

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

In Senate Chamber
Thursday
March 20, 2025

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

Prayer by Pastor Joe Campbell of White Pine Community Church in North Yarmouth.

PASTOR JOE CAMPBELL: Good morning. Heavenly Father, as today's session begins, we want to pause together and ask for your blessing and leading. Scripture proclaims that you, God, reign above all creation, that all creation was formed by your loving hands. And in your kindness and care, you carved out Maine. This beautiful place for us to live and work, to raise our families, and to strive toward the fullness of your joy and purpose for our lives. You have entrusted the generation to care for this beautiful state and our special way of life here. You have appointed these good men and women who serve selflessly to lead us in that endeavor. Grant them wisdom today as they do so. In Your Name we pray, Lord. Amen.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator Glenn Curry of Waldo County.

Reading of the Journal of Tuesday, March 18, 2025.

Off Record Remarks

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Allow Certain Persons with a Permit to Carry Concealed Handguns to Possess or Discharge a Firearm on School Property"

H.P. 571 L.D. 885

In Senate, March 4, 2025, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Comes from the House, that Body having **INSISTED** on its former action whereby the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**.

On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland, the Senate **RECEDED** and **CONCURRED**.

House Papers

Bill "An Act to Limit the Liability of Persons Who Provide Firearm Hold Agreements"

H.P. 723 L.D. 1104

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

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

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

Bill "An Act Concerning Displaced Civilian Federal Firefighters in Maine"

H.P. 724 L.D. 1105

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

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

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

Bill "An Act to Reduce Gun Violence Casualties in Maine by Prohibiting the Possession of Large-capacity Ammunition Feeding Devices"

H.P. 728 L.D. 1109

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

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

Senator **BEEBE-CENTER** of Knox moved to **REFER** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

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

Senator **HARRINGTON:** I believe this bill squarely belongs on the Criminal Justice Committee. Historically, prior to last year, this bill has always gone to Criminal Justice. It fits squarely within their purview, it directly affected Title 17-A, which is a criminal statute.

So, for that reason, I would request a Roll Call.

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

Senator **CARNEY:** Thank you for recognizing me, Madam Chair. I just wanted to briefly state that under the jurisdictional descriptions that apply to the 132nd Legislature that firearms are within the jurisdiction of Judiciary.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#48)

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

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

18 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 17 Senators having voted in the negative, the motion by Senator **BEEBE-CENTER** of Knox to **REFER** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and order printed **PREVAILED**, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding Fairness in Sentencing for Persons Under 26 Years of Age"

H.P. 732 L.D. 1113

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

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

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

Bill "An Act to Promote the Secure Storage of Firearms"
H.P. 739 L.D. 1120

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

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

Senator **BEEBE-CENTER** of Knox moved to **REFER** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

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 (#49)

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

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

18 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 17 Senators having voted in the negative, the motion by Senator **BEEBE-CENTER** of Knox to **REFER** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and order printed **PREVAILED**, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act Requiring Serial Numbers on Firearms and Prohibiting Undetectable Firearms"

H.P. 745 L.D. 1126

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

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

Senator **BEEBE-CENTER** of Knox moved to **REFER** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

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 (#50)

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

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

19 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 16 Senators having voted in the negative, the motion by Senator **BEEBE-CENTER** of Knox to **REFER** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and order printed **PREVAILED**, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Provide That Spouses and Children of Corrections Officers Who Die in the Line of Duty Receive a Pension" H.P. 733 L.D. 1114

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

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication:

H.P. 694

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

March 12, 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 12, 2025, 35 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 12, 2025, as follows:

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Bill "An Act to Provide Free Admission to State Parks and Historic Sites for the Immediate Family Members of Veterans and Active Military Personnel" (H.P. 672) (L.D. 1043) (Sponsored by Representative HEPLER of Woolwich) (Cosponsored by Senator RENY of Lincoln and Representatives: DILL of Old Town, FROST of Belgrade, PLUECKER of Warren, SARGENT of York)

Resolve, to Aid Municipalities, Animal Control Officers and Other Parties in Complying with Electronic Dog Licensing Requirements (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 686) (L.D. 1057) (Sponsored by Representative GREENWOOD of Wales)

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Bill "An Act to Decriminalize Personal Possession of Therapeutic Amounts of Psilocybin for Adults" (H.P. 663) (L.D. 1034) (Sponsored by Representative LOOKNER of Portland) (Cosponsored by Senator BAILEY of York and Representatives: BOYER of Poland, CHAPMAN of Auburn, EDER of Waterboro, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, JULIA of Waterville, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, Senator: HICKMAN of Kennebec)

Energy, Utilities and Technology

Bill "An Act to Require Certain Notice Requirements for Whistleblower Protections" (H.P. 677) (L.D. 1048) (Sponsored by Representative WARREN of Scarborough) (Cosponsored by Representative: KESSLER of South Portland)

Bill "An Act to Clarify the Tax Treatment of Prepaid Wireless Telecommunications Service in Maine" (H.P. 685) (L.D. 1056) (Sponsored by Representative CROCKETT of Portland)

Bill "An Act to Require Competitive Procurement of Electricity from Generators Fueled by Municipal Solid Waste in Conjunction with Recycling" (H.P. 692) (L.D. 1063) (Sponsored by Representative DILL of Old Town) (Cosponsored by Representatives: CAMPBELL of Orrington, HENDERSON of Rumford, HEPLER of Woolwich)

Environment and Natural Resources

Resolve, to Study the Safe Disposal of Single-use Propane Canisters (H.P. 664) (L.D. 1035) (Sponsored by Representative RANA of Bangor) (Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, BELL of Yarmouth, KESSLER of South Portland, OSHER of Orono, Senator: GROHOSKI of Hancock)

Bill "An Act to Lower the Energy Burden of Residents by Advancing Climate Change Goals" (H.P. 666) (L.D. 1037) (Sponsored by Representative WARREN of Scarborough)

Health and Human Services

Bill "An Act to Establish a 180-day State Residency Requirement for Receiving Municipal General Assistance" (H.P. 675) (L.D. 1046) (Sponsored by Representative QUINT of Hodgdon) (Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and Representatives: CARUSO of Caratunk, FREDERICKS of Sanford, HENDERSON of Rumford, LEMELIN of Chelsea, MORRIS of Turner, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, SWALLOW of Houlton, THORNE of Carmel)

Bill "An Act to Provide Funding to Reduce Stigma for Parents Seeking Support" (H.P. 689) (L.D. 1060) (Sponsored by Representative MEYER of Eliot)

Bill "An Act to Increase Community Support for Families in Maine" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 690) (L.D. 1061) (Sponsored by Representative MEYER of Eliot)

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Bill "An Act Regarding the Reporting of Medical Debt on Consumer Reports" (H.P. 659) (L.D. 1030) (Sponsored by Representative MORRIS of Turner)

Bill "An Act to Allow Time-share Associations to Charge Credit Card Surcharges" (H.P. 660) (L.D. 1031) (Sponsored by Representative MORRIS of Turner) (Cosponsored by Representative: QUINT of Hodgdon)

Bill "An Act to Ensure That Rebates from Prescription Drug Manufacturers Are Passed on to Patients at Pharmacies" (H.P. 682) (L.D. 1053) (Sponsored by Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston) (Cosponsored by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin and Representatives: BECK of South Portland, KUHN of Falmouth, MACIAS of Topsham, MURPHY of Scarborough, SALISBURY of Westbrook, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, TERRY of Gorham, Senator: GROHOSKI of Hancock)

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Discrimination in Access to Anatomical Donations and Organ Transplants" (H.P. 684) (L.D. 1055) (Sponsored by Representative DILL of Old Town) (Cosponsored by Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, HEPLER of Woolwich, LAJOIE of Lewiston)

Bill "An Act to Prevent Dental Insurance Companies from Denying Coverage When Other Insurance Is Involved" (H.P. 687) (L.D. 1058) (Sponsored by Representative GREENWOOD of Wales)

Bill "An Act to Ensure Automobile Insurance Rates Are Maintained upon the Death of a Spouse" (H.P. 693) (L.D. 1064) (Sponsored by Representative MASTRACCIO of Sanford)

Housing and Economic Development

Bill "An Act to Protect Recipients of Public Assistance from Housing Discrimination" (H.P. 665) (L.D. 1036) (Sponsored by Representative RANA of Bangor) (Cosponsored by Senator

BALDACCI of Penobscot and Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, GATTINE of Westbrook, GOLEK of Harpswell, LOOKNER of Portland, SATO of Gorham, SINCLAIR of Bath, STOVER of Boothbay, Senator: TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland)

Bill "An Act to Preserve Affordability in Publicly Assisted Housing Developments" (H.P. 670) (L.D. 1041) (Sponsored by Representative LOOKNER of Portland) (Cosponsored by Senator DUSON of Cumberland and Representatives: CAMPBELL of Orrington, DHALAC of South Portland, EDER of Waterboro, GATTINE of Westbrook, GOLEK of Harpswell, MALON of Biddeford, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, RANA of Bangor)

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Bill "An Act to Allow an Adult Hunter to Transfer That Hunter's Antlerless Deer Permit to a Junior Hunter" (H.P. 679) (L.D. 1050) (Sponsored by Representative WOODSOME of Waterboro)

Bill "An Act to Provide Funding to Maintain All-terrain Vehicle Trails" (H.P. 680) (L.D. 1051) (Sponsored by Representative HALL of Wilton)

Bill "An Act to Authorize the Penobscot Nation to Use Wild Game Harvested on the Penobscot Indian Territory at Food Venues Located Within the Penobscot Indian Territory" (H.P. 683) (L.D. 1054) (Sponsored by Representative DILL of Old Town) (Cosponsored by Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, HEPLER of Woolwich, MOONEN of Portland)

Judiciary

Bill "An Act Regarding Court Security" (H.P. 661) (L.D. 1032) (Sponsored by Representative WHITE of Guilford) (Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and Representatives: CHAPMAN of Auburn, COLLINS of Sidney, DOUDERA of Camden, DRINKWATER of Milford, NUTTING of Oakland, PARRY of Arundel, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, WOOD of Norway)

Bill "An Act to Eliminate the Duty to Inform a Law Enforcement Officer When Carrying a Concealed Handgun Without a Permit" (H.P. 678) (L.D. 1049) (Sponsored by Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan) (Cosponsored by Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, HAGGAN of Hampden, MORRIS of Turner, NUTTING of Oakland, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, SMITH of Palermo, THORNE of Carmel)

Bill "An Act to Eliminate Background Checks for Private Sales of Firearms" (H.P. 691) (L.D. 1062) (Sponsored by Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan) (Cosponsored by Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, HAGGAN of Hampden, MORRIS of Turner, NUTTING of Oakland, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, SMITH of Palermo, THORNE of Carmel, WADSWORTH of Hiram)

Labor

Bill "An Act to Raise the Cap on Retirement Benefits for Certain State Employees and Teachers to Which a Cost-of-living Adjustment Is Made" (H.P. 669) (L.D. 1040) (Sponsored by Representative DODGE of Belfast) (Cosponsored by Senator

TIPPING of Penobscot and Representatives: BOYER of Cape Elizabeth, BUNKER of Farmington, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, MACIAS of Topsham, MCCABE of Lewiston, ROEDER of Bangor, SATO of Gorham, SHAGOURY of Hallowell)

Marine Resources

Bill "An Act to Require a Person Operating a Watercraft for Recreational Purposes to Ensure All Passengers Under 13 Years of Age Wear Coast Guard Approved Personal Flotation Devices" (H.P. 671) (L.D. 1042) (Sponsored by Representative HEPLER of Woolwich) (Cosponsored by Representatives: DILL of Old Town, SARGENT of York)

State and Local Government

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish the State Auditor as a Constitutional Officer (H.P. 681) (L.D. 1052) (Sponsored by Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook) (Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and Representatives: CARLOW of Buxton, DILL of Old Town, FARRIN of Jefferson, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, MONTELL of Gardiner, O'HALLORAN of Brewer, UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle, Senator: HICKMAN of Kennebec)

Bill "An Act to Establish the Process for the Selection of Delegates for a Convention Called Under the United States Constitution, Article V" (H.P. 688) (L.D. 1059) (Sponsored by Representative GREENWOOD of Wales)

Taxation

Bill "An Act to Clarify the Qualifying Use of Tax Increment Financing for Extension of a Development District" (H.P. 673) (L.D. 1044) (Sponsored by Representative KUHN of Falmouth) (Cosponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland and Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, DHALAC of South Portland, LEE of Auburn, MOONEN of Portland, MURPHY of Scarborough)

Bill "An Act to Expand the Use of Tax Increment Financing District Revenue by Adding Public Safety as an Authorized Project Cost" (H.P. 674) (L.D. 1045) (Sponsored by Representative KUHN of Falmouth) (Cosponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland and Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, DHALAC of South Portland, LEE of Auburn, MOONEN of Portland)

Bill "An Act to Impose an Additional Tax on Certain Unearned Income" (H.P. 676) (L.D. 1047) (Sponsored by Representative LOOKNER of Portland) (Cosponsored by Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc and Representatives: BECK of South Portland, DHALAC of South Portland, FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor, GATTINE of Westbrook, HASENFUS of Readfield, MATLACK of St. George, ROEDER of Bangor, Senator: TIPPING of Penobscot)

Transportation

Bill "An Act Regarding Municipal Authority over Heavy Vehicle Operation" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 668) (L.D. 1039) (Sponsored by Representative WALKER of Naples)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act to Regulate Alcoholic Beverage Competitions" (H.P. 662) (L.D. 1033) (Sponsored by Representative SHAGOURY of Hallowell) (Cosponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec and Representatives: BOYER of Poland, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, MONTELL of Gardiner)

Bill "An Act to Increase the Maximum Term of a Medical Cannabis Written Certification to 2 Years" (H.P. 667) (L.D. 1038) (Sponsored by Representative BOYER of Poland) (Cosponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec and Senators: BLACK of Franklin, DUSON of Cumberland, FARRIN of Somerset, GROHOSKI of Hancock, HARRINGTON of York, TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, TIPPING of Penobscot)

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. 722

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

March 14, 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 14, 2025, 27 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 14, 2025, as follows:

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Bill "An Act to Direct the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands to Prevent the Use of the Term 'State Park' by Nonstate Parks" (H.P. 715) (L.D. 1093) (Sponsored by Representative WARREN of Scarborough)

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Bill "An Act to Remove the Limit on the Length of Probation That May Be Served for Aggravated Attempted Murder" (H.P. 696) (L.D. 1074) (Sponsored by Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston) (Cosponsored by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec and Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, BRIDGEO of Augusta, DILL of Old Town, MALON of Biddeford, NUTTING of Oakland, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, ROLLINS of Augusta)

Education and Cultural Affairs

Bill "An Act to Hire School Security Officers to Protect Students and Make Schools Safer" (H.P. 698) (L.D. 1076) (Sponsored by Representative PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft) (Cosponsored by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec and Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, BABIN of Fort Fairfield, MCINTYRE of Lowell, MINGO of Calais, NUTTING of Oakland, PAUL of Winterport, Senators: GUERIN of Penobscot, HARRINGTON of York)

Bill "An Act to Increase the State's Share of Major Capital School Construction Costs" (H.P. 709) (L.D. 1087) (Sponsored by Representative BOYER of Cape Elizabeth) (Cosponsored by Representatives: MCCABE of Lewiston, MITCHELL of Cumberland, Senators: CARNEY of Cumberland, PIERCE of Cumberland)

Bill "An Act to Provide De-escalation and Behavior Intervention Training for School Personnel" (H.P. 719) (L.D. 1097) (Sponsored by Representative MURPHY of Scarborough) (Cosponsored by Senator RAFFERTY of York and Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, CRAFTS of Newcastle, DODGE of Belfast, KUHN of Falmouth, MOONEN of Portland, Senator: PIERCE of Cumberland)

Bill "An Act to Ensure Equal Access to a Full School Day for All Students" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 720) (L.D. 1098) (Sponsored by Representative MURPHY of Scarborough) (Cosponsored by Senator RAFFERTY of York and Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, CRAFTS of Newcastle, DODGE of Belfast, KUHN of Falmouth, MOONEN of Portland, Senator: PIERCE of Cumberland)

Energy, Utilities and Technology

Bill "An Act Prohibiting Public Utilities from Requiring Deposits Based Solely on a Residential Customer's Income" (H.P. 702) (L.D. 1080) (Sponsored by Representative SACHS of Freeport) (Cosponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock and Representatives: FOSTER of Dexter, KESSLER of South Portland, MCINTYRE of Lowell, RUNTE of York, WADSWORTH of Hiram, WARREN of Scarborough, WEBB of Durham, Senator: LAWRENCE of York)

Bill "An Act to Allow Municipalities That Have Financed Fiber-optic Broadband Infrastructure to Use Loans or Grants to Repay Associated Debt" (H.P. 718) (L.D. 1096) (Sponsored by Representative MINGO of Calais) (Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: EDER of Waterboro, MALON of Biddeford, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, QUINT of Hodgdon, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, TUELL of East Machias, YUSUF of Portland, Senator: CYRWAY of Kennebec)

Environment and Natural Resources

Bill "An Act to Amend Provisions of the Maine Metallic Mineral Mining Act to Advance Health Equity and Improve the Well-being of Vulnerable Populations" (H.P. 695) (L.D. 1073) (Sponsored by Representative RANA of Bangor) (Cosponsored by Senator BEEBE-CENTER of Knox and Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, BELL of Yarmouth, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, OSHER of Orono, PLUECKER of Warren, WARREN of Scarborough, Senators: GROHOSKI of Hancock, TEPLER of Sagadahoc)

Resolve, to Require the Department of Environmental Protection to Assess Existing Water Retention Structures and Water Levels (H.P. 705) (L.D. 1083) (Sponsored by Representative MASON of Lisbon)

Health and Human Services

Bill "An Act to Support Maine's Public Health Objectives by Increasing Access to Hypodermic Apparatus Exchange Programs" (H.P. 700) (L.D. 1078) (Sponsored by Representative RANA of Bangor) (Cosponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock and Representatives: BABIN of Fort Fairfield, DEBRITO of Waterville, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, MCCABE of Lewiston, OSHER of Orono, SHAGOURY of Hallowell)

Bill "An Act to Provide Comprehensive Perimenopause and Menopause Education" (H.P. 701) (L.D. 1079) (Sponsored by Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston) (Cosponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland and Representatives: BOYER of Cape Elizabeth, DOUDERA of Camden, GATTINE of Westbrook, KESSLER of South Portland, KUHN of Falmouth, MURPHY of Scarborough, SALISBURY of Westbrook, TERRY of Gorham)

Bill "An Act to Support Access to General Assistance at Municipal General Assistance Offices and Designated Places" (H.P. 703) (L.D. 1081) (Sponsored by Representative SACHS of Freeport) (Cosponsored by Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, DOUDERA of Camden, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, KUHN of Falmouth, MASTRACCIO of Sanford)

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Resolve, to Alleviate the Behavioral Health Workforce Shortage by Allowing the Training and Granting of Behavioral Health Certifications by Community-based Agencies and Hospitals (H.P. 706) (L.D. 1084) (Sponsored by Representative CRAFTS of Newcastle) (Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: CARLOW of Buxton, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, Senator: INGWERSEN of York)

Housing and Economic Development

Bill "An Act to Require Annual Reporting Regarding the Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program" (H.P. 697) (L.D. 1075) (Sponsored by Representative PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft) (Cosponsored by Senator HARRINGTON of York and Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, BABIN of Fort Fairfield, FLYNN of Albion, MCINTYRE of Lowell, MINGO of Calais, NUTTING of Oakland, Senators: CYRWAY of Kennebec, GUERIN of Penobscot)

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Bill "An Act to Restrict Removal of Common Loons for Relocation in Maine from Bodies of Water of 500 Acres or Less" (H.P. 717) (L.D. 1095) (Sponsored by Representative LYMAN of Livermore Falls) (BY REQUEST) (Cosponsored by Senator RAFFERTY of York and Representatives: BAGSHAW of Windham, COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, DRINKWATER of Milford, GRIFFIN of Levant, HAGGAN of Hampden, MASON of Lisbon, MORRIS of Turner, WHITE of Guilford)

Judiciary

Resolve, Directing the Judicial Branch to Perform an Inspection and Study of the Rumford Courthouse Building (H.P. 707) (L.D. 1085) (Sponsored by Representative HENDERSON of Rumford) (Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland and Representatives: CARUSO of Caratunk, LEE of Auburn, O'HALLORAN of Brewer, SATO of Gorham, Senator: MARTIN of Oxford)

Bill "An Act to Enact the Maine Consumer Data Privacy Act" (H.P. 710) (L.D. 1088) (Sponsored by Representative HENDERSON of Rumford) (Cosponsored by Representatives: POIRIER of Skowhegan, ROBERTS of South Berwick)

Marine Resources

Bill "An Act to Prohibit a Person from Obtaining an Elver Dealer's License for a Minimum of 5 Years in Cases of Repeat Violations of License Conditions" (H.P. 716) (L.D. 1094) (Sponsored by Representative SIMMONS of Waldoboro)

State and Local Government

Resolve, to Form a Working Group to Address Vacancies in Municipal Government Management Positions (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 712) (L.D. 1090) (Sponsored by Representative ROLLINS of Augusta)

Bill "An Act to Reinforce Free Speech at Town Meetings by Allowing Persons a Minimum Amount of Time in Which to Speak" (H.P. 713) (L.D. 1091) (Sponsored by Representative HYMES of Waldo) (Cosponsored by Senator HARRINGTON of York and Representatives: BOYER of Poland, COLLINS of Sidney, DRINKWATER of Milford, PAUL of Winterport, QUINT of Hodgdon, Senator: HICKMAN of Kennebec)

Taxation

Bill "An Act to Exempt Drinking Water from Sales and Use Tax" (H.P. 699) (L.D. 1077) (Sponsored by Representative PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft) (Cosponsored by Senator GUERIN of Penobscot and Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, BABIN of Fort Fairfield, COLLINS of Sidney, HYMES of Waldo, MCINTYRE of Lowell, MINGO of Calais, NUTTING of Oakland, Senator: CYRWAY of Kennebec)

Bill "An Act to Invest in Maine's Families and Workforce by Amending the Real Estate Transfer Tax" (H.P. 704) (L.D. 1082) (Sponsored by Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford) (Cosponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland and Representatives: DOUDERA of Camden, FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor, GERE of Kennebunkport, Senator: President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland)

Bill "An Act to Permanently Fund 55 Percent of the State's Share of Education by Establishing a Tax on Incomes of More than \$1,000,000" (H.P. 711) (L.D. 1089) (Sponsored by Representative GOLEK of Harpswell) (Cosponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot and Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor, GATTINE of Westbrook, OSHER of Orono, RANA of Bangor, SALISBURY of Westbrook, Senator: DUSON of Cumberland)

Bill "An Act to Exempt Diapers from Sales Tax" (H.P. 721) (L.D. 1099) (Sponsored by Representative MURPHY of Scarborough) (Cosponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland and Representatives: COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, DODGE of Belfast, KUHN of Falmouth, LEE of Auburn, MOONEN of Portland, QUINT of Hodgdon, SALISBURY of Westbrook, Senator: PIERCE of Cumberland)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act to Remove State Requirements for Nonprofits on Raffles and Internet Raffles with Prizes of \$2,500 or Less" (H.P. 708) (L.D. 1086) (Sponsored by Representative ARDELL of Monticello) (Cosponsored by Representative: NUTTING of Oakland)

Bill "An Act to Ensure That Dual Distribution Prohibitions Are Not Violated by Direct Shippers of Wine" (H.P. 714) (L.D. 1092) (Sponsored by Representative CHAPMAN of Auburn) (Cosponsored by Representatives: BOYER of Poland, HYMES of Waldo, LANCE of Paris)

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. 151

MAINE TURNPIKE AUTHORITY

March 14, 2025

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

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

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau,

The Board of the Maine Turnpike Authority has voted to appoint Andre J. Briere as Executive Director. Pursuant to 23 MRSA 1964-A, the first appointment of an MTA Executive Director is subject to review by the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation and confirmation by the full Senate.

Enclosed you will find Mr. Briere's Legislative Questionnaire and resume as required for the confirmation. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,

S/Michael J. Cianchette
Chairman

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 159

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

March 19, 2025

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

Dear Madam President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary has had under consideration the nomination of the Honorable Darcie N. McElwee of Scarborough, for appointment as a Superior Court Justice.

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

YEAS	Senators	1	Carney, A. of Cumberland
	Representatives	7	Kuhn, A. of Falmouth, Babin, M. of Fort Fairfield, Henderson, R. of Rumford, O'Halloran, D. of Brewer, Pugh, D. of Portland, Sato, E. of Gorham, Sinclair, D. of Bath
NAYS	Senators	1	Haggan, D. of Penobscot
	Representatives	1	Poirier, J. of Skowhegan
ABSENT		3	Sen. Talbot Ross, R. of Cumberland, Rep. Caruso, E. of Caratunk, Rep. Lee, A. of Auburn

Rep. Dana of Passamaquoddy Tribe was absent.

Eight members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and two in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of the Honorable Darcie N. McElwee of Scarborough, for appointment as a Superior Court Justice be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Anne Carney
Senate Chair

S/Amy D. Kuhn
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

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

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#51)

YEAS: Senators: FARRIN, GUERIN, HAGGAN, MARTIN, TIMBERLAKE

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

5 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 30 Senators having voted in the negative, and 5 being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of **the Honorable Darcie N. McElwee** of Scarborough for appointment as a Superior Court Justice was **CONFIRMED**.

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 160

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

March 19, 2025

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

Dear Madam President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary has had under consideration the nomination of the Honorable Julia M. Lipez of Cape Elizabeth, for appointment as an Associate Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court.

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

YEAS Senators 3 Carney, A. of Cumberland, Haggan, D. of Penobscot, Talbot Ross, R. of Cumberland

Representatives 9 Kuhn, A. of Falmouth, Babin, M. of Fort Fairfield, Caruso, E. of Caratunk, Henderson, R. of Rumford, O'Halloran, D. of Brewer, Poirier, J. of Skowhegan, Pugh, D. of Portland, Sato, E. of Gorham, Sinclair, D. of Bath

NAYS 0

ABSENT 1 Rep. Lee, A. of Auburn

Rep. Dana of Passamaquoddy Tribe was absent.

Twelve members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of the Honorable Julia M. Lipez of Cape Elizabeth, for appointment as a Associate Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Ane Carney
Senate Chair

S/Amy D. Kuhn
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

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

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#52)

YEAS: Senators: MARTIN

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

1 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 34 Senators having voted in the negative, and 1 being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of **the Honorable Julia M. Lipez** of Cape Elizabeth,

for appointment as an Associate Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court was **CONFIRMED**.

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 154

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

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 305.6, we are writing to notify you that LD 687, "An Act to Assert State Ownership over Ocean Waters up to 12 Nautical Miles and Submerged Lands and Marine Resources up to 24 Nautical Miles off the State's Coast and to Direct the Attorney General to Study That Ownership" has been automatically withdrawn.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Denise Tepler
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Allison Hepler
House Chair

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 152

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

March 11, 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. 498 Resolve, to Improve Standards for Animal Rescue Entities

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Rachel Talbot Ross
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Bill Pluecker
House Chair

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 158

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SECOND LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

March 18, 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 Environment and Natural Resources has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 231 An Act to Update the Solid Waste Management Hierarchy

Resolve, Regarding the Operation and Future Capacity of State-owned Landfills

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Denise Tepler
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Victoria W. Doudera
House Chair

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 155

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SECOND LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND
FINANCIAL SERVICES**

March 14, 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 Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

- | | |
|----------|--|
| L.D. 409 | An Act to Enhance the Mobility of Licensed Massage Therapists Across State Lines |
| L.D. 416 | An Act to Enact the Dietitian Licensure Compact |
| L.D. 520 | An Act to Ensure Choices in Health Insurance Markets by Modifying the Provisions of Law Governing Clear Choice Design Health Plans |

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Donna Bailey Senate Chair	S/Rep. Lori K. Gramlich House Chair
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READ and with accompanying papers **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The Following Communication:

S.C. 156

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SECOND LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND
FINANCIAL SERVICES**

March 17, 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 Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

- | | |
|----------|--|
| L.D. 381 | An Act to Enable Mortgage Portability and Promote Housing Affordability in the State |
|----------|--|

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Donna Bailey Senate Chair	S/Rep. Lori K. Gramlich House Chair
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READ and with accompanying papers **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The Following Communication:

S.C. 157

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

March 12, 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 Housing and Economic Development has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

- | | |
|----------|--|
| L.D. 188 | An Act to Permit the Sale of Motor Vehicles on Sundays |
| L.D. 445 | An Act to Stimulate Housing Production by Increasing the Threshold Before Participation in the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code Is Mandatory |

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Chip Curry Senate Chair	S/Rep. Traci Gere House Chair
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READ and with accompanying papers **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The Following Communication:

S.C. 150

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

March 11, 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 Marine Resources has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 325 An Act Related to the Disbursement of
Revenue Generated from the Harvesting of
River Herring

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Denise A. Tepler
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Allison Hepler
House Chair

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 153

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

March 17, 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 Marine Resources has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 336 An Act to Change the Waiting List System for
Commercial Lobster and Crab Fishing Licenses

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Denise A. Tepler
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Allison Hepler
House Chair

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

SENATE PAPERS

Resolve, Directing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Assess Its Current Meat and Poultry Inspection Programs

S.P. 487 L.D. 1198

Presented by Senator BLACK of Franklin.
Cosponsored by Representative HALL of Wilton and Senators: HICKMAN of Kennebec, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, Representatives: COOPER of Windham, CRAY of Palmyra, GUERRETTE of Caribou, JACKSON of Oxford, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft.

Bill "An Act to Allow the Premiums and Gratuities Paid for Any Agricultural Events Approved by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Be Considered in Apportionment of Stipends to Agricultural Fairs"

S.P. 502 L.D. 1213

Presented by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Representative HALL of Wilton and Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, BLACK of Franklin, STEWART of Aroostook, Representatives: COOPER of Windham, CRAY of Palmyra, GUERRETTE of Caribou, JACKSON of Oxford, WADSWORTH of Hiram.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Protect Maine Agriculture and Farms by Exempting Certain Pesticides from Regulation"

S.P. 490 L.D. 1201

Presented by Senator STEWART of Aroostook.

Cosponsored by Senator: TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin,
Representatives: COOPER of Windham, CRAY of Palmyra,
GUERRETTE of Caribou, HALL of Wilton, JACKSON of Oxford.

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

Bill "An Act to Prohibit the Sale of Items Intended to Be Used to Inhale Nitrous Oxide for Recreational Purposes"

S.P. 489 L.D. 1200

Presented by Senator RENY of Lincoln. (BY REQUEST)

Bill "An Act Regarding Residency Restrictions for Sex Offenders"
S.P. 504 L.D. 1215

Presented by Senator MOORE of Washington. (BY REQUEST)

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

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would advise that at this time we
are going to break and move to our Legislative Memorial
Scholarship awards ceremony.

The Chair calls Members' attention to the handout on your
desk. Every year, the Maine Legislature recognizes one student
from each county who is currently pursuing or planning to pursue
education at a two- or four-year Maine college or technical school.
Awards are given to a Maine resident high school senior or full-
or part-time postsecondary student accepted to or enrolled in an
accredited Maine college for graduate or undergraduate studies.

The Legislative Memorial Scholarship Fund was established
in 1995 in memory of all those who have served in the Maine
Legislature. The annual scholarship auction is the primary source
of raising funds and is a successor to the Gould-Michaud
scholarship auction. The Gould-Michaud Scholarship Fund was
established on behalf of the late Representative Stephen Gould,
Republican of Stillwater, and David Michaud, House Page, who
was killed by a drunk driver.

Since its inception, the Legislative Memorial Scholarship has
awarded over \$400,000 to Maine students.

First, the Chair would recognize recipients who were unable
to be here today with us.

The recipient from Somerset County is Charlotte Hands of
Pittsfield. Charlotte is a nursing major at the Kennebec Valley
Community College.

The recipient from Washington County is Finn Merritt of
Columbia. Finn is majoring in criminal justice and psychology at
Husson University.

Unfortunately, there is no application for a scholarship from

Piscataquis County. So, note to anyone listening from
Piscataquis County who knows a student for next year.

Also, the recipient from Aroostook County, who unfortunately
cannot join us, is Emilia Wilkins of Houlton. Emilia is a marine
science major at the University of New England.

Congratulations to these recipients. We wish them all the
best in their academic endeavors.

The Chair would advise Members that currently we are
prepping the Chamber for a recognition of the students who are
here. I also want to remind Members, to add onto the reminders
that we've gotten from our good Members of the scholarship fund
committee, that we are having our auction coming up really soon.
And the moments that we get to see today and the students that
we are getting to support and invest in are made possible by our
generosity at this auction. So, if you have not donated yet, please
see our Members here to be able to donate. And additionally, I'd
like to have a challenge that perhaps every caucus and every
office can come up with one donation themselves as well. I'm
excited to honor these students, and I think it's crucial that we
continue to have this ceremony moving forward.

The Chair would advise Members that we are currently just
trying to make sure that the Chamber is accessible, so we are just
pausing for a second.

The Chair would ask Members who are sitting in the rear of
the Chamber just to make sure that they are clear of the item as
our ramp is entering in just a few seconds.

The Chair would have a moment of gratitude and applause
for the Chamber Staff. It means a lot to me personally to make
sure that our Chamber in this moment is accessible as well. And
with that, we will now begin our recognition ceremony.

The Senate will recognize the recipients here with us today.
As each recipient is called, the Sergeant-at-Arms will escort the
student, with their guests and their Senator, to the Well of the
Chamber to receive the award and take a photo.

The recipient from Androscoggin County is Anthony Ayer of
Lisbon Falls. Anthony is majoring in music performance and
composition at the University of Southern Maine. Anthony is here
today with grandparents Mark and Diane. Will the Sergeant-at-
Arms please escort Anthony and family along with the Senator
from Androscoggin, Senator Timberlake, to the front of the
Chamber.

Now, the Chair will advise that my script was wrong. So, I
am pleased now to announce the recipient from Aroostook
County is still Emilia Wilkins of Houlton, and that she is able to be
here with us today. Emilia is a marine science major at the
University of New England, and she is here today with mother,
Carrie, grandmother, Glenda, and friend, Summer. Will the
Sergeant-at-Arms please escort Emilia and family, along the
Senator from Aroostook, Senator Stewart, to the front of the
Chamber.

Our next recipient, from Cumberland County, is Jared Conant
of Yarmouth. Jared is an electrical engineering major at the
University of Southern Maine. And Jared is here today with
father, Barry. Will the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort Jared and
family, along with the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Pierce,
to the front of the Chamber.

The recipient from Franklin County is Abigail Bartlett of New
Sharon. Abigail majors in electrical engineering technology at the
University of Maine at Orono. Abigail is here today with parents
Julie and Nathan. Will the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort
Abigail and family, along the Senator from Franklin, Senator
Black, to the front of the Chamber.

And our next recipient is from Hancock County and is Ava VanDorn of Hancock. Ava is a psychology major at the University of Maine at Orono. Ava is here today with parents Amy and Steven and brother, Beaudon. Will the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort Ava and family, along with the Senator from Washington, Senator Moore, to the front of the Chamber.

Our next recipient is from Kennebec County and is Sequora Kelley of Augusta. Sequora is majoring in veterinarian technology at the University of Maine at Augusta, and is here today with mother, Sherrie, and sister, Brianna. Will the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort her and family, along with the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Bradstreet, to the front of the Chamber.

Our next recipient hails from Knox County and is Anna Carpenter of Campden. Anna is a criminal justice and psychology major at the University of Maine at Augusta. Will the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort Anna, along with the Senator from Knox, Senator Beebe-Center, to the front of the Chamber.

Our next recipient is from Lincoln County and is Marshall Addy of Waldoboro. Marshall majors in electrical engineering at the University of Maine at Orono. I am excited to see so many electrical engineering majors in today's presentation. Marshall is here today with mother, Jericho, stepfather, Justin, and friend, Jaelyn. Will the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort Marshall and family, along with the Senator from Lincoln County, Senator Reny, to the front of the Chamber.

The recipient from Oxford County is Cameron Sherbinski of Otisfield. Cameron is a mechanical engineering major at the University of Maine at Orono. Cameron is here today with parents, Jen and Matt, grandparents, Bill and Latoria, sister Cat, and friend, Zoey. Will the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort Cameron and family, along with the Senator from Oxford, Senator Bennett, to the front of the Chamber.

The recipient from Penobscot County is Madison Girard of Clifton. Madison majors in elementary education at the University of Southern Maine. Madison is here today with parents Nicole and Jason, sister Josie, brothers Connor and Andy, brother-in-law Kevin, and friend Nick. Will the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort Madison and family, along with the Senator from Penobscot County, Senator Haggan, to the front of the Chamber.

Our next recipient hails from Sagadahoc County and is Lauren Roinestad of Richmond. Lauren majors in communications and new media at the University of Maine at Orono. Lauren is here today with parents Tracy and John and cousin Gracelyn. Will the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort Lauren and family along with the Senator from Sagadahoc, Senator Tepler, to the front of the Chamber.

The recipient from Waldo County is Emily Mello from Stockton Springs. Emily is a radiologic technologist major at the Kennebec Valley Community College. Emily is here today with mother Melody and grandmother Denise. Will the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort Emily and family, along with the Senator from Waldo, Senator Curry, to the front of the Chamber.

And our next recipient hails from York County, and our recipient is Charles Carroll of Limerick. Charles majors in forestry at the University of Maine at Orono. Charles is here today with parents Katherine and Aaron. Will the Sergeant-at-Arms please escort Charles and family along with the Senator from Cumberland County, Senator Libby, to the front of the Chamber.

I just want to make sure before we move into our closing portion of the program, is there anyone else we missed from the Legislative recipients? Fantastic. That was news to my ears.

I want to say again congratulations to each student receiving

an award and best of luck in your endeavors. You all are the future for our state, and we are so lucky to have you here and pursuing your postsecondary career and lives and futures at our institutions. I would also like to thank the Members of the Legislature, legislative staff, and everyone else who has volunteered, donated items, participated and contributed to the scholarship fund. It was another successful year for the Legislative Memorial Scholarship, and it's always rewarding to see the positive results of this program. And as a reminder, we will keep saying this until we have enough items and we get through our next auction, but we are still seeking items for the upcoming auction. You just got to see the results of our work and hopefully this inspires you to make sure that you will not only be there on April 8th but also donate.

This concludes the scholarship ceremony, and the Senate will be at ease before we transition back to our calendar. But once again, let's have one last round of applause for our recipients.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Bill "An Act to Establish the African American Studies Advisory Council and Provide Funding to Support African American Studies"

S.P. 491 L.D. 1202

Presented by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland. Cosponsored by Representative MURPHY of Scarborough and Senators: HICKMAN of Kennebec, PIERCE of Cumberland, RAFFERTY of York, Representatives: DHALAC of South Portland, MITCHELL of Cumberland, OSHER of Orono, SARGENT of York, SATO of Gorham.

Bill "An Act to Provide Grants to Schools That Contract for Behavioral and Mental Health Services"

S.P. 492 L.D. 1203

Presented by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland. Cosponsored by Representative MURPHY of Scarborough and Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, INGWERSEN of York, MOORE of Washington, RAFFERTY of York, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, Representatives: CARLOW of Buxton, DODGE of Belfast, MITCHELL of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act to Increase State Funding for the Campuses of the University of Maine System and to Raise the Minimum Hourly Wage for Employees of the System" (EMERGENCY)

S.P. 508 L.D. 1219

Presented by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representative ROEDER of Bangor and
Senators: BALDACCI of Penobscot, CURRY of Waldo, PIERCE
of Cumberland, RAFFERTY of York, TALBOT ROSS of
Cumberland, TEPLER of Sagadahoc, Representatives:
BRIDGEO of Augusta, DODGE of Belfast.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Resolve, to Study Opportunities for the Efficiency Maine Trust to
Support the Promotion and Use of Modern Wood Heating
S.P. 501 L.D. 1212

Presented by Senator HARRINGTON of York.
Cosponsored by Representatives: FOSTER of Dexter,
MCINTYRE of Lowell, PAUL of Winterport.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Require the Department of Environmental
Protection to Monitor Air and Water Temperatures Around
Commercial Solar Energy Developments"
S.P. 496 L.D. 1207

Presented by Senator BLACK of Franklin.
Cosponsored by Representative PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft and
Senators: BICKFORD of Androscoggin, TIMBERLAKE of
Androscoggin, Representatives: BABIN of Fort Fairfield,
COOPER of Windham, CRAY of Palmyra, GUERRETTE of
Caribou, HALL of Wilton, JACKSON of Oxford.

Bill "An Act to Regarding Renewable Electricity Generation by
Hydropower Projects"
S.P. 499 L.D. 1210

Presented by Senator FARRIN of Somerset.
Cosponsored by Representative DUCHARME of Madison and
Senators: CYRWAY of Kennebec, STEWART of Aroostook,
TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, Representatives: DEBRITO of
Waterville, POIRIER of Skowhegan, RUDNICKI of Fairfield.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Ensure Timely Reimbursement for Providers of
Child Care Services for Children in Foster Care"
S.P. 480 L.D. 1191

Presented by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot.

Resolve, Regarding the Development of a Medication
Administration Training Program for Maine Youth Camps
S.P. 488 L.D. 1199

Presented by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, GUERIN of
Penobscot, Representative: BABIN of Fort Fairfield.

Bill "An Act to Improve Behavioral Health Crisis Services and
Suicide Prevention Services"
S.P. 505 L.D. 1216

Presented by Senator NANGLE of Cumberland.

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

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Increase the Commercial Insurance
Reimbursement Rate for Ambulance Services"
S.P. 481 L.D. 1192

Presented by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot.

Bill "An Act to Update the Maine Money Transmission
Modernization Act by Removing Provisions of Law Regarding
Unhosted Wallets" (EMERGENCY)
S.P. 486 L.D. 1197

Presented by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representative BOYER of Poland and
Representative: MOONEN of Portland.

Bill "An Act to Support Direct Access Worker Employment by
Removing Certain Employment Disqualifications"
S.P. 493 L.D. 1204

Presented by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative BOYER of Poland and Senators:
HICKMAN of Kennebec, INGWERSEN of York, TIMBERLAKE of
Androscoggin, TIPPING of Penobscot, Representatives:
CHAPMAN of Auburn, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, MINGO
of Calais, WOOD of Greene.

Bill "An Act to Set Limits on Virtual Currency Kiosks"
S.P. 494 L.D. 1205

Presented by Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc.

Cosponsored by Representative ARFORD of Brunswick and Senators: CARNEY of Cumberland, INGWERSEN of York, Representative: FOLEY of Wells.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Increase State Funding for Emergency Shelters"
S.P. 479 L.D. 1190

Presented by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Statutory Balance Limit on the Finance Authority of Maine's Loan Insurance Reserves for General Fund Transfers"

S.P. 497 L.D. 1208

Presented by Senator CURRY of Waldo.
Cosponsored by Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield and Senator: BENNETT of Oxford, Representative: GERE of Kennebunkport.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Allow Certain County Commissioners Who Are Maine Public Employees Retirement System Members to Switch to the Legislative Retirement Program"

S.P. 507 L.D. 1218

Presented by Senator TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Senators: CYRWAY of Kennebec, MARTIN of Oxford, Representatives: BABIN of Fort Fairfield, MORRIS of Turner, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, WADSWORTH of Hiram.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Provisions of the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992 Governing Requirements for Self-insurers"

S.P. 484 L.D. 1195

Presented by Senator BAILEY of York.
Submitted by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

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

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Require the Legislature to Elect Constitutional Officers and the State Auditor in Convention with an Open Ballot System"

S.P. 482 L.D. 1193

Presented by Senator BENNETT of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Representative WARREN of Scarborough and Representative: CARLOW of Buxton.

Resolve, to Require the Towns of Kittery and York to Develop a Boundary Description

S.P. 485 L.D. 1196

Presented by Senator LAWRENCE of York.
Cosponsored by Representative SARGENT of York and Representatives: MATHIESON of Kittery, MEYER of Eliot, RUNTE of York.

Bill "An Act to Designate the Second Congressional District 'Acadia'"

S.P. 503 L.D. 1214

Presented by Senator MARTIN of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Representative: ARDELL of Monticello.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Control Property Taxes by Increasing the Percentage of the Business Equipment Tax Exemption That Municipalities May Recover"

S.P. 495 L.D. 1206

Presented by Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc.
Cosponsored by Senators: DUSON of Cumberland, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland, TIPPING of Penobscot, Representatives: DUCHARME of Madison, ROEDER of Bangor.

Bill "An Act Regarding Certain Definitions in the Sales and Use Tax Laws Affecting Rental Equipment and Automobiles Used in Transporting Goods"

S.P. 500 L.D. 1211

Presented by Senator FARRIN of Somerset.
Cosponsored by Senator: BICKFORD of Androscoggin, Representatives: PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, RUDNICKI of Fairfield.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Phase Out Vehicle Excise Taxes and Implement a Fee for Infrastructure Funding Based on a Vehicle's Annual Mileage" (EMERGENCY)

S.P. 483 L.D. 1194

Presented by Senator MARTIN of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Representative THORNE of Carmel.

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

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding the New Markets Tax Credit and the Maine New Markets Capital Investment Program"

S.P. 506 L.D. 1217

Presented by Senator STEWART of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford and Senator: BICKFORD of Androscoggin.

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

Resolve, to Create a Working Group to Study the Safety and Use of Small Lightweight Vehicles on Maine's Roads and Highways, the Systems and Laws Governing Antique Vehicles and the General Improvement of Road Safety

S.P. 498 L.D. 1209

Presented by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative HEPLER of Woolwich and Senators: FARRIN of Somerset, NANGLE of Cumberland, Representative: PLUECKER of Warren.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Ought to Pass

The Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** on Bill "An Act to Update the Laws Governing the Administration of the Animal Welfare Advisory Council"
H.P. 208 L.D. 308

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

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

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

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

The Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** on Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 100: Enforcement Procedures, a Major Substantive Rule of the Maine Health Data Organization (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 210 L.D. 310

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

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

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

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

The Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Change the Size and Composition of the Board of Directors of the Maine Health Data Organization"

H.P. 413 L.D. 645

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

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

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

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

The Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Protect Federal Home Loan Banks That Lend Money to Insurer Members That Become Delinquent"

H.P. 459 L.D. 720

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

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

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

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

The Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** on Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 800: Uniform Reporting of Wholesale Acquisition Costs for Insulin, a Major Substantive Rule of the Maine Health Data Organization (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 468 L.D. 729

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

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

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

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

The Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Taste Testing of Wine and Malt Liquor to Facilitate Marketing by Wholesalers" (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 165 L.D. 262

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

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

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

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

Senate

Ought to Pass

Senator CARNEY for the Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act to Rename the Administrator of the Office of Chief Medical Examiner the Director of Medical Examiner Operations"
S.P. 115 L.D. 248

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

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act Regarding the Disposal of Abandoned Human Remains"
S.P. 117 L.D. 250

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

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth
BABIN of Fort Fairfield
CARUSO of Caratunk
LEE of Auburn
O'HALLORAN of Brewer
PUGH of Portland
SATO of Gorham

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

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

HENDERSON of Rumford
POIRIER of Skowhegan
SINCLAIR of Bath

Reports **READ**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

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

Sent down forthwith for concurrence.

ENACTORS

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

Emergency Measure

An Act to Support Implementation of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Projects

H.P. 27 L.D. 63
(C "A" H-11)

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 34 Members of the Senate, with 0 Senators having voted in the negative, and 34 being more than two-thirds of the entire elected Membership of the Senate, was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** and having been signed by the President, was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

Act

An Act to Reorganize and Simplify Certain Exceptions in the Use Regulation Law

H.P. 68 L.D. 103

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

Resolves

Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in Old Orchard Beach the Captain Christopher S. Cash Memorial Bridge

S.P. 59 L.D. 37

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

H.P. 43 L.D. 79

Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in the Town of Carmel the Kevin M. Howell Memorial Bridge

H.P. 95 L.D. 162

Resolve, to Rename the Sebago Lake Road Crossing Bridge in the Town of Standish

S.P. 87 L.D. 200

Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in the Town of Roque Bluffs the Hope Bridge

H.P. 245 L.D. 345

FINALLY PASSED and having been signed by the President were presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Off Record Remarks

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

Senator **PIERCE:** Thank you, Madam President, Men and Women of the Senate. As we continue our celebration of Women's History Month, I am honored to highlight some of Maine's first female legislators.

I take you back to 1927. There is no Cross Building, most people are arriving into Maine via horse or by boat. The Kennebec is in full flow, and here we are. Dora Pinkham, a Republican from the County, and Katherine Allen, a Republican from Hampden, were the first two women who served in the Maine Senate. You'll see on your desk that I handed out the picture of that year, with both of those people included. We also had a number of women in the House. Mabelle Chaney, Maude Clark Gay, Blanche Folsom, Gail Laughlin, and they were also serving in the House at the same time.

Today, I'll focus on Dora Pinkham. Her life and legacy are especially meaningful to me because Dora was the first woman to serve in the Maine House in 1923 and then came over to the Senate. And I am a part of the first all-female Senate Democratic leadership team, alongside Leader Duson and President Daughtry.

Pinkham was born in New Limerick, Maine, in 1891, and grew up in Fort Kent, the crown of Maine. After earning her bachelor's at Mount Holyoke College and a master's from Columbia University, she worked in the Department of Labor in Washington DC before returning to Maine to teach at Madawaska Training School for Teacher Education. She also worked as a bookkeeper for the local Fort Kent Bank and served as a special agent to the United States Children's Bureau. Three years after women were granted the right to vote, Pinkham ran to represent her committee in the Maine House, having built an impressive career. Pinkham knocked off two-term incumbent to represent parts of Fort Kent and Wallagrass in the House. At only 31, Pinkham's election made her the first-ever woman to serve in the Maine Legislature. She was only one of nine women who ran in 1922 to win her seat.

From 1922 to 1924, Pinkham served on the Joint Committee on Public Health, the Maine Publicity Committee, the Joint Committee on Education, and several other ad hoc committees. Pinkham wanted Maine to help create health clinics, health education, midwife training to benefit the health of women and

children. I find this especially moving as it demonstrates women's health issues have always been discussed at the State House for over a hundred years, and I am proud to carry on that conversation.

In 1926, she was elected to the Maine Senate, serving as one of three Senators from Aroostook County in 1930. She and Katherine Allen were the first women to serve in the Maine Senate. Senator Pinkham served on the Joint Standing Committee on Education, Public Health, State Prisons, and Interior Waters. She sponsored bills supporting Maine's highway and bridges - proud to have taken that vote today as well - funding for education, and health facilities, teachers' pensions and support of veterans and their dependents. So many of these issues Pinkham was fighting for are the subject of bills before our committees today. I'm inspired by her hard work and determined to continue to fight for these values.

After retiring from the Senate, Pinkham served as a Special Secretary to Maine Governor William Tudor Gardiner, a member of the State Advisory Council on Health and Welfare, an American Red Cross volunteer, and president of Fort Kent's first Business and Professional Women's Club.

Pinkham leaves behind a legacy of commitment to the improvement of the lives of all Mainers and a promise to protect the welfare of women and children. She was often the only woman in the room, but was adamant that her voice would be heard loud and clear. On behalf of the Mainers she represented, may Dora's legacy be remembered, and her voice carried through these halls for generations to come.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator **RENY:** Thank you, Madam President. Happy Women's History Month. Today, I rise in honor of Margaret Chase Smith.

So, the exceptional Maine woman from Skowhegan who had a successful 24-year Senate career and was the first woman to serve in both Houses of Congress. So, she's a Mainer to be proud of for many reasons, but I personally am most impressed by her bravery and leadership in a dark time of U.S. history. I hope you all learned in school, as I did, about McCarthyism, often referred to as the Red Scare. At this time in history, the late 1940s and then 50s, there was an intense fear of communism and the Soviet Union in the United States. And the most notable examples of McCarthyism include the investigations of alleged communists that were conducted by Senator McCarthy, Joe McCarthy, and the hearings conducted by the House Un-American Activities Committee.

So, the primary targets for persecution were government employees, figures in the entertainment industry, academics, left-wing politicians, and labor union activists, typically. Suspicions were often seen as convictions by the people, despite inconclusive and questionable evidence, and the level of threat posed by a person's real or supposed communist associations and beliefs was often exaggerated. So, this ended up being a time of suffering for many. Many people lost their jobs and had careers destroyed as a result of crackdowns on suspected communists and some were outright imprisoned. Most of these reprisals were initiated by trial verdicts that later were overturned and laws that were later struck down as unconstitutional. However, a lot of damage had already been done. But in the midst of this time of fear and distrust, Margaret Chase Smith was

in office and her choices remind me of a conversation I've had countless times with students, which is how much more difficult it is to stand up or to push back on your friends and your classmates than it is to stand up or push back against enemies or outcasts. And that is part of what made Margaret Chase Smith, I think, so remarkable.

I highly recommend reading Margaret Chase Smith's full speech when she did her Declaration of Conscience on June 1st in 1950. It's a little spicy, goes at both major parties kind of hard. I'm going to leave out the spicier parts today and just read a couple pieces.

From her speech: "As an American, I am shocked at the way Republicans and Democrats alike are playing directly into the communist design of confuse, divide, and conquer. As an American, I do not want a democratic administration whitewash or coverup any more than I want a Republican smear or witch hunt." And the final piece of that declaration, which was signed onto by I think six other Republicans in the Senate, is that "it's high time we stop thinking politically as Republicans and Democrats about elections and start thinking patriotically as Americans, about national security based on individual freedom, and it's high time we all stopped being tools and victims of totalitarian techniques, techniques that, if continued here unchecked, will surely end what we have come to cherish as the American way of life." Thank you.

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

Senator **BERNARD:** Thank you very much, Madam President, and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I want to keep a good thing rolling here. It's my privilege to take a moment during Women's History Month to recognize someone who more recently put Maine on the map with her fearless, unorthodox, and selfless decisions.

Linda Greenlaw was born in 1960 in Connecticut. She was raised in Topsham and her family summered in Isle au Haut. She took a job as a cook and a deckhand on a swordfishing boat to pay her way through college - Colby College. After graduation with a major in English and government, her parents were shocked that she planned to go back to commercial fishing for her life's work. The truth is, she fell in love with swordfishing when she was just a child, and knew by the age of 19 that she would spend her life on the sea. It would've been nice for her parents to know that at the time. But as it turns out, none of her education was wasted. Perhaps she knew she would be sharing her exciting life through the written word. She has authored nine books, many that landed on the New York Times Bestseller list. We have plenty of reasons to admire Linda Greenlaw. Taking the tack less traveled, if you will, her choice, loaded with risks, in search of those powerful fighting fish. Despite being told by various people that she was wasting her education, that swordfishing is no place for a woman, indeed, she is one of only a few who have taken on that challenge. Greenlaw was the first female swordfishing boat skipper on the American east coast and is recognized as one of the best captains on the entire east coast, bar none.

She was featured on the Discovery Channel on an episode called Swords: Life on the Line, and on the program Deadliest Catch.

Linda was captain of the Hannah Boden and the last person to speak with the captain of the companion boat, the Andrea Gail.

That vessel was tragically lost at sea in October of 1991 during perhaps the most powerful northeaster new England has ever experienced. In that event, many of you know, that spawned a book and a movie, The Perfect Storm. Linda provided expert and technical information for the movie, and her character was featured in the film.

But there's another reason to admire Linda Greenlaw. She likely saved the life of a troubled 15-year-old girl. The young girl was being abused by a man on Ilse au Haut, who everyone believed was her uncle. When the truth of the girl's situation came to light, the residents of the island nominated Linda to be her legal guardian. A new family was formed, which eventually led to a new book called Lifesaving Lessons: Notes from an Accidental Mother. By the way, that man is now in federal prison.

Greenlaw was the winner of the American Library Association's Alex Award in 2000, the United States Maritime Literature Award in 2003, and the New England Book Award for Nonfiction in 2004. During Women's History Month, I'm very proud to say Maine and the bold coast is home to an inspiration, Linda Greenlaw.

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

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Ought to Pass As Amended

The Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** on Bill "An Act Making Unified Allocations from the Highway Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027" (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 178 L.D. 274

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-14)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-14) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-22)** thereto.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-14) **READ**.

House Amendment "A" (H-22) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-14) **READ** and **ADOPTED** in concurrence.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-14) as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-22) thereto **ADOPTED** in concurrence.

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

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

ENACTORS

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

Emergency Measure

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

H.P. 179 L.D. 275
(C "A" H-12)

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 35 Members of the Senate, with 0 Senators having voted in the negative, and 35 being more than two-thirds of the entire elected Membership of the Senate, was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** and having been signed by the President, was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval. Ordered sent forthwith.

Resolves

Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in Newfield the Dam's Mills Veterans Memorial Bridge

S.P. 193 L.D. 460

Resolve, to Rename the New Ten Mile River Bridge on Pequawket Trail in Brownfield the Brownfield Veterans Memorial Bridge

S.P. 197 L.D. 463

Resolve, to Rename the Brackett Mill Bridge in Denmark the Brackett Mill Veterans Memorial Bridge

S.P. 198 L.D. 464

Resolve, to Name the Bridge Between Milford and Old Town the Alton L. Drinkwater Memorial Bridge

H.P. 334 L.D. 516

FINALLY PASSED and having been signed by the President were presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

Ordered sent forthwith.

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

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act Making Certain Appropriations and Allocations and Changing Certain Provisions of Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government" H.P. 377 L.D. 609

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-13)**.

Signed:

Senators:

ROTUNDO of Androscoggin

RENY of Lincoln

Representatives:

GATTINE of Westbrook

BRENNAN of Portland

CLOUTIER of Lewiston

DHALAC of South Portland

RANA of Bangor

STOVER of Boothbay

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

Signed:

Senator:

BERNARD of Aroostook

Representatives:

ARATA of New Gloucester

BLIER of Buxton

DUCHARME of Madison

FREDETTE of Newport

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-13)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE**

ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-13) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "R" (H-33) thereto.

Reports **READ**.

Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report.

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

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

Senator **ROTUNDO:** Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, I rise to introduce LD 609, the continuing services budget. This budget simply makes sure that the State of Maine is responsibly funded in the coming biennium and represents part one of the biennial budget.

The part two budget, which is yet to be negotiated, would include new initiatives and potentially address policy changes. This budget before you consists of baseline funding to keep the lights on beyond the current fiscal year. It provides the stability and reliability that Maine people deserve from their state government. It includes the supplemental items to close the MaineCare gap for this fiscal year and provides \$2 million for spruce budworm remediation. And it accepts some of the items that were included during the supplemental negotiations, cost-of-living increases for direct care workers and training for Maine's General Assistance administrators. It also funds the State's share of K-12 education at 55% for both years of the biennium so that school districts will know what to expect as they put together their budgets for the coming year. And while MaineCare is already funded in the baseline for the two years of the biennium, it also provides funds that were requested to fill the MaineCare gap for fiscal years '25 and '26.

This bill does not include any tax increases or any of the proposed cuts in the Governor's proposal. It contains only one new position. This is simply a continuing services budget that guarantees that the State will be able to continue to provide the services it currently provides at the current funding level. The baseline funding ensures that state-run entities like our state parks, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, and courthouses stay open, that state employees continue to get paid, and that basic functions of state government will go on uninterrupted as of July 1st.

Passing this bill provides a measure of certainty to our communities against much upheaval and uncertainty at the federal level. We do not know what's coming down the road from Washington, but we do know that changes are coming in the way states will be funded. This baseline budget reassures Mainers that their state government will not shut down over political disagreements and demonstrates their representatives are committed to acting in a responsible and productive way. The end of March is the deadline for enacting the continuing services budget that would be in place by July 1st. This has driven the timeline for this budget and it's why it is before us today. All of the items in the budget have received a public hearing. It is also in balance as required by the Maine

Constitution. According to the nonpartisan Office of Fiscal and Program Review, this budget leaves us with over \$127 million in the General Fund.

During the part two budget process, we will grapple with reductions in federal funding, flattening state revenues, and healthcare costs. We will carefully consider how to meet these challenges, and it is my hope that we will do so in a way that makes our constituents proud and allays any concerns that our budget is out of control due to runaway spending. It is the part two budget that we will take up new initiatives. Passing this continuing services budget today allows us to debate any discretionary spending in part two without pressure. We can even go back and make changes to the baseline budget if we decide to do so.

We have been down this road before. In the past two Legislatures, we have produced a continuing services budget, followed by a part two budget, that came out of the Appropriations Committee with strong bipartisan support. Those part two budgets received unanimous or near-unanimous bipartisan support in the Appropriations Committee. I would remind my colleagues that two years ago, we were so determined in Appropriations to get a two-thirds budget that we didn't adjourn until July. I invite my colleagues on Appropriations to work together again in the best interests of all of our constituents. I believe that dispensing with the continuing services budget will enable us to do our work on the part two budget without the threat of political disagreements derailing the process.

In May, we will receive a report from the Revenue Forecasting Commission detailing the state's financial outlook. In the meantime, we will keep an eye out for changes in federal funding. The Appropriations Committee will also begin the process in the coming weeks of voting on items from the Governor's proposal, with a goal of starting to craft the part two budget.

It is not going to be easy, and the choices we will face will most likely be painful, but the work will be made considerably easier with a knowledge that funding the basics of state government does not wait for the part two budgets. I have listened to those who want structural changes to MaineCare, and I am open to ideas in how to do so. I also know that major changes to our healthcare system will most likely be coming from the federal government. I look forward to a robust debate in the coming months on this subject.

When I first served on the Appropriations Committee, my current legislative aide was two years old. Truly. I have negotiated many budgets as a member of the majority party here in the State House and as a member of the minority party, and it was always with a goal of getting unanimous support in committee and a supermajority on the third floor. I have a good track record when it comes to negotiating two-thirds budgets, and my commitment to a supermajority budget in the 132nd session remains very strong.

I do believe that the most responsible course of action for us to take at this point is to pass a continuing services budget. Our communities and the people we represent deserve this certainty in the uncertain times in which we live. Please join me in supporting this bill, and we will then move on to the part two budget. Thank you.

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

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I rise in probably what is probably obvious opposition to the pending motion.

This majority budget, which is as my colleague from Androscoggin County pointed out is now the third of those during the tenure of this Democrat regime since 2019 when the trifecta first occurred. And I think beyond even the policy elements here, which I'll get into in a minute, there is a very concerning dynamic at play here. And it's truly just about power at any -- at any cost. And that's really where I think we find ourselves now, looking at the third - I mean, once, sure, you could call it a fluke, twice is highly problematic, but at this point, majority budgets are the new normal, brought on by complete Democrat control. This didn't happen when Republicans took complete control in 2010. They did not pass a majority biennial budget. And I think it's really unfortunate because what we have -- where we find ourselves heading, I think, is in a complete devolution of this branch of government. It is one that really could be the strongest in the State of Maine. I believe in the Legislative Branch, it's the closest one to the people, and yet, my colleagues have no problem at all silencing almost half of the people through these extraconstitutional moves. The protections were put in place specifically to avoid this, so that compromise and working together had to happen. Seriously had to happen.

Unfortunately, by doing this, I think the only -- I heard a lot -- the word commitment used a lot. The only commitment that's being made tonight by the majority party is to completely ignore the minority. Again. For now the third biennial. It's unfortunate, I think, because I truly believe in this branch, I don't think we should be relegating ourselves to this approach. We could be, I think, the strongest, instead, we're just casting away our power to others. We don't look at the baseline, we don't review that, the Executive Branch just gets what they want, more spending -- I don't even like referring to these as budgets. Budgets invoke some semblance of fiscal constraint and sanity; what we have are spending documents each year. We have no review of so-called current services to figure out what was the point of spending money on something in the first place, did we accomplish that goal, if not, why, if yes, how. Are we doing the right things? We don't do that. In Appropriations, we look at this is baseline and then we add to it, baseline and then we add to it, baseline and then we add to it. That's what we do here. We spend, we spend, and we don't look -- we don't look backwards at all to even figure out if we got where we were hoping to get to, if we even knew that at the time. And this is just a continuation of that.

So, you know, it's -- it's with a heavy heart that we find ourselves here entirely predictably. I think we knew this as soon as -- on election night, we knew what we were in for on our side of the aisle. It's unfortunate, but I think it's just a function of what's happened. And maybe we will continue down this road until and unless the political dynamics change. I think that's probably become pretty evident.

Now, to talk about the policy of this, I mean, it's -- it's -- to say it's inaccurate that this is a, quote, "continuing services document", is an understatement. It's not that. There certainly are policy decisions that are being made throughout this document. I'm looking at a lot of choices that were made in particularly the second year of the biennial that are completely ignored. And that's how we get to meeting this constitutional obligation which my colleague pointed out that the budget must balance. Well, sure, it's a two-year budget and if you just don't fund a bunch of things in the second year, yeah, you can get it to

balance, but it's not legitimate. And if those same folks who were screaming last week about the need to be really careful and MaineCare and prioritize that policy and that program, well, you're now about to vote for something that guts it in the second year. I find that a little bit hypocritical.

So, if we're going to have a conversation tonight about where we're heading over the next two years, I want everybody to acknowledge some things, right, and vote accordingly - you all will, anyway, I think the fix is in on this thing, like I said, it has been for a while - but to message and brand this in such a way that it is a continuing services budget is false, and I hope that the folks that are listening tonight, particularly those in the media, are picking up on this. All this is a way to avoid working with the Republicans. Call a spade a spade, just say you don't want to work with us. It's fine, that's your choice, but let's be transparent about it. Faking the satisfaction of the Constitution in two ways - one, by claiming that it's balanced when it's not, unless you want to tell everybody on MaineCare you get one year of MaineCare and then after that, no, we're not going to address that. Okay, fine, go ahead and do that. Or secondly, saying that we pass the biennial budget in order to then adjourn, because that is also a constitutional obligation that we are forced to meet in the first session of the biennial. We're not doing really that, either. So, I guess pick one, is my charge to you all in the majority, just pick -- pick what you're going to do, that we're going to really pass a one-year budget, make sure we don't have to listen to the Republicans for the next part of the Legislature, do our own thing, and figure it out later and spend more of the peoples' money later. Go ahead. But don't say that we're -- everything's fine and this is satisfactory, you know, to the average person that's out there. It's not. We're leaving a lot of work on the table here. We're leaving a lot of programs on the table here that people are going to think are safe and they're not. And that was, in fact, our chief concern during the so-called supplemental that we just went through, is that we're not addressing the root of these problems; out of control costs, out of control spending. We still haven't done that. We still haven't done that in this document. In fact, it's been so neglected that we're not even bothering to try in the second year to address these problems. That's what you folks are putting forward tonight. That's what's in front of us. You know, I'm looking at it right now with numerous programs in the second year unfunded.

So, pick a side, you know, make a call, but let's use correct verbiage here. Call it a majority budget, because that's what it is, and explain to people why you're doing what you're doing. And if it's because you don't want to work with us, fine, go ahead, say that. But don't say it's because we need to pass something here to give folks comfort. I think what's uncomfortable for them is that we are heading toward such financial catastrophe, particularly as it relates with MaineCare, with no plan, and that problem is going to get worse and we will be right back here within the year, addressing the same problems. Just acknowledge that you don't want to address it, because that's what you're doing with this. That's what you're doing with this. I know the fix is in, I know how to count, it is what it is, but I would just appreciate like a little bit of transparency as it relates to what is being said about this document, because it is a far, far cry from reality. Thank you.

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

Senator **TIPPING:** Thank you, Madam President. I would echo

the comments that there is a lot of work to do in part two of the budget, and I hope that all Members engage in that process in good faith. Tonight, however, I rise to speak to an element of the budget that's actually before us, part of the proposal that's important in my community and across rural Maine.

Since our vote last Thursday and the failure of the supplemental budget, I've been meeting with healthcare providers all over my district. The day after the vote, I sat down with the leadership at Penobscot Valley Hospital in Lincoln. Like all critical access hospitals, their MaineCare prospective interim payments were cut by 30% starting last week. Their payment from the State went from \$85,000 to \$59,000, a \$26,000 a week cut every week until we finally decide to pay our bills. Now, some hospitals may be able to deal with that kind of cut, but PVH is a 25-bed hospital serving a poor, elderly, and rural population. They also recently went through a bankruptcy and so they find it difficult to access credit to bridge the gap. They're looking hard at the services they provide and they're getting quotes from lenders that want 30% interest. They aren't alone. Over the weekend, we learned that the Houlton Regional Hospital is in a similar spot. Their chief financial officer reports that, quote, "if reduced payments continue for just one more week, this may cause HRH to run out of operational funds. This would likely lead us to limit services and staffing without sufficient notice. Once those services and staff are lost, our chances of restoring them would be minimal or even nonexistent." I would imagine many of Maine's critical access hospitals serving people in rural areas that might otherwise have to drive for an hour or more to find an emergency room are also in a similar spot. Calais Regional Hospital also recently went through bankruptcy, and we know how close to the line all of our hospitals are.

Last week, we saw the closure of a hospital in Waterville and on Monday, the Maine Hospital Association reported that several critical access hospitals are considering service cuts or closure because of this curtailment. I urge every Member of this Body to vote for this continuing services budget. A two-thirds vote today will get the money to our rural hospitals before any more damage is done. Even majority passage will mean that they know the money is coming and can borrow against that certainty. Saving the money, keeping doctors and nurses on staff, and almost certainly saving peoples' lives. I believe healthcare, especially access to care for poor people and those in rural Maine, is the most important issue before the Body this term. When we consider the life, liberty, and happiness of Mainers, preserving their lives comes first. We must reject the attempts to cut care, cut Medicaid eligibility, cut direct care worker wages, cut care for the elderly, and cut payments to hospitals no matter where those proposals are coming from.

Now, some of my colleagues have said that they didn't know when Medicaid payments would begin being curtailed or they didn't see anything in the supplemental that was important for their district. I hope that now we all know and hope we now all see. This budget pays our bills, it funds our hospitals, and it protects Maine people. We should pass it as quickly as possible. Thank you.

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

Senator **TIMBERLAKE:** Thank you, Madam President, and good evening, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I stand before you today with a very troubled heart. Yet again, half of Maine's

people have been disenfranchised. They've been ignored, they've been tossed in a trash heap on the side of the road. In my 15 years under this dome, serving the Maine people, I'd like to think that I'd seen everything. And yet, the majority party somehow finds some way to surprise me even again.

Madam President, facts matter, and this is madness. No, this has been happening every March, so let's call it the March Majority Madness. And let me tell you some facts, Madam President. I posed a question to this Body last Tuesday when I asked my colleagues from the majority party whether they would push through a majority budget. Well, Madam President, I was met with silence. We were met again with a stone-cold silence on Thursday, when a good senator from Androscoggin posed the very same question to this Body. Now, it's abundantly clear why nobody from leadership of this majority party chose to answer our question. Madam President, facts matter, and this is March Majority Madness.

Here's another fact, majority leadership and their member of the Appropriation Committee have been working secretly behind closed doors to craft this partisan budget before we had even finished debating the last budget. In fact, the planning for it began on March 5th, a full week before we even took the first vote on this supplemental. Madam President, facts matter. And yes, we are in March Majority Madness.

Here's another fact, while my Democrat colleagues claim this bill is a slimmed down continued service budget, that is simply not true. A budget that includes new initiatives is not a baseline budget. This is, in fact, the biennial budget that has over \$11.3 billion in spending that will have to be paid for by the Maine taxpayers. The next budget will simply be a supplemental change package put out by the Governor. That means that both budgets are owned by the majority. As the old adage goes, you reap what you sow. Those, Madam President, are the facts. And we are, in fact, living in the March Majority Madness.

Here are some more facts, Madam President. Like the previous budget bill that was brought before this Body, this budget does nothing to address MaineCare's serious shortfalls. It does nothing to address our General Assistance crisis. It continues funding the Office of New Mainers while it ignores the funding for our old Mainers in our veterans homes, in our nursing homes. That, Madam President, is a fact, and further proof of the March Majority Madness.

Let's talk about the facts about MaineCare. \$33 million raided from the MaineCare Stabilization Fund, \$117 million in the supplemental, \$122 million in the new budget, and the federal match of a billion dollars or more, we have a billion-dollar federal-state problem with no solution. Well, Madam President, facts matter, and that's certainly March Majority Madness.

Here's another fact. This budget still leaves MaineCare with a \$122 million shortfall for fiscal year '27. How are we even going to fund that if we have a negative revenue forecast in May? That is why budgets should never be done this early. We spend more time cleaning up aisle five in the State House than we actually do governing. Madam President, facts matter, and we need to get out of this insanity of March Majority Madness.

The fact of the matter is, I thought we left all this madness behind in the last Legislature. But the monkey business by the majority continues on. In March Majority Madness, to surprise the Appropriations Committee six days ago on Friday afternoon that this budget was going to be voted on. It's March Majority Madness and the budget was not posted until yesterday. It's March Majority Madness that we were given only hours to submit

floor amendments. It's March Majority Madness that this whole process was pre-planned to exclude Republicans entirely. It's March Madness that the Democrats refuse to recognize that we cannot continue on this path of reckless spending. We simply don't have the revenue for the budget to continue growing at this rate. It's March Majority Madness that it's slimmed down, the budget still contains over \$11.3 billion in expenditures and they're still looking to spend \$300 million more. That is because, Madam President, the history as written here today in this Chamber will only show that Maine's people are truly living in the age of March Majority Madness, and that should be shameful for all of us in this building. Thank you very much.

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

Senator **PIERCE:** Thank you, Madam President, Colleagues of the Senate. This continuing service budget ensures that the towns we represent have the financial security they deserve and that the members of our communities will continue to see their roads plowed, trash collected, and school buses running.

I served on my local town council from 2008 to 2014, during the great recession. We had to balance our books, keep services in schools going, and be very mindful of our property taxes. It was difficult, but we managed to get it done and keep our promises to our constituents. Those decisions at that town level are typically being made right now during February and March. So, now is the time for the State to deliver certainty and predictability to our communities. In order to do so, we must keep our commitments to the State's 55% share of K-12 education and 5% revenue sharing. This continuing service budget does just that.

For those of us who have served on a town council or a city council, and many of us have in this room, we know what schoolboards and municipalities go through as they think about passing responsible budgets in the year ahead. A continuing service budget helps schoolboards and towns and cities craft their budgets secure with the knowledge of what funding they will receive from the State. Today, we have the opportunity to honor our commitments by funding the essential services local governments deliver to Mainers every day. This is a responsible, no-frills type of budget. It's about paying our bills, keeping on the lights, and keeping promises to our communities. In this budget, no new services or initiatives have been added. Rather, we are making sure critical services can operate.

As the Good Senator from Androscoggin outlined, this step allows the Legislature to get to work on the part two budget that embodies the priorities of Maine people in 2025. It gives us space and time to debate those priorities. I'm committed to that process and have done that work in the past.

Madam President, I urge this Body to do the right thing for Maine and for Mainers. I ask you and all my fellow Senators to support this continuing services budget. Thank you.

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

Senator **LIBBY:** Thank you very much, Madam Chair. Back in 2019, the Governor issued a very prideful press release taking credit for the MaineCare expansion that was to come. And I just remember holding my breath because I just really felt at the time that people didn't really understand the system that we were

about to take on. And I want to just explain that the system that we are in now is what's causing closures and bankruptcies of providers. And we don't have a lot of time to do something about that.

I do appreciate the Senator from Androscoggin who says, you know, we can look at some policy changes down the road. Thank you for that offer, I intend to take you up on that, but I know as a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs that the new initiatives that we're talking about there are being completely swallowed up by the welfare state. And everyone on the committee, not Republicans, everyone on the committee is looking at bills and saying oh, this bill's not going to get funded. Even if it's like a very important idea.

So, the system that expands the enrollees, the MaineCare enrollees from 290,000 or so to 405,000, more Mainers get treatment from hospitals and other providers at a loss to those providers. So, as you -- this is the model. As you expand the model, as you expand the people getting those services, you're at the MaineCare Medicaid rate of reimbursement. So, the problem gets worse and worse and worse as you conduct the expansion. And, you know, most of you know, I work in Waterville and, you know, do a lot of work for the mid-Maine Chamber on their policy committee and I mean, everybody showed up at Northern Light and they knew it was coming for a long time. It's not something that -- a hole that we can plug now, they knew it was coming, and it was coming because of just what I'm talking about, the system. You got the MaineCare reimbursement rate, but then you also have systemic slow payments to hospitals, so now they're owed millions. And you know they're owed millions, they came and they've told you that, I'm sure they've told you that.

So, I wish that we had that same emergency feeling that I was given when I walked in here for the first time in the 131st and, you know, let's -- let's do something about home heating. This is a serious emergency; we're talking about hospital care. We need to take care of it now. You know, this may not be the day we're going to take care of it, but it needs to be addressed right now.

The other thing, you know, I've been kind of wondering all along how are -- in year two of the biennial budget, how are we going to be able to project the losses that -- not losses, but the costs that are going to get racked up as a result of the system that I just described. And so far, I guess, thank God it's blank we're going to have to fill something in here. And it's not just going to be expenditures that's going to be able to solve the problem, you have to look at the cost side. There's a cost side and a revenue side to every single picture, and we've got to look at the cost side, and we've got to do it in the most humane way possible, the most humane way possible.

You know, I've been thinking about, you know, what can I compare this to in my lifetime, and I've been here six different terms, and I couldn't think of anything in my lifetime. The only thing I could think about is going back to 1912 and thinking about the Titanic, you know, it's kind of like bailing out the Titanic with a bucket but there's no base in the bucket, so nothing's really happening. We've got to put a base in the bucket, we've got to be able to -- we do have to -- the wrong word, but we've got to be able to bail out the MaineCare system. We have to do something about GA because as I explained to you last week, my rural district is getting nothing out of these GA proposals at all, it's just really brutal. It's tough on my district. I did give a speech this Monday night in Cornish, and I asked them what their GA budget was, and it was \$2,000, and you know how much that takes care

of. So, boy, do we have a lot of pending problems here.

I'm concerned about the way I'm seeing the process roll out and I do -- I ask you to join me in voting against this motion, but I also ask you to join me in trying to solve especially the MaineCare problem because we can't leave this Legislature without doing that. And it's a much larger number than I think we can all imagine as we sit here.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator **LAWRENCE:** Thank you, Madam President, Men and Women of the Senate. Down in DC, they are passing a majority budget. I have not heard a single person in this Chamber get up and decry how nearly a majority of Americans are being disenfranchised because of that. They're passing a majority budget. That's what they do. In New Hampshire, they're doing it, in Maryland, they're doing it, in Michigan, they're doing it, in Wyoming, Texas, Oklahoma, every other single state in this country is doing this that way, and the federal government. In fact, in municipalities, they're doing it by a majority vote. That's how they pass their budget. When you go to town meetings, they don't ask for a two-thirds vote in order to pass a budget, they get a majority vote. That's how democracies do it. And I have to disagree with my good friend from Aroostook, Senator Stewart. It was never intended by the Maine people that our budgets be passed by a two-thirds vote. The Maine people never decided that. It was a fluke of our Constitution where in 1914 that amendment was passed that requires bills unless they're passed by a two-thirds vote to have 90 days to go into effect for a peoples' veto, and then later, many decades later, the State at the request of municipal governments, changed its fiscal year from October to July, taking away that 90-day period. And nobody thought that was a problem. Legislature after Legislature after Legislature passed a majority budget like this or a supermajority budget of continuing funding and then went on to debate part two of the budget of where to decrease and where to increase things. That was done by every Legislature. And I know, I was in many of them, all the way up to the 1990s, when a governor was reelected who said everything was fine with our budget and the day after his election, he announced a \$2 billion shortfall in the budget and everything went crazy here in Augusta. And 13 members of this Body found a way to have 13 out of 186 elected legislators, 13 stopped state government in its tracks and they locked out thousands of Maine State employees who were camped out across the street, they shut down liquor stores, they shut down our state parks, they shut down everything except emergency measures in the state government. That was the tyranny of the minority. In fact, you could call it July Minority Madness.

Once that political nuclear bomb was exploded in this Capitol, we have never been the same since, and we have tried to do things to keep things running here in Maine. So, we have had to improvise a procedural solution to do everything -- the things that every other state and the federal government does in this country in order to protect Maine people from July Minority Madness. And it's worked fairly well, we've been able to do it sometimes, sometimes we haven't, it's gone on until 2017, we saw it again. It was let out of the bag again. Fifty-one members over in the House forced the shutdown of state government after July 1st, under the LePage Administration, and we went into

another shutdown mode. Because we stopped using those measures to protect Maine people.

This is what this is all about. It's about protecting Maine people from July Minority Madness. It's talking about protecting Maine people from a small group of people shutting down state government. That's not what Maine people want. If you want to talk about disenfranchisement, you talk about a group of one-third of one of this Body ignoring what everybody else wants. That is disenfranchisement of the Maine people.

Now, I'm happy to join with you in doing what responsible Legislatures have done in the past, what responsible statemen and statewomen have done in the past and pass a continuing resolution by a two-thirds vote and then negotiate with you on the second part. And I said I'm more than willing to do that to see if we can get to two-thirds and to see if we can't get an agreement. I guarantee you they're not going to do that in Washington. They're going to ignore a near majority of Americans who elected Democrats to Congress and not negotiate with them, but I'm willing to do it here. But the first thing we have to do is to protect Maine people, and that's what we're doing here today.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator **TEPLER:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Madam Speaker and ladies and gentlemen of this Chamber, I am new in this Chamber, but I spent eight years in the Other Body and four years as House Chair of Health Coverage, Insurance, and Financial Services. And I remember when our hospitals were begging us to expand MaineCare because charity care was an excessive burden on their budgets.

If we cut the MaineCare population, we will be right back there. It will not save our hospitals; it will simply send them under faster.

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

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Madam President, Fellow Members of the Senate. I was moved to rise by - as I often am - by my friend and seatmate, former President of the Senate, the Senator from York, Senator Lawrence. My problem with this budget isn't that it is a majority budget. In fact, I think we think about these things in partisan terms far too much. I object to this budget because it represents a dramatic failure of the Legislature to do its job.

We haven't organized ourselves to even consider this budget properly. In fact, a very small -- very small percentage of this 407-page budget, 11.some-odd billion dollars, an eight-page fiscal note, never even had a public hearing. Think about that. Here it is the middle of March, this budget is before us, and we have organized ourselves not to even be able to have the time to have a public hearing on the vast majority of the spending this represents. And this is at a time when we all know that we -- the gravy train is over, the feds are shutting off the pipe, that we're going to have to make some tough choices here. And this last two and a half months should have been an opportunity to do that.

The people of Maine who are affected by our budgets have a right to speak on the billions of dollars that is spent for services and for the programs and all the agencies. They have a right to

be heard on that. They haven't had a chance to speak at all on the lion's share of this budget. Questions are -- are these programs and agencies serving the modern needs of the people of Maine? Are these billions of dollars well spent? What do the people of Maine actually think about the efficacy of these billions of dollars they're spending? We haven't heard from them. That is my problem with this budget. It is profoundly sad and a dereliction of duty for us to, at this time of fiscal crisis, to be without a public hearing, spending billions of dollars of taxpayers' money.

And now, I have a measure that is working its way through this Legislature somewhere to take a new look at this, and it will come up and we'll be talking about that, and it's really a resolve to actually study this problem that the Senator from York, Senator Lawrence, talked about, which is the majority party has the burden of governing. I get that, and I get the fact that there's a need to pass a budget, and whoever the minority is, they want to preserve the optionality of objecting to that. And our current calendar of legislative work fails both ends because it tells the majority that they have to rush in order to pass a budget and it tells the minority that they either get accused of shutting down state government or they have to go along with what the majority says. This isn't a good conversation to have. This is a failure of ourselves, this institution, to organize ourselves so that we can actually consider the needs of the people of Maine, hear from the people of Maine, take their views into consideration, spend their money wisely, in benefit of the people in need across the state.

So, for those reasons, Madam President, I sadly have to vote against this budget because we need to do better, we must do better, this institution deserves better, and the people of Maine deserve better. Thank you.

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

Senator **BALDACCI:** Thank you, Madam President. I just want to hit a couple of points. One is I'm very disappointed with the harsh and negative rhetoric that I've heard from certain quarters tonight. The fact of the matter is, I'm concerned, you know, where our Republican friends have been the last couple of months. I feel like some of them have been sleepwalking through this budget process. I feel like they -- I understand you can object, but at some point, a decision has to be made, priorities have to be set, people have to be paid, services have to be provided. This isn't -- this can't be an interminable discussion. And the last two months, we've spent an interminable amount of time trying to work out a compromise. We agreed to what a certain house GOP member, leader, said was the most significant welfare reform in over a decade, which was the housing limitations. We agreed to have an outside audit of the MaineCare program. And that was for a supplemental budget that didn't raise taxes, that just paid bills, and the money came out of an existing surplus. So, it's -- at some point, people have to make decisions.

I got calls every day, I got letters every day from parents of disabled children, from senior citizens, from people that work at the hospitals in Bangor or from medical providers, wondering what was going to happen to their child, their job, their family. We can talk all we want, we can, you know, think that we're trying to solve some great constitutional crisis, it's only a crisis that we -- that certain Members have manufactured, and we are here tonight to prevent a crisis to get -- to make sure things get paid,

things get done, and this state moves forward. That's what we're here for and that's what I got elected for and I think most of us did.

So, in terms of this budget, the actual facts of this budget, this budget is a big win for my district and for the vast majority of districts here. And my focus was going to be on the local part of this, but I had to -- I really had to comment on the direction. Because I don't believe in wasting peoples' time. I believe in using time effectively and not just making points but getting things done. For Bangor and Hermon, revenue sharing, which is already more than doubled over the last four years, will rise an additional \$1.25 million. Money that is critical to fund police, fire, schools, infrastructure, and economic development projects. The Town of Hermon will see further increases in revenue sharing of more than 10%, bringing their total to \$810,000 per year. Public schools in Bangor and Hermon will also greatly benefit. Combined, Bangor and Hermon serve over 6,000 students. The aid to education - that I had my notes here someplace - and Bangor public schools receive an additional \$2 million, bringing the total aid to education for Bangor to \$28.2 million, and to the town of Hermon will get an additional \$400,000, bringing the total to Hermon schools to \$9.2 million a year.

I often -- I served four terms on the Bangor city council, I served twice as mayor, and I often told people during LePage Administration, aid to education for Bangor went from \$17 million and at the end of the LePage Administration, it was still \$17 million. Okay? And in that time, costs and everything grew. They shifted more of the burden in terms of teacher retirement, public schools onto the municipalities. We had to deal with that firsthand. We had to lay off people, we had to trim, obviously, but the bottom line is we did that for eight years. What we're trying to do is not burden our local communities with these tough decisions.

My district, there's a total of \$3.9 billion per year in MaineCare spending. Per year in MaineCare spending or funding in this budget. A third of that is state money, the other two-thirds are federal matching dollars. My district has more than 5,000 healthcare sector jobs. Hospitals will be paid, nursing homes will get paid, healthcare providers will get paid. I can't say enough about how important it is to pass this budget. I think it will benefit the State of Maine. But the fact is that a certain point, and we have invested in bipartisan cooperation, but at some point, you reach a point, you have to make a decision and you have to protect your constituents and your taxpayers, the people of this state, and that is what we are doing tonight.

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

Senator **INGWERSEN:** Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I'm going to narrowly talk about a part of this budget that I've been concerned about since January, since we got here, and that's MaineCare. Through the supplemental budget, through several weeks of work and negotiation, it was for me learning about what is this state health plan that so many people depend on and so many providers depend on. And I've learned a lot and I've got a lot more to learn.

So, MaineCare is a critical safety net. Talk about ongoing necessity funding. That's what we have. That's what's going to be in this budget. It's a critical safety net for low-income Mainers, many of them working Mainers. For children, for the elderly, for the disabled, it's health insurance coverage for low-income

Mainers and enables access, it improves overall health and wellbeing while supporting our economy. That's some of what I've discovered.

And I want to respond a little bit to my neighbor here and fellow Senator from Cumberland who mentioned that the expansion population is a problem. It's a good thing that we did. And it wasn't done by just the Governor. In 2017, Maine had the opportunity, like all states, under the Affordable Care Act, to expand MaineCare. We took that opportunity, like states did, but first we held a referendum and 60% of Mainers came out and said yes, we want to do this.

So, what is this expansion population? These are working adults. These are low-income adults who have to meet 138% or less of the federal poverty level. That's \$21,000 a year for a single adult, or \$29,000 a year for a two-family of adults. At \$21,000 a year, these are not bums, these are working Mainers. I'm sorry to use the words bums, but this is what I get from some constituents, that these are just lazy people living off the state. These are our working Mainers. Who are these people? Well, that's another thing I've learned, studying MaineCare and listening in my committee about who these working Mainers are. They are our childcare workers, they are our direct care workers, they are our ed techs, our preschool workers, they are workers who are advocates for sexual assault services, who have been losing 37% of their workforce last year because of low pay. So, here we are, in this Body, willing -- perfectly willing to depend on them to look after our children, to look after our parents, to look after our grandparents in nursing homes, who are perfectly willing to accept that we can't do anything about the minimum wage they get, but we don't want to give them basic healthcare, we don't think they should be part of this expansion population. Who would we remove from those roles? I certainly wouldn't remove the low-income working Mainers in my community who depend on quality healthcare. Healthcare that allows them to get up the next morning and go to work for us, to support our children, to support our grandparents, to support our families so that we can get and hold jobs that may be a little bit high-paying, a little bit more pay. And remember, this is healthcare, this expansion healthcare that's paid 90% by the federal government. Yes, that may be in trouble, and we hope it isn't, but this has been a program that's been agreed upon by the federal government, that has rules we have to adhere to. We can't make a hasty decision to go ahead and drop people from those roles. This is an emergency. These are our neighbors. 45% of our neighbors in northern counties such as Washington, 40% in Aroostook and Piscataquis County. These are our neighbors, our families, our kids, our disabled, our elderly. This is our lifeblood, and we are here tonight to support them. And I hope you will, too. Thank you.

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

Senator **TALBOT ROSS:** Thank you, Madam President. You know, I am also new to this Chamber, and I can honestly say that I have appreciated all of the comments from both sides of the aisle that have been made this evening -- well, except for saying that I and my colleagues have somehow faked interest in transparency, but I had to rise to make it clear that if we do not pass this budget - and that's the collective we - Maine people lose. That's all of Maine people, not just the people in my district or yours, Madam President, that's all of Maine people.

You know, I do not believe that anyone here thinks that this is

a game but it sure does feel like we're playing one. We're playing one that has dire and dreadful consequences that Maine people cannot afford. Needing to access healthcare and have healthcare facilities open is not just to serve Democrats and keep Democrats healthy. Needing property tax relief is not just for Democratic households. Needing schools to stay open and funded is not just to serve Democratic students. And critically important, not passing this budget -- not passing this budget simply kicks the can down the curb and will force our cities and towns as they try to make their budgets whole and they try to make plans for the future, worse.

This is not about Democrats or Republicans. This is about all Maine people. We all lose if we do not pass this budget tonight. Let's keep Mainers safe and healthy and educated. Let's make sure that we pass this budget because without this budget, Mainers - all of Mainers - lose.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator **BICKFORD:** Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, a week ago, I asked a question. I asked it on three separate occasions to you and your leadership, will you commit to a two-thirds budget? I was met with silence.

So, tonight, I'm going to remind you of something I learned when I was very young. Actions speak much louder than words.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would remind Members that as the Chair, in debate, the Chair can only answer questions about Parliamentary procedure. With that, the Chair would recognize the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Cyrway.

Senator **CYRWAY:** Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I hear everybody's voice here. I came back in 2014 -- well, actually '13, I think it was, or -- 11 years ago. When I came here, when we were doing a budget, it was dealt a lot different than it is today. And when I said that, you know, there was 200 years and it was only twice that they did not do a two-thirds vote, when I came here, I could see how it worked. And what they did is they looked at what they did the previous budget and where they were now and they looked at how they could balance the budget so it wasn't going to be impacting the state to the point where it was going to cost them more money and taxes. And somewhere, they met and what they did is I can remember every -- everybody had a chalkboard and they had all the important bills listed right down through and said where can we do -- come up with a way to meet that budget? And it was like everybody worked together on both sides, trying to meet that budget. I have not seen that in the last six years. And that's what's happening. It's not -- I don't think it has to do with majority or minority, it's how our processes work as far as trying to make the budget work for the State. And that's what I think is lacking. I think if you had just taken line by line items, Madam President, that if we could just go through and say look, this is where we want to be, and then you hear it from the other side, this is where we want to be, and then try to meet halfway, I think that's how we got that two-thirds vote, just like we have for 200 years. But it hasn't happened that way, and now this is where we are. And I don't think any one of us likes to vote against each other. You know, I listen to all my friends here, that's not the case, I just think it's -- our mannerism on how we meet a balanced budget. That's

all I'm saying is I think maybe we've got to look -- re-look at how we're doing it and put it on a chalkboard or something that we can just say look, this is where we're at and this is where the other group is at and let's see how we can meet that to get that balanced budget so it works for everyone. And we should've done that a long time ago, you know, earlier, and that hasn't happened. So, I'm just asking if that's something, if it's too late, maybe it isn't, but I'd like to see that happen.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator **ROTUNDO:** Thank you, Madam President. As my friend and colleague from Androscoggin County, Senator Timberlake, said, facts matter. And there are just a few things that I want to clear up because I would hate to have anybody listening to these proceedings tonight think that we are abandoning MaineCare in the second year of the biennium.

The State -- the baseline budget has \$1.3 billion in it for MaineCare for fiscal year '26 and fiscal year '27, \$1.3 billion for each of those years. We have a significant federal match which brings in more billions. We also have a state increase of 63 million for the Federal Medicaid Assistance Percentage, which is referred to as FMAP. So, there are billions of dollars for MaineCare in fiscal year '26 and '27 and it's just very important for me to make sure that people in nursing homes, in families where people are depending upon MaineCare, for hospitals, for providers, to know that we are not abandoning anyone with regard to MaineCare funding. We have billions in the continuing services budget and we will make sure that our responsibilities to fund MaineCare are met. Thank you.

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

Senator **HARRINGTON:** Thank you, Madam President. I think it's important for the people at home to know exactly the process that this budget was crafted in. This budget was crafted in partisan-only backroom meetings and then was dropped on the laps of Republican appropriators late in the afternoon on Friday, only to immediately go in and start voting on it, and then being told - also that night, after the majority budget was passed - that they were not able to put a Minority Report on said budget unless they were prepared to do it right then, they couldn't come back the following day or have a couple of days to draft their own Minority Report. So, that's where we are, a backroom budget that was thrown onto the people of Maine and we're expected to now just vote on it.

So, I would encourage, when we go back into our backrooms to start drafting the part two budget, that I would strongly encourage that you take the zero dollars allocated for fiscal year 2027 for MaineCare, and I would add quite a bit extra so that you're not then coming back to us next year when you fail to do anything on Medicaid and you're in a bigger hole, asking us to bail you out of yet a third in a row failed budget. That would be my request. Thank you.

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

Senator **CARNEY:** Thank you, Madam President. I know that

we're getting ready to vote, but I just thought it was really important for us to focus not on perceived slights from each other, treating each other in certain ways, but really to think about what the vote we're taking - about to take - relates to. And it relates to protecting the people of Maine.

And I just want to point out from my vantage point in the Judiciary Committee what the continuing services budget will do. Here are just a couple of the things. It will keep children's advocacy centers open. So, those are the centers that enable prosecutors to achieve convictions of people who have sexually assaulted children. It funds the prosecutors who the children advocacy centers work with, who use their incredible skill and passion to achieve convictions in those cases. It also - I know this morning we voted on a bill related to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, actually, two of them - it also allows the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, which works with great compassion also, and the Attorney General's office to investigate and prosecute murder cases. Are we really not going to continue to fund those services? Do we not care that the people of Maine need that work done? I just ask us to think about the people we all represent. Thank you.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#53)

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

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

18 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 17 Senators having voted in the negative, the motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, **PREVAILED**.

Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin moved that the Bill be given its first **READING**.

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

THE PRESIDENT: For what purpose does the Member rise?

Senator **TEPLER:** To clarify the motion. I am hearing from my colleagues that perhaps they are concerned that this first reading

implies that the entire bill would be read. Is that correct?

THE PRESIDENT: The motion before us is about the first reading of the printed bill. If the motion prevails, the Secretary will begin reading the printed bill. It is customary at this time, if the Body is in agreement, that we will dispense with the reading of the bill. The motion is solely on commencing the reading of the printed bill. The first reading.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Member from Penobscot and inquires why he rises.

Senator **BALDACCI:** Thank you. I would just want to clarify that if we vote yes, what does that mean?

THE PRESIDENT: That we will have the first reading of the printed bill. And the Chair would advise the Members that I would be moving to dispense with the reading next, as is customary in this Body.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is First Reading of the printed bill. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#54)

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

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

21 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 14 Senators having voted in the negative, the motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin to give the Bill its first **READING**, **PREVAILED**.

The Senate moved to **DISPENSE** with the reading of the Bill.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#55)

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

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

24 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 11 Senators having voted in the negative, the motion to **DISPENSE** with the reading of the Bill, **PREVAILED**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-13) **READ**.

House Amendment "R" (H-33) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13) **READ**.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#56)

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

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

18 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 17 Senators having voted in the negative, House Amendment "R" (H-33) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13) **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#57)

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

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

18 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 17 Senators having voted in the negative, Committee Amendment "A" (H-13) as Amended by House Amendment "R" (H-33) thereto **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

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

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

Senator **HICKMAN:** Thank you, Madam President. I want to be clear about the motion. Are we taking a Roll Call on whether or not the Senate will suspend the rules to allow for any reading of the -- second reading of the bill?

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would respond to the Member that we are currently taking a Roll Call on whether we may suspend the rules to read the bill at this time, a second reading at this time, by title only.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Member and requests why they rise.

Senator **BENNETT:** Point of order, or inquiry, I guess is the better term. There seems to be a -- first of all, I want to say I applaud the leadership for bringing better order to the Senate. It is difficult, however, for some of us to communicate with each other on matters of importance relating to process because of the interpretation of the rules relating to that. And so, unfortunately, it creates a friction which is unhappy with -- with the Chamber staff who have been directed to enforce the rules, which I generally applaud, but I would ask for some relaxation along those lines so that we can move in proper order and have information shared as necessary among the Members who are sitting close to each other. Thank you, Madam President.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Suspension of the Rules to allow for a Second Reading. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#58)

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

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

22 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, **SUSPENSION OF THE RULES** to allow for a **SECOND READING, FAILED**.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING ONE HOUR LATER.

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

Senator **BRENNER:** Hi, Madam President. The second reading - Bills in the Second Reading Committee is a two-Stacy committee, my colleague, Senator Guerin and I both are on that committee. So, I'm just wondering, are we supposed to meet during this time?

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would advise that the double-Stacy caucus should be all set, but we encourage the gathering and conversation of the double-Stacy caucus.

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication:

S.C. 163

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

March 19, 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 Education and Cultural Affairs has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 81 An Act to Foster Innovation in Maine Schools by Updating the Requirements of School Innovation Waivers

L.D. 360 An Act Supporting the Dirigo Reads Literacy Program

L.D. 543 An Act to Enhance Maine's Wildlife Conservation Efforts and Preserve Maine's Sporting Heritage by Requiring Hunter Safety Education in Schools

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Joseph E. Rafferty S/Rep. Kelly Maureen Noonan Murphy
Senate Chair House Chair

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 164

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

March 19, 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 Health and Human Services has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 480 An Act to Support Healthy Weight by Providing MaineCare Coverage for Certain Weight Loss Medications

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Henry Ingwersen
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Michele Meyer
House Chair

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 165

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

March 19, 2025

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

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

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

L.D. 196 An Act Regarding Documents Obtained by Subpoena by the Government Oversight Committee

L.D. 410 An Act to Require Parental Consent to Withhold Life-sustaining Measures for a Minor or to Comply with a Do-not-resuscitate Order for a Minor

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Anne Carney
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Amy D. Kuhn
House Chair

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 161

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

March 19, 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 Taxation has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 237 An Act to Increase the Percentage of Funds Provided to Municipalities Through State-Municipal Revenue Sharing

L.D. 256 An Act to Establish a Sales Tax Holiday for Purchases of Certain School Supplies for the Month of August

L.D. 283 An Act to Expand Local Revenues by Including Meals and Lodging Sales Tax Revenue Under the State-Municipal Revenue Sharing Program

L.D. 440 Resolve, to Study the Economic Effects of Instituting a Seasonal Sales Tax

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Nicole Grohoski
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Kristen Sarah Cloutier
House Chair

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 166

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

March 20, 2025

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

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

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

L.D. 811 An Act to Require a Municipal Public Hearing
and Vote Before a Sports Wagering Facility
May Be Established

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Craig V. Hickman
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Laura Supica
House Chair

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

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

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

SECOND READERS

The Committee on **Bills in the Second Reading** reported the
following:

House As Amended

Bill "An Act Making Certain Appropriations and Allocations and
Changing Certain Provisions of Law Necessary to the Proper
Operations of State Government"

H.P. 377 L.D. 609
(H "R" H-33 to C "A" H-13)

The Bill was **READ A SECOND TIME.**

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#59)

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

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

18 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 17 Senators
having voted in the negative, the Bill was **PASSED TO BE
ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "R"
(H-33) AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-
13)**, thereto.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#60)

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

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

20 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 15 Senators
having voted in the negative, the Bill and accompanying papers
were **SENT FORTHWITH** for concurrence.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

House Papers

Bill "An Act to Require Reporting of Sheltering or Aiding Missing Children"

H.P. 755 L.D. 1150

Bill "An Act to Require Certain Mental Health Data to Be Included in Uniform Crime Reports"

H.P. 792 L.D. 1187

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

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

Resolve, to Establish a Hybrid Juris Doctor Program at the University of Maine School of Law to Address Access to Justice in Rural Maine

H.P. 767 L.D. 1162

Bill "An Act to Foster Career and Technical Education in Maine Schools by Creating an Additional Pathway to Certify Industrial Arts Teachers"

H.P. 768 L.D. 1163

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

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

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Ownership of 6 Percent or More or Control of a Public Utility by an Entity Providing Aid to a Foreign Terrorist Organization" (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 765 L.D. 1160

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

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

Bill "An Act to Expand Appliance Energy and Water Standards"

H.P. 763 L.D. 1158

Bill "An Act to Create a Fund for Safe Disposal of Hazardous Fluids from Salvage Yards"

H.P. 770 L.D. 1165

Resolve, Establishing a 3-year Moratorium on the Installation or Reinstallation of Synthetic Turf and Requiring a Study of the Public Health and Environmental Risks of Synthetic Turf
H.P. 782 L.D. 1177

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

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

Bill "An Act to Protect Access to Health Insurance Under the MaineCare Program"

H.P. 756 L.D. 1151

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Relating to the State's Background Check Center"

H.P. 762 L.D. 1157

Bill "An Act to Expedite the Process Involving Municipalities That Illegally Move a Person to Avoid Responsibility for General Assistance Support"

H.P. 783 L.D. 1178

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

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

Bill "An Act to Expand the Right to Shop for Health Care Services"

H.P. 757 L.D. 1152

Bill "An Act to Change the Professional Title and Identification of Physician Assistants to Physician Associates"

H.P. 771 L.D. 1166

Bill "An Act to Allow Chiropractors to Treat Dogs and Equids"

H.P. 795 L.D. 1220

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

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

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Businesses from Refusing to Accept Cash for In-person Payments"

H.P. 764 L.D. 1159

Resolve, to Create a Pilot Program to Assist Nonprofit Housing Developers in Rehabilitating Existing Aging Housing Stock for First-time Home Buyers

H.P. 772 L.D. 1167

Bill "An Act to Make the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority Responsible for the Transfer and Development of State-owned Surplus Land"

H.P. 775 L.D. 1170

Bill "An Act to Establish Minimum Safety Standards for the Construction and Use of Temporary Emergency Shelters"

H.P. 784 L.D. 1179

Bill "An Act Regarding the Designation of Short-term Rental Units as Commercial or Residential in Use"

H.P. 786 L.D. 1181

Bill "An Act to Ensure Rent-to-own Protections Apply to Mobile Home Park Tenants"

H.P. 788 L.D. 1183

Bill "An Act to Require Municipal Reporting on Residential Building Permits, Dwelling Units Permitted and Demolished and Certificates of Occupancy Issued"

H.P. 789 L.D. 1184

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

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

Bill "An Act to Restore Complimentary Licenses to Hunt, Trap and Fish for Residents 70 Years of Age and Older"

H.P. 776 L.D. 1171

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

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

Bill "An Act to Require That Informed Consent for Abortion Include Information on Perinatal Hospice"

H.P. 759 L.D. 1154

Resolve, to Establish a Group to Study the Laws Governing the Guardianship of Adults and Ongoing Parental Rights of Parents of Disabled Adults

H.P. 778 L.D. 1173

Bill "An Act Regarding the Appointment and Payment of Counsel for Indigent Parents and Minors"

H.P. 780 L.D. 1175

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Persons Under 18 Years of Age from Marrying"

H.P. 790 L.D. 1185

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Arrest and Detention for Civil Violations and Require an Attorney for the State to Determine Whether to Charge a Class E Offense as a Civil Violation"

H.P. 794 L.D. 1189

Bill "An Act to Limit Sovereign Immunity for Schools and School Superintendents"

H.P. 797 L.D. 1222

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

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

Bill "An Act Regarding Employer Payments for the Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program"

H.P. 774 L.D. 1169

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Prohibit the Legislature from Using Paid Family and Medical Leave Program Funds for Any Other Purpose

H.P. 796 L.D. 1221

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

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

Bill "An Act to Provide for the Sustainable Management of Marine Resources and Create a Noncommercial Northern Shrimp License"

H.P. 781 L.D. 1176

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

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

Bill "An Act to Change in Statute the Areas Represented by the Members of the Board of Trustees of the Cross Insurance Arena from Sets of Municipalities to the County Commissioner Districts of Cumberland County"

H.P. 758 L.D. 1153

Bill "An Act to Ensure Appropriate County Government Operations Relating to the Position of Dedimus Justice"

H.P. 760 L.D. 1155

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Providing for the Popular Election of the Attorney General

H.P. 766 L.D. 1161

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

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

Bill "An Act to Amend the Law Regarding the Current Use Valuation of Certain Working Waterfront Land with Respect to Commercial Boat Yards"

H.P. 773 L.D. 1168

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

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

Bill "An Act to Allow Military Surplus Vehicles to Be Collected and Used in Patriotic Exhibitions and Parades"

H.P. 761 L.D. 1156

Bill "An Act to Grant the Rockland Port District an Increase in Its Borrowing Capacity and Include Sustainable Aquaculture and Marine Industries in Its Charter"

H.P. 787 L.D. 1182

Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Study the Feasibility of Ferry Service to Monhegan Island

H.P. 791 L.D. 1186

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

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

Bill "An Act to Create Economic Opportunity for the Wabanaki Nations Through Internet Gaming"

H.P. 769 L.D. 1164

Bill "An Act to Include Harness Racing with Other Sports for Purposes of Sports Wagering" (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 793 L.D. 1188

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

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

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

House Papers

Bill "An Act to Allow Gun Shops to Hold Firearms for Veterans of the United States Armed Forces and First Responders"

H.P. 779 L.D. 1174

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

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

Senator **BEEBE-CENTER** of Knox moved to **REFER** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

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 (#61)

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

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

19 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 16 Senators having voted in the negative, the motion by Senator **BEEBE-CENTER** of Knox to **REFER** the Bill to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**. **PREVAILED**, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Persons from Providing Incentives to Customers for Opting Out of Paper Billing"

H.P. 785 L.D. 1180

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

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

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

Bill "An Act to Enact the Passamaquoddy Fisheries and Workforce Development Act"

H.P. 777 L.D. 1172

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

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES**.

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

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

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

ENACTORS

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

Emergency Measure

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Taste Testing of Wine and Malt Liquor to Facilitate Marketing by Wholesalers

H.P. 165 L.D. 262

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 34 Members of the Senate, with 1 Senator having voted in the negative, and 34 being more than two-thirds of the entire elected Membership of the Senate, was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** and having been signed by the President, was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

Ordered sent forthwith.

Emergency Measure

An Act Making Unified Allocations from the Highway Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027

H.P. 178 L.D. 274

(H "A" H-22 to C "A" H-14)

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 35 Members of the Senate, with 0 Senators having voted in the negative, and 35 being more than two-thirds of the entire elected Membership of the Senate, was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** and having been signed by the President, was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

Ordered sent forthwith.

Emergency Resolve

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 100: Enforcement Procedures, a Major Substantive Rule of the Maine Health Data Organization

H.P. 210 L.D. 310

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 35 Members of the Senate, with 0 Senators having voted in the negative, and 35 being more than two-thirds of the entire elected Membership of the Senate, was **FINALLY PASSED** and having been signed by the President, was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

Ordered sent forthwith.

Emergency Resolve

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 800: Uniform Reporting of Wholesale Acquisition Costs for Insulin, a Major Substantive Rule of the Maine Health Data Organization

H.P. 468 L.D. 729

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 35 Members of the Senate, with 0 Senators having voted in the negative, and 35 being more than two-thirds of the entire elected Membership of the Senate, was **FINALLY PASSED** and having been signed by the President, was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

Ordered sent forthwith.

Acts

An Act to Create Consistency in Retirement Service Benefits
Deferral Under the Maine Public Employees Retirement System
S.P. 106 L.D. 240

An Act to Update the Laws Governing the Administration of the
Animal Welfare Advisory Council
H.P. 208 L.D. 308

An Act to Change the Size and Composition of the Board of
Directors of the Maine Health Data Organization
H.P. 413 L.D. 645

An Act to Protect Federal Home Loan Banks That Lend Money to
Insurer Members That Become Delinquent
H.P. 459 L.D. 720

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

Ordered sent forthwith.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

ENACTORS

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

Act

An Act Making Certain Appropriations and Allocations and
Changing Certain Provisions of Law Necessary to the Proper
Operations of State Government
H.P. 377 L.D. 609
(H "R" H-33 to C "A" H-13)

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#62)

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

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

18 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 17 Senators
having voted in the negative, the Bill was **PASSED TO BE
ENACTED** and having been signed by the President was
presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#63)

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

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

20 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 15 Senators
having voted in the negative, the Bill and accompanying papers
were **SENT FORTHWITH** for concurrence.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

ORDERS

Joint Order

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

S.P. 519

ORDERED, the House concurring, that all matters not finally disposed of at the time of adjournment of the First Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature in the possession of the Legislature, including working papers and drafts in the possession of nonpartisan staff offices, gubernatorial nominations and all determinations of the Legislative Council regarding after-deadline bill requests and policies, be held over to the next special or regular session, whichever occurs first, of the 132nd Legislature in the posture in which they were at the time of adjournment of the First Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature; and be it further

ORDERED, that any public hearing, work session, confirmation hearing or other meeting to conduct the business of the Legislature that is scheduled or authorized at the time this order is passed is hereby authorized to occur.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#64)

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

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

20 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 15 Senators having voted in the negative, the Joint Order was **PASSED**.

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

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Report of the Chair - Pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2

The Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** on Bill "An Act to Require a Person Operating a Watercraft for Recreational Purposes to Ensure All Passengers Under 13 Years of Age Wear Coast Guard Approved Personal Flotation Devices"

H.P. 671 L.D. 1042

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

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

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

On motion by Senator **TEPLER** of Sagadahoc, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**, in concurrence.

Change of Committee

The Committee on **LABOR** on Bill "An Act Regarding Occupational Licensing Reform"

H.P. 349 L.D. 530

Reported that the same be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**, in concurrence.

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

ENACTORS

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

Acts

An Act to Rename the Administrator of the Office of Chief Medical Examiner the Director of Medical Examiner Operations

S.P. 115 L.D. 248

An Act Regarding the Disposal of Abandoned Human Remains

S.P. 117 L.D. 250

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

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Off Record Remarks

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

At this point, a message was received from the House of Representatives, borne by Representative **MOONEN** of Portland, informing the Senate that the House had transacted all business before it and was ready to Adjourn Without Day.

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

ORDERS

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

S.O. 16

ORDERED, that a message be sent to Governor Janet T. Mills informing her that the Senate is ready to Adjourn Without Day.

READ.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

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

ROLL CALL (#65)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: LIBBY

20 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 14 Senators having voted in the negative, the Joint Order was **PASSED**.

The Chair appointed the Senator from Cumberland, Senator **PIERCE** to deliver the message to the Governor. The Senator was escorted to the Governor's Office.

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

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

S.O. 17

ORDERED, that a message be sent to the House of Representatives informing that Body that the Senate is ready to Adjourn Without Day

READ.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

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

ROLL CALL (#66)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: LIBBY, PIERCE

19 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 14 Senators having voted in the negative, the Joint Order was **PASSED**.

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

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

Off Record Remarks

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

The following proceedings were conducted after 12:01a.m., Friday, March 21, 2021.

Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin moved the Senate **ADJOURN SINE DIE**.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#67)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: LIBBY, GUERIN

20 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, the Joint Order was **PASSED**.

On motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin the Honorable **MATTHEA E.L. DAUGHTRY**, President of the Senate, declared the First Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature **ADJOURNED SINE DIE** at 12:23 in the morning.
