in Food Production

This is notification of the Committee's action.

S/Sen. Rachel Talbot Ross
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Bill Pluecker
House Chair

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

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Non-Concurrent Matter

EMERGENCY

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
(S "F" S-6 to C "A" H-1)

In Senate, March 11, 2025, **FAILED ENACTMENT** in **NON-CONCURRENCE.**

Comes from the House, that Body having **INSISTED** on its former action whereby the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED.**

Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland moved the Senate **RECEDE** whereby the Bill **FAILED ENACTMENT** and **CONCUR.**

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

Senator **LIBBY:** Thank you, Madam President, for recognizing me. I'd like to speak a little bit to the issue of why I oppose this motion, and it's rather long, and I apologize for that in advance.

People ask why -- why a no vote on the supplemental budget. And I'm going to explain my vote to this Body and I'm also going to explain my own personal conditions to gain my vote in favor. To anyone within the sound of my voice - and that, I'm sure, includes the Chief Executive - I really hope you'll listen.

My vote is a reflection of my district. My district is rural. Towns like Acton, Shapleigh, Baldwin. These are generally conservative people, but you might ask well, why are they conservative there and not somewhere else? There are many reasons, but one reason is a perfect reflection of this supplemental budget. The fact is that the so-called amendment compromise gives the 13 towns in my district nothing. I have nothing to vote for.

Negotiators talk of General Assistance and General Assistance, we're putting a one-year limit on GA over 36 months and to hold all the details there. Really? I went to Limington, to

my town meeting two weeks ago, and I asked them, what is your General Assistance budget?, and they said to me \$3,000. Three thousand dollars. Do the math. A \$300 electric bill, you take that into Limington and you ask them to pay for it because you can't pay for it yourself, nine more people can follow you for the entire year and the GA budget is gone.

So, you ask me for a vote to, you know, support a GA budget in Portland that's \$123 million, where the money just flows to people in need. The money doesn't flow to people in need in my district in any of the 13 towns. And it's because of the way it's set up. My district, the people in my district, they are compassionate, they want to support you. They want to support new Mainers, I'll tell you right now, they want to support them. They are compassionate. But what you're asking here is not compassion. The housing in my district is subject to valuation for the property tax.

I invite you, Madam President, to come to Kezar Falls with me and we will walk that district as I did the first time I ran to come back to the Senate last session. And what you will see, there are three towns that make up Kezar Falls - Hiram, Porter, Parsonsfield - what you'll see in that village is an incredibly depreciated housing stock. We don't have the capacity to raise GA because we know we get a 70% drawdown from the state, that's the law, but we don't have the capacity to cover the other 30%. We don't have it. Portland, on the other hand, has a lot of housing stock, some of it's depreciated and some of it's fantastic. I love going to Portland to visit that place, it's a wonderful city. There's business there. We have some business, not much. If we only had the valuation to raise a GA budget to, let's say, \$200,000 in a town like Shapleigh, Maine, if we only did, we would. We would. But we don't, and it's because of the way state law is written, it's because of the policy, it's because of the drawdown that is 70%. Portland can go ahead and raise and raise and raise their GA budget, and we can't.

And we don't have a whole lot of new Mainers in my 13 towns. We have disabled people walking in to GA, we have veterans walking in to GA, and the nine people have already showed up to have their electricity bill and now we're over budget. Last year, I remember going to the Town of Shapleigh and they said we're 300% over budget in GA. You don't understand. I think the people in this room are incredibly gifted or you wouldn't be here. But I want you to come to my district, I want you to understand how this works.

A few years back, I donated to a cause and I won a raffle. I won a cord of wood - true story - but I have a cozy gas fireplace, I don't burn wood. So, I remembered something my father had told me, and I went down to the town hall and I asked who's been to the welfare director today? And you know what they said to me, of course, we can't tell you that. But if you hang around here long enough, you'll figure out who's been here. And I hung around and I recognized somebody and they lived on Route 112, I'm not going to tell you who they were, Route 112 is a very long route. And I went to their home and there were a few pieces of cut wood in a pile. I went back to my home, I loaded the cord of wood, I drove my truck down there, and I unloaded it in the pile. Because I know what the answer was in the welfare office, the answer in that welfare office was you come back, you bring your budget, and you subject yourself to work requirements, and we'll think about paying your \$300 electricity bill. And if you don't pay your property taxes, your name will be listed in our town report. You can go online right now and open one of my town's town reports and you'll see five pages in ten font of people who can't pay their

property taxes. It's not like they don't want to, and they don't want to be subjected to this kind of scrutiny where their names, their good names are put in a town report for everyone to see because they can't pay their property tax because of the way the system is organized on a percent basis, on a simple 70% basis. There are some exceptions, there are other parts of the GA law, but that's what it comes down to.

And we do a lot of that, the churches, you name it, we -- it's not, you know, my cord of wood isn't going to make a dent. But neither is -- you can take all the General Assistance in my 13 towns and add them up and they don't come out at all to any -- well, Sanford, for example, a couple million, a little bit more than that, Shapleigh, next door, couple million in Sanford and their population isn't that much more than Shapleigh. Shapleigh's just a few thousand, 12 maybe.

Madam President, if you come, I'll take you to the Porter town office. It's not the Brunswick town office. Something I'd also like to explain is that in my 13 towns, there is no YMCA. In my 13 towns -- in the entire of my 13 towns, there is no Head Start. Did you know that? There's no Head Start. There's some childcare, there's no Head Start. In my high school that I still represent, it's a building from 1962 and it's deteriorating and these folks can't get enough money to rebuild it. They're trying, but they can't. Because we don't have the housing stock and the valuation isn't there. It's not there to even cover their part plus the state share in school construction.

So, the amendment, which I understand, I've been told since it happened, the amendment that we had on this bill was some kind of quid pro quo? I wasn't told that, I didn't know that. Because if I had known that, I would have voted no. Because the amendment does nothing for my district. And I'm -- that's the God's honest truth. Our leadership came in and they said you've got to vote your heart, you've got to vote your district, and I respect that, and we got some people in my caucus who voted yes for this and, you know, I respect that. I respect if you're voting -- I respect you for voting yes. But you have to understand my district. My district is being ripped off. We're paying for all this. We're paying for the well documented hotel -- hotels. And we're receiving nothing.

I really appreciated yesterday, you know, somebody from the other caucus came by and spoke to me and it was just a really wonderful conversation and what is it going to take to get your vote, and I appreciated that. And I'm not going to sit down without telling you what it's going to take to get my vote. It wouldn't be fair.

The GA problem is complex, the MaineCare problem is complex. My Senate District has many, many recipients of MaineCare and we all know there's 400,000 people on MaineCare. So, it's either GA or MaineCare that I'm going to get to that point here eventually. I did the research on all of the different categories that are part of MaineCare and eligibility and who is enrolled and right now, it's around 405,000 people that are in MaineCare. 87.4% of the 405,000 people are on full MaineCare. Right? So, we have 405,000 - about the same population as New Hampshire, New Hampshire has 184,000. And that includes that piece that -- the expansion group, right, the expansion, MaineCare expansion was added a few years ago and it does involve these young people who are able-bodied. So, that's all -- that was my understanding of what was offered to the other party was able-bodied people ought to at least try to look for. And so, what I said in my caucus was let's never kick anybody off of MaineCare now, let's come up with something

going forward, eligibility going forward, so nobody loses their coverage. But eligibility going forward is going to be a little bit different in this expansion category. It's not going to be the percent of federal -- the federal poverty level that it's at now, it needs to be reduced somewhat. I mean, Medicaid is for those in need. That's not almost one out of every three Mainers. That's just not. There are a lot of people in need, but there are other places for those people to get help who are on the high end of that spectrum. We have to help them look for it.

So, I mean, one condition would be all I ask for would be any minor change in that expansion line, any minor change. I swear, if it was 1% less, you'll have my vote because I'm not leaving here with some kind of study and we're going to pay for a study, I'm not doing that. And the limits that were put in the amendment don't affect my district at all, as I said earlier. So, going forward, new applicants, that needs to be one condition, and I'll vote with you. So, the reduction is -- well, the current level is 138% of the federal poverty level, that's the setting right now for the expansion line. It's got to be a little bit less than that so that the able-bodied people, we help them find private insurance somewhere. And there are other programs available, and you know what they are.

The other problem with MaineCare is that this half billion -- the hole right now that we're trying to cover is 122 million or whatever it is, but other funds were drawn down to get to that number. This -- what I think is about a half billion-dollar hole in MaineCare will recycle every single budget. It'll recycle. It'll come back. So, it is our duty to try to make some kind of a change to change the trajectory of the cost. And I think we also have to do a far superior job of forecasting. You don't really want to under-forecast in here, do you? I don't want to under-forecast. I remember walking into Governor McKernan's office and telling him, overestimate your costs, overestimate your costs, because if you give the agency structure everything that they want now, we're going to find ourselves in a huge budget hole. He wouldn't do it, and we were in a huge budget hole. So, this isn't the first one I've faced. Not at all. 1992 was a huge budget hole. But I wouldn't even, you know, say overestimate them, just forecast them correctly. How could we be this far off?

So, I think that your heart's the same size as mine, and I think my heart is the same size as yours. You can't tell me any different. Just because I care about solving a problem, that's what I came up here to do, try to solve a problem, not kick the can down the road. That's what the amendment does is it kicks the can down the road, Madam President.

The other thing, Madam President, is that my intelligence is insulted by the \$2 copays. It costs more to process the \$2 copays than the \$2 copays. If I make one visit to a chiropractor on MaineCare, there is a \$2 copay. And you all know that, and we've known that for a long time, and so, why aren't we addressing it? I would even do this, I'll give you my vote if you change the copays. You could make them zero for people under the poverty level and ten bucks for people that are at, you know, 125% of it. I'll give you my vote. I'm not going to stand here and feel comfortable that we're going to do this in the biennial budget because it hasn't happened yet. You know, so, I honestly think -- there are some categories, by the way, there are some categories involving children, obviously, and we have to take care of them in MaineCare, but there are some categories that are 305% of the federal poverty level. So, those people are making more than my first-year teachers. Right around the same area. Can't have that. We can't have that. What are we telling our teachers? Tell them to keep the \$2 copay for the two kids they took in for the checkup

and tell them they can buy a box of cereal on the way home and feed them, because they -- we need to help these kids. This isn't working. We need to help them.

What in essence happens is that you raise taxes on the poor in my district and it funds the things that we've been taking about and that includes the Office of New Mainers, which I want to support. Anyone here doubt that I want to support that? Because I do. I do. I'm working now in my job with an Egyptian student who is here on a visa. I want her to be able to stay. I want her to be able to stay. So, that's not what it's all about.

I will vote for any small dollar change that you make. If you were to close the session down and we were going back into caucus, Madam President, and you came back with an amendment that made any of those changes, I promise you, you'll have my vote. And my understanding is you might have three of our Republican colleagues' votes and I will be the fourth. I will do that.

Thank you so much for listening to me.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would advise Members I am giving great latitude but to remember to direct your comments through the Chair during debate. And additionally to not question the motives of others. But I know this is something that is important for all of us, and it is also very strange, I will admit, when delivering comments to deliver them just to the front when we have folks all around.

But with that, I will, with those reminders, open it up to the Senator from Hancock, Senator Grohoski.

Senator **GROHOSKI:** Thank you, Madam President, Colleagues of the Senate. It is easy to forget the real and wide-reaching impact of our actions. But it is a vote like this that reminds us all that what we do here truly matters. Because if we today are not able to meet our obligations to those who rely on MaineCare, our constituents will certainly not forget the impact of our actions.

A retired couple in my district whose son with down syndrome relies on MaineCare services for the support he needs to engage in society. They wrote to me to make sure I would not forget what this funding means to them. The families around Hancock County who watched every one of our nursing homes close their doors in recent years, they do not forget the pain of having to move their loved ones into far-away facilities. I do not wish that upon any other communities. A small business owner in my area with a newborn who just received a temporary hold notice on service for his baby. It felt like a gut punch to hear from him about this vote today.

I hope you, my colleagues, will remember and think of the constituents in your districts who are like mine, who need us to vote in support of this bill. Please join me in making a positive impact on their lives and the healthcare of so many of our neighbors.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator **CYRWAY:** Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I rise to express my disparity today.

I have a big heart. When it comes to the people of Maine, they should be allowed to have their voice heard, and it has been taken away in the last six years. Now, I and several of my colleagues in this Chamber are expected to change their vote for

a disaster of a budget that we inherited, with little to say in it.

I am here -- I am hearing that Northern Lights is closing in my area. Daycares are struggling. The COLA that should've been paid is not paid. I'm hearing these sad stories. Two hundred years ago -- in 200 years, we had two instances that we had the majority vote. In 200 years. That tells me that we worked together to come up with balanced budgets throughout the years. In this administration, we are facing after this possibly a third time just in this administration to have our population's ability to have a say in our budget taken away. The problem is that the -- that we will end up with more taxes and it still will not take care of the debt. We are looking at half a billion this year of a hole to fill and we will be right back with the same problem the next time. This is a repeat. Just an example, the hospitals, they're calling me how they're not being paid and how this is going to really be the point where the breaking point, and the same thing happened back just prior to this administration and our governor prior to this had made a huge payment and paid the hospitals off. We're going to have the same thing happen again. Madam President, your party is the majority, and you can fix this if you wanted to. I asked the last six years for the respect of our party to allow us to be heard and we had that right taken away. I cannot in good conscience support a cleanup of the past -- of this budget that we had no voice in. I just feel that we at this point cannot keep going the way we're going.

When people called me the last few days and are telling me we need these things paid, we need this money, and I agreed with them, they do. But we're not going to answer this problem because we were not included in trying to make a budget work. And here we are with little breadcrumbs that you've heard is not even going to help the people in my area or other areas that even help. And putting the -- saying we're going to pay this COLA that should've been paid, I don't even think we should've put that in because it was supposed to be paid a year, year and a half ago. So, we need to say it's time that we stand up and say we want to be included. We want to be included in this budget and the other budgets to make it work and help the people of Maine. Not just half the population, all the population.

I have a lot of friends in this Body, in both parties, and I like working with all of you, and I think that we can work together, and that's what we want to do. But this isn't working the way it is right now. So, I have to vote no on this because I feel we cannot keep going the way we're going. So, that's why I'm doing what I'm doing. It's not because I want to. Thank you.

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

Senator **RENY:** Thank you, Madam President. Originally, I rise today because we're facing an important moment. It's one that impacts the wellbeing of hundreds of thousands of our constituents, countless healthcare providers and thousands of jobs. What is it that I'm feeling? Maybe a little frustrated. I suppose that once again, I have felt legislators that are conflating the supplemental and the biennial budget, and I think we all know better.

I hear legislators saying that this budget does nothing for their district, but if you have either spruce trees and/or people on MaineCare in your district, this budget absolutely helps them.

I'm hearing people claim that this was not a bipartisan compromise, and that is frustrating since both the base of the supplemental as well as the amendment were worked on by both

Democrats and Republicans. In fact, most of this Chamber voted for that amendment yesterday, before something happened, I don't know what, it's above my pay grade.

The ability for our most vulnerable citizens to maintain their healthcare is at stake. Seniors, children, individuals with disabilities, and working families. The question before us today is simple. Will we fulfill our responsibility to fund critical healthcare services and ensure that we prevent a devastating infestation of spruce budworm to the most forested state in the nation or are we going to allow hospitals, nursing homes, clinics, and the timber industry to suffer from our inaction? Both parties believe in paying our bills. Both parties believe we need to show up for our constituents. That's what we're standing up for today.

These emergency items are not luxuries, they are lifelines. Without this emergency funding, the consequences are going to be dire. Every single Member of this Body knows this. I cannot stress enough that this is not a partisan issue. This is about showing up for the people of Maine and doing our jobs as a legislative body. It's about ensuring our healthcare system does not collapse due to political gridlock. Maine is better than this.

This supplemental -- supplemental budget is not about new spending. It is about fulfilling the commitments we have already made. These funds represent payments for medical care that is being delivered. Doctors are seeing the patients, prescriptions are being filled, the work is being done. And refusing to pass this budget is the opposite of fiscal responsibility, this is financial negligence and it's an unnecessary cruelty.

The decision before us cannot be clearer. We can choose to uphold our commitment to Mainers by ensuring healthcare providers are paid for their work or we can choose a path of pain and chaos. Healthcare offices, hospitals will close, our constituents will suffer, and our healthcare system will be thrown into disarray.

I personally choose commitment to both my word and my district. I urge you all please, my Senate colleagues, please don't allow politics to stand in the way of responsible legislating. Pass this supplemental budget, pay our bills, protect our healthcare system, protect our forests and the lives of thousands depend on what we do today and please consider them while you vote. Thank you.

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

Senator **BALDACCI:** Thank you, Madam President. I rise today, obviously, I've taken several votes in favor of the supplemental budget and I will continue to do that. But I wanted to respond to a couple of points that had been made.

The largest cost drivers in MaineCare are seniors over 65 and people with disabilities. They are not young people. Those are not the cost drivers of MaineCare and they never have been. And, in fact, there are many young people who are on MaineCare who have jobs, low wage jobs, that we are subsidizing for private employers. You could walk in to any number of convenience stores, large and small, and we are subsidizing many low wage workers already.

So, the thing that I want to impress upon my colleagues is to roll this tape back just a little bit and the fact of the matter is that this supplemental budget, there are no new taxes, this requires money from a surplus we already have, it is to pay bills that we have incurred. This supplemental budget should have been a no-brainer for all of us. It should not have been a partisan issue in

the first place. There was no need to manufacture a crisis, which is -- when I get hundreds of people in my district calling me, when I get St. Joseph's Hospital, Northern Maine medical providers, parents of disabled children calling me about what's going to happen to their care, those are the people we are affecting, not the inside baseball game that some would like to play. We are affecting hundreds of thousands of people.

In my district, 22% are on MaineCare, and I'm sure that in most districts, most Senators here have at least 20% or so of their constituents on MaineCare. Those are the people we're voting for. We are not -- nothing here for this budget is going to increase taxes, is going to take money from any other programs. It's going to pay our bills, it's going to let people live in dignity and have healthcare, and for my district, Bangor and Hermon, but also Brewer and Hampden, and all across Eastern Maine, we have a large number of healthcare sector jobs. Those will also be directly impacted. Thank you.

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

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Madam President, Fellow Members of the Senate. Like the Good Senator before me, the Senator from Penobscot, increasingly often I have the sense that the impulses and priorities under the State House dome diverge significantly from the wants and needs of the people of Maine. And the issue before us brings that divergence into stark relief. Allow me to make a few observations on that.

In the world out there, we have over 400,000 Maine people relying on a sustainable MaineCare program for their critical healthcare needs at a time of disruption expected from Washington we don't know what, we don't know when, we don't know how. While under the State House dome, we lurch along from one manufactured fiscal crisis to the next, adding to the havoc. In the world out there, we have direct care workers struggling to make ends meet, counting on a modest cost of living increase actually already passed into law but not yet delivered. Here, under the State House dome, we worry that reaching out in dialogue across the aisle is a signal of weakness and capitulation.

In the world out there, a crisis is the closure of over 25 nursing homes in the past two decades, even as our state's population grows older. Without the lifeline of funding with this budget, that crisis grows. But under the State House dome, a crisis is when a leader is misquoted by the other side or when a news outlet mischaracterizes the fine points of a negotiating posture or, worst of all, when the party base fills our social media accounts with cries of outrage, questioning our fidelity to their dogma.

In the world out there, we have hospitals across Maine in survival mode, including two critical access hospitals in my district, Bridgton Hospital and Stephens Memorial. These are the frontlines of healthcare in rural Maine already suffering from delays in payment. Under the State House dome, we play political brinksmanship, hurtling toward each other in a never-ending game of chicken, accelerating our caucuses at each other like hot rods hoping the other party turns aside first.

Friends, it is time to act. There is always work to be done, change will happen, vigilance is always required. Tomorrow is another day, but today, it is past time to come together in support of this compromise measure. Our citizens are looking for our leadership, let's give it to them, and vote to recede and concur.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator **HARRINGTON:** Thank you, Madam President. I find this day to be fairly symbolic of how this entire supplemental budget process has gone. I can't help but notice that every single Democrat is in their seat, and yet despite us telling you that our Members -- several of our Members couldn't be here, whether because they were traveling or had doctor's appointments, it was the Democrat way or the highway and, as always, the Democrats are choosing exactly what they want to do.

I find it really unfortunate. Once again, we have made it very clear over the last month that -- what it would take to get to a two-thirds vote. And a wise person once told me you get more with sugar than you do with vinegar, Madam President, and going out there the other night and calling us flip-flopsters when we could not have possibly made it any more clear to you several times throughout that day --

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Brenner, and inquires as to why she rises.

Senator **BRENNER:** I believe a Member should not impugn the motive of another Member of this Chamber.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would remind all Members yet again to not impugn the motives of other Members, especially in a high-paced, high emotional situation. The Member may proceed.

Senator **HARRINGTON:** I apologize if you assumed I was impugning motive, I was stating mere fact.

Back to my point, we could've made a deal on this. Yet, we voted the first time on it, we took a month off, and despite the rhetoric that Democrat leadership was working with Republican leadership, I can speak as one Republican leader who did not receive one single call, email, or text message from you, Madam President, or from the two leaders to my left over here, or from a single Member of Democrat Appropriations. Not one single attempt to reach out to me as the assistant leader.

So, I don't think the broad strokes in attempts to work with the Republicans are very well spoken. Despite that, again, I will reiterate we made it very clear that we are not going to bail out a welfare program that is failing. One that we have been saying for the last two majority budgets was going to fail without fixing the underlying problem. The compassionate thing to do here, if we care about the many people on MaineCare, is to fix it so that it is there for the truly needy, so it is there for the developmentally disabled and those new mothers. That's what we should've done. But yet we find ourselves here again playing a game of chicken when you sat there and told us that you were not willing to entertain any changes to the MaineCare program. And yet we are supposed to then turn around and just vote yes because you said no.

So, that's where we are today. Going forward, I would hope we could do things in a different light, but although most irrelevant to this, we all know how this building works and if we care about spruce budworm, which everyone in this Chamber does, we could easily -- you know it and I know it -- pass a standalone bill. We could go down and draft it right now, pass it this afternoon, and provide that \$2 million in funding. And I would encourage us to do that because we all do care about that issue.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator **RAFFERTY:** Thank you, Madam President. I rise today because if we fail to act, there are going to be a lot of mental health providers, substance abuse support systems, group homes, and places that provide a lot of support in all of our communities that are going to be hurting. That's what we're here voting to do if we vote against this. We're in a moment of fiscal responsibility which we keep talking about. If you say yes for that, but you won't vote to pay the bills, I think that's the wrong approach. If you think the cost of healthcare needs to change and to be more accessible to constituents or to fix the whole system, we have a committee in HHS that would be willing to have public hearings on any type of reform any of us might come forth with and discuss in a public forum. That's the place to debate these policies that will impact healthcare and costs in Maine. It's not here and now, it's not by trying to hold this budget hostage.

Voting against the budget won't make healthcare costs disappear, nor will it help things change in the future. The financial burden will simply shift very quickly to our local healthcare providers and ultimately onto the taxpayer, who will bear the burden of healthcare system pushed towards brink, things like farther drives to get care, longer ambulance rides. Not the approach that I would take nor do I feel our constituents would appreciate us forcing them into.

In my world, you know, and I don't honestly care about my future in politics. I got into it for the reason of helping Mainers, helping people. I grew up as a teacher, a coach, and that was my motivation. Every day, I went to school, every -- it was work, and I worked at it because I was driven to do so. I grew up in an atmosphere which we had, you know, every family has its own history but I looked at my mom and dad, I have five siblings, we were taught when you go out the door, whatever you do, do the right thing. Do the right thing. I've practiced that, I hope. I know I've made a lot of mistakes. I've been to confession many times. But for the most part, that's what I try to do. That's the lesson I've tried to teach my children and I hope it's the legacy I leave to them that they, in turn, teach to our grandchildren and future grandchildren. I keep crossing my fingers for more.

In any case, I ask you today to do the right thing and vote in support of this supplemental budget. Thank you very much.

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

Senator **MARTIN:** Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I rise today to explain to my colleagues why I voted no on everything so far. I believe that it's fully time that I explained it to them, Madam Chair, and that's what I'm here to do.

I was raised by a doctor, I have two sisters that are doctors, I have a brother that's a doctor, I had uncles that were doctors. And I understand the medical field and I feel very attached to the Rumford Hospital and the hospital they're affiliated with down in Lewiston, CMMC. And as a freshman legislator, Senator, I haven't been here for the last couple of sessions, but one thing I have found from reading is that what this whole MaineCare thing has done is tried to push the state towards a one healthcare system. And it was warned when it first started, according to all

of the things that I've been able to read, that it would not take any more than 100,000 people without the chance of it going bankrupt. Now we're at 400,000 people, we don't have a solution for this, and there needs to be a solution for it.

It's kind of obvious to me that everybody's dug in in this Chamber and nobody's going to give in on this particular thing. And I believe that the budget stabilization fund, the rainy-day fund that we have with \$968.3 million in it that's fully -- can be fully used by the Governor is a way forward for us to get this paid for and then work on fixing the MaineCare that seems so badly broken because it's been years of people not being paid. I've talked to the people at different hospitals this morning, it's not just since the first of January, it's a couple of years and it's millions and millions and millions of dollars that this Legislature has been responsible to pay and its sent IOUs. To me, that's inexcusable. And I really want to see people get paid and I don't want to see anybody lose their job. And over the past ten years, I've seen nursing homes close all over my district, over in West Paris and other places, it's been absolutely horrendous.

I believe the Governor has the way forward for this. I don't believe that -- from what I found, it said the fund's purpose, the budget stabilization fund is designed to provide a financial cushion for the state during economic downturns or unexpected emergencies. Unexpected emergencies. This, although maybe not unexpected, this entire thing up to this point is now unexpected and I think that I would like to call in the Governor to use the revenue that she has there to offset revenue shortfalls. The State apparently at the end of 2024 had an extra \$75 million that by statute - I have it here someplace, I read that this morning - goes into the Transportation Capital Fund.

So, it's filled right up full. I know the budworm's important but the people in my district are a lot more important and I really care about them and I care about everybody in this room. I want to fix MaineCare. The Governor is the path that I would suggest it goes down and I will continue to vote no.

Thank you very much, Madam Chair.

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

Senator **BICKFORD:** Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, it is with great heartburn that I'm going to vote in favor of this resolution.

I want to say that heartburn got a lot worse Tuesday night when I watched the session at home because I was out sick Tuesday. When I heard my minority leader ask you specifically if we were going to have a majority budget or a two-thirds budget, there was no response. That puts me very close to voting no. I'm going to ask that question one more time. Are you going to confirm to us that you're going to work on a two-thirds budget biennial that we have not done in the last four years? It's only been done one other time.

I was here when we had a Chief Executive, Baldacci, we did not have a majority budget. I worked through Governor LePage, we did not have a majority budget. Now, it's all majority budgets. We might as well not even be here, Madam President. So, please answer that question.

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

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

Senator **GUERIN:** Thank you, Madam President. I rise today to admonish my Fellow Senators to look at the MaineCare problem that is not sustainable. And it's been said in this Chamber that we'll go back to the drawing board and work on that after this is done, but as the Good Representative Bickford said, we'll be shut out of that due to the majority budget philosophy that has been perpetuated the last few years in this Chamber.

I think that when we look at society in general, people are better off when they have a purpose in life. And the fact that we do not have work requirements for able-bodied, childless adults is not acceptable to me. I think this is our opportunity to come together and put a work requirement on that will give people a purpose in life. If we look at our drug crisis, how many of those have sat home in despair and turned to drugs out of boredom and low self-worth, when they could've had a job that would help them to have a better purpose in life? When you look at the scripture, 1 Thessalonians 5:14: We urge you dear brothers, admonish the idle.

Well, Madam President, synonyms for idle are chill, hang out, dawdle, kick back, dormant, inactive. We have a lot of people that are in that category and should have some responsibility towards their own care. And a work requirement for able-bodied, childless adults could do that. The rest of that scripture says: Encourage the fainthearted, help the weak, be patient with them all.

There's no one in this Body who doesn't want to help the weak and be patient with the fainthearted, but there are people in this Body who are refusing to call out the idle and say it's time to go to work if you want to have state funding by the money the taxpayers, the working people are paying for. And I hope that we will come back with an amendment that would add that work requirement and then I would gladly vote for the supplemental budget.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator **LAWRENCE:** Thank you, Madam President, and I did want to respond to the Senator from -- and my good friend, the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Bickford. For my part, I will work towards a two-thirds budget to get that passed that goes into effect on July 3rd. I can only speak for my own part, but I'll certainly encourage everybody else to do. And also as a priority, I want to see a Part 1 budget passed that keeps the lights on while we're working on the Part 2 budget to get two-thirds. But I will pledge that I will work on a Part 2 budget to be passed, to take effect by July, by a two-thirds vote. And I hope that we can get this passed today so we can go on and do that.

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

Senator **BERNARD:** Thank you very much, Madam President. I'm going to keep this really short, two quick points. I just want you all to know that I'm not a game player - I haven't been here long enough, I'll learn - I'm not heartless, I'm not thoughtless. I care a lot about Maine people, it's why I'm here. I care about MaineCare recipients and I care about the taxpayers of Maine.

And unfortunately, in this case, they might be at odds with each other. But most people in Maine also care about those who need help.

I want to make sure that MaineCare is available to people who really need it on a long-term basis, not just a short-term basis. Because I think that that would be shortsighted in our part if we don't look to that. It's not helping anyone to just fill the gap for a moment. I'm afraid that we're going to have more people on when the time comes again and unfortunately, we know that that's going to be the case.

I appreciate that people are worried, as I am, about the spruce budworm problem, I've seen it firsthand, and so, should this not pass, I already have a standalone bill, just so you know. And I hope that everyone is as concerned at that time about the spruce budworm as they are right now, and I would appreciate that very, very much.

I also listened to the discussion that was just asked and I appreciate Senator Bickford for asking the question about working toward a two-thirds budget. I have to ask an even tougher question. I do believe that everybody's going to work toward a two-thirds budget. I want to know - and maybe this is crazy - but are you committed to a two-thirds budget? There is a difference. And so, when I hear that - by the way, I've gone back and forth several times, and I've had a lot of people call me - including my sister, by the way, which I didn't appreciate this morning, because she started with hi, sister, I'm calling as a constituent. Then you shouldn't've said hi, sister. But anyway, that's my problem, not yours. In any event, I thank you for listening to me. I hope that you'll consider what's fair to all the people of Maine. Yes, those who need help, and I feel like that's important, too, believe me, but also to the taxpayers who are saying we cannot continue the way we're going. And up to now, what I've heard about making -- about fixing that has been we'll have a study, we'll have a report. And even though I haven't been here very long, I know what that means. I've worked in the House before and I've heard those words and I've heard nothing come back. So, that worries me.

Thank you all very much for listening. I appreciate it.

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

Senator **BICKFORD:** Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, my heartburn is growing very strong. I have not heard an answer from majority leadership if they're committed to a two-thirds budget, biennial budget, and I have not heard that it's going to be Part 1 and Part 2, as I heard from my good friend, Senator Lawrence.

If I don't get that answer, I'm tempted to vote no. Thank you.

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

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

Senator **BRENNER:** Thank you, Madam President. I'll respond to that question. I do commit to it. I commit to working as hard as I can to achieve that goal.

When we walk into this building every morning, the only thing we have is our integrity. When I feel the best in this building, it's when we have bipartisan agreement. We can almost always

agree on the problem, but we are challenged when we come to the solution, and particularly when we come to the decision about whether or not we're going to fund the solution we agree on. But when we do agree, we achieve the capacity to have durable funding and durable solutions that when they're challenged on the federal level, for example, I'm thinking about the work we did, Madam President, on universal school meals. That's going to be challenged on the federal level. And we're going to have to decide as a Body when we get to the biennial whether or not we're going to continue that funding. I believe that when we agree on it together, it's more durable.

So, I had a great discussion with my seatmate on Tuesday about trust, but I think that we need to also trust each other to honor the committee process, to participate in it fully, allow the public to participate in it fully. That includes not only discussions about how we'd like to modernize and update MaineCare, but also showing up at the Appropriations Committee and allowing all the voices to be heard in that space so that the decisions that come out of that committee have been deliberated, agreed upon, and we can trust that when we get to this place, everybody's informed and there aren't any surprises.

And people ask me in the district all the time why did you run. It's a common question, you get it a lot. And what do you love about the work? What I love about the work is when we have bipartisan agreement. And back to the issue of integrity, it's all we have in this building, and I will make that commitment to that budget process. Thank you.

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

Senator **BICKFORD:** Thank you. I'm still waiting for an answer from Senate Leadership on the majority side.

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

Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford moved the Senate **RECEDE** whereby the Bill **FAILED ENACTMENT**.

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

Senator **HICKMAN:** Thank you, Madam President. Do the Senate Rules allow for a Member to pose a question to a specific Member through the Chair?

THE PRESIDENT: The Member will defer while the Member asks the parliamentarian. The Chair would answer in the negative. The question is posed to the Body.

Senator **HICKMAN:** Thank you, Madam President. In that case, the Senator would request through the Chair that a Member of Body answer the question of what is the purpose of receding and does a Member have something else in mind should this motion prevail.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would advise the Member in order of questions of what is before the Body, the Chair may respond directly to that sort of question. The Chair would advise the Member that if recede is before the Body, it recedes to our prior

actions, which in the position of this measure would bring us back to having failed enactment and bring us back to that vote.

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

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Madam President. Because I believe that the Senator from Kennebec, my good friend, may have been wishing to pose a question to the mover of the motion, who is me, I will endeavor to answer the question.

The motion to recede and concur is actually two motions, as we know, recede and concur. Recede takes precedence. By moving to recede and by voting to recede, we could then move to concur, or a Member could propose an amendment to the measure, we can decide as a Body what we want to do. We move to recede and concur, which was the prior motion, not separated, it means that if that motion fails, the bill is dead. And I'm hoping - maybe it's the triumph of hope over experience - but I am hoping that we can separate the motions so that we can then catch a breath and make a decision about whether we want to kill this bill with a concur or whether we want to continue a path of dialogue.

Thank you, Madam President.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

On motion by Senator **HICKMAN** of Kennebec, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending the motion by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford to **RECEDE**.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (3/13/25) 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
(S "F" S-6 to C "A" H-1)

In Senate, March 11, 2025, **FAILED ENACTMENT** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Comes from the House, that Body having **INSISTED** on its former action whereby the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**.

Pending – Motion by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford to **RECEDE**.

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

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#36)

YEAS: Senators: BENNETT, BERNARD, BICKFORD, BLACK, CYRWAY, FARRIN, GUERIN, HAGGAN, HARRINGTON, LIBBY, MARTIN, MOORE

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BRADSTREET, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

12 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 20 Senators having voted in the negative, with 3 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford to **RECEDE** from **FAILED ENACTMENT**, **FAILED**.

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

Senator **HICKMAN**: Thank you, Madam President, Women and Men of the Senate. I rise simply to acknowledge in this moment the receipt of the many, many messages and emails and calls that I have received today from parents, mostly mothers, demonstrating how necessary is this supplemental budget's passage as emergency legislation to the health and wellbeing of their beautiful, challenged children, and all the care they need, not just healthcare, occupational therapy, speech therapy, physical therapy that they need to both survive and thrive. Madam President, these pleas compel me to look past whatever structural flaws lurk in the corners of this budget and cast my vote enthusiastically in favor of it. Thank you, Madam President.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#37)

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

NAYS: Senators: BERNARD, BICKFORD, BLACK, CYRWAY, FARRIN, GUERIN, HAGGAN, HARRINGTON, LIBBY, MARTIN

EXCUSED: Senators: BRADSTREET, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

22 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 10 Senators having voted in the negative, with 3 Senators being excused, and 22 being less than two-thirds of the entire elected Membership of the Senate, the motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland to **RECEDE** from **FAILED ENACTMENT**, and **CONCUR** with **ENACTMENT**, **FAILED**.

Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland moved the Senate **INSIST**.

Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford moved the Senate **INSIST** and **ASK FOR COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE**.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending motion by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford to **INSIST** and **ASK FOR COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE**.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

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

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

Senator **HARRINGTON**: Thank you, Madam President. I would just make the point that this bill doesn't have to die today. We could do as this motion is saying and continue working on this as a Body and truly come to a consensus that would get two-thirds. So, I would hope and ask for everyone's support in that matter. Thank you.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#38)

YEAS: Senators: BENNETT, BERNARD, BICKFORD, BLACK, CYRWAY, FARRIN, GUERIN, HAGGAN, HARRINGTON, LIBBY, MARTIN, MOORE

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BRADSTREET, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

12 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 20 Senators having voted in the negative, with 3 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford to **INSIST** and **ASK FOR COMMITTEE OF CONFERENCE**, **FAILED**.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending motion by the same Senator to **INSIST**.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#39)

YEAS: Senators: None

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BRADSTREET, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 32 Senators having voted in the negative, with 3 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland to **INSIST**, **FAILED**.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland moved the Senate to **RECEDE** from **FAILED ENACTMENT**, and **CONCUR** with **ENACTMENT**

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

Senator **BENNETT**: Thank you, Madam President. A point of parliamentary inquiry. I believe that the recede and concur motion prevailed earlier, and so, I would inquire as to whether it is properly before the Body at the present time.

THE PRESIDENT: The recede and concur motion did not prevail, which requires a two-thirds. When insist by our prior actions failed, we were in the posture to recede and concur for the next motion as well is in order at this time due to the failure of our prior actions.

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 Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#40)

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

NAYS: Senators: BERNARD, BICKFORD, BLACK,
CYRWAY, FARRIN, GUERIN, HAGGAN,
HARRINGTON, LIBBY, MARTIN

EXCUSED: Senators: BRADSTREET, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

22 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 10 Senators having voted in the negative, with 3 Senators being excused, and 22 being less than two-thirds of the of the entire elected Membership of the Senate, the motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland to **RECEDE** from **FAILED ENACTMENT**, and **CONCUR** with **ENACTMENT, FAILED**.

On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland, the Senate **INSISTED**.

All matters thus acted upon, with the exception of those matters being held, were ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

Off Record Remarks

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

All matters thus acted upon were ordered sent down forthwith 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.