

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

In Senate Chamber
Thursday
March 27, 2025

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

Prayer by Reverend Katie Holicky of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Brunswick.

REVEREND KATIE HOLICKY: This week in my tradition we celebrate Harriet Monsell, who helped found the religious order of St. John the Baptist, a community that focused its work on the care of women and children who society cast out and deemed not worthy of care. As we fully arrive in this space, may we ponder the truth that all people are, indeed, worthy of care.

So, let us pray and pause and take a few deep breaths to trust in the goodness and grace of each and every one of you being gathered here today.

Creator, Holy One, Divine and Infinite Spirit, Lover of All Souls, today we ask for the strength and focus to set aside the things that might distract us from caring for the people and territory of the great state of Maine. Whether that be worry, anxiety, anger, or sadness, may our big feelings not consume us, but instead inform us to right and just action, that help us to connect with one another in a time where it has become easy to distance ourselves from one another. Today, may we hold gratitude, offering thanks for these faithful public servants who show up and keep saying yes to this hard and important work. For these leaders who have committed themselves to deep and thoughtful listening. Listening to those who live in their localities, especially the marginalized, to one another, and to their own hearts. And thanksgiving for these folks who continue to trust in their own ability to do this hard work at times when it might feel impossible. May our thankful hearts be part of our connection to one another.

Today, we ask that each leader here be inspired to take good care of themselves, honoring that in caring for themselves, they are better able to care for every Mainer. May our care of self become care of one another that knits us into a community of connection. And today, may we connect through commonalities while lovingly and respectfully honoring our differences, and the truth that our diversity is a gift. In doing so, may you each foster compromise, justice, peace, and good stewardship of resources. And may these relational connections that reflect the truest and most tender sense of the word neighbor also inspire compassionate care of the most vulnerable in our communities. May we find ways to move forward together while leaving no one behind and may we all be transformed for the better along the way. Heal us, connect us, give us hearts of nuance that help us to truly walk together. May it be so. Amen.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator Jill C. Duson of Cumberland County.

Reading of the Journal of Tuesday, March 25, 2025.

Medical Provider of the Day, Garrett Fontaine, M.D. of Winslow.

Off Record Remarks

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication:

S.C. 171

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

March 25, 2025

Honorable Matthea E. L. Daughtry
President of the Senate
132nd Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Daughtry:

I am notifying you that, pursuant to 12 MRSA §683-A, I have forwarded to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry the following nomination made to the Maine Land Use Planning Commission by the Aroostook County Commissioners on March 19, 2025:

Donald A. Tardie of Ashland

The County asks that this nomination be considered to fill the four-year term that is scheduled to be filled by Aroostook County, and is currently vacant.

Pursuant to 12 MRSA 683-A, this appointment is subject to confirmation by the Maine Senate after review by the committee having jurisdiction over conservation matters.

Sincerely,

S/Suzanne M. Gresser
Executive Director

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 173

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

March 25, 2025

Honorable Matthea E. L. Daughtry
President of the Senate
132nd Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Daughtry:

I am notifying you that, pursuant to 12 MRSA §683-A, I have forwarded to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry the following nomination made to the Maine Land Use Planning Commission by the Piscataquis County Commissioners on March 18, 2025:

Jenny L. Ward of Greenville Jct.

The County asks that this nomination be considered to fill the four-year term that ends on May 22, 2025, which is scheduled to be filled by Piscataquis County.

Pursuant to 12 MRSA 683-A, this appointment is subject to confirmation by the Maine Senate after review by the committee having jurisdiction over conservation matters.

Sincerely,

S/Suzanne M. Gresser
Executive Director

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 172

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

March 25, 2025

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

Dear Madam President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development has had under consideration the nomination of Michael A. Duguay of Waterville,

for appointment as the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development.

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

YEAS	Senators	2	Curry, C. of Waldo, Bennett, R. of Oxford
	Representatives	6	Gere, T. of Kennebunkport, Collamore, A. of Pittsfield, Golek, C. of Harpswell, Malon, M. of Biddeford, Roberts, T. of South Berwick, Yusuf, Y. of Portland
NAYS		0	
ABSENT		5	Sen. Bailey, D. of York, Rep. Eder, J. of Waterboro, Rep. Julia, C. of Waterville, Rep. Mingo, A. of Calais, Rep. Walker, M. of Naples

Eight members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of Michael A. Duguay of Waterville, for appointment as the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Chip Curry
Senate Chair

S/Traci Gere
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

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

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

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#73)

YEAS: Senators: None

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BRENNER, FARRIN

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 33 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, and none being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of **Michael A. Duguay** of Waterville, for appointment as the Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development was **CONFIRMED**.

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

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

Senator **LIBBY:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. Permission to speak on the record?

THE PRESIDENT: So moved.

Senator **LIBBY:** Thank you very much. I didn't want to let this nomination go by without saying a few words about Mike Duguay. I've had the honor and the privilege of working with Mike for the past several years at Thomas College and working with him in all of his field work, his extensive field work, I think he's one of the best nominees that we've had for this position in many, many years.

I think people on both sides of the aisle are going to really like working with him. He's already asking people about projects that we can work on in Economic Development. It is with great pride and pleasure that I support this nomination. Thank you very much, Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is also now pleased to recognize in the rear of the Chamber, Michael Duguay, wife, Vicki, and daughter, Sage. Would they please rise and accept the greetings of the Senate?

The Following Communication:

S.C. 176

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SECOND LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY**

March 21, 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 Energy, Utilities and Technology has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 469 An Act to Prioritize State Access to Electricity
Generated in Canada via High-impact Electric
Transmission Lines

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Mark W. Lawrence
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Melanie Sachs
House Chair

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 178

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

March 25, 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. 476 An Act to Ban the Sale of Polystyrene Packing
Peanuts in the State

The Following Communication:

S.C. 180

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Denise A. Tepler
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Victoria W. Doudera
House Chair

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 174

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

March 24, 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. 258 Resolve, to Establish a Program to Recruit and
Retain Behavioral Health Clinicians

L.D. 514 Resolve, to Raise MaineCare Reimbursement
Rates for Detoxification Services for Substance
Use Disorder Treatment

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.**

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

March 26, 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. 116 An Act to Prohibit the Use of Piercing Guns

L.D. 134 An Act to Require Certain Individuals Who
Instruct Children Under 18 Years of Age in
Dance or Creative Movement to Undergo a
Criminal Background Check

L.D. 327 An Act to Provide Additional Funding to Support
In-home Personal Support Services for
Qualified Senior Citizens

L.D. 518 Resolve, Increasing Access to Maternal and
Child Health Care (EMERGENCY)

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. 175

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

March 21, 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. 314 | An Act to Establish Consumer Protections Regarding Small Dollar Loans |
| L.D. 805 | Resolve, to Direct the Board of Licensure in Medicine and the Board of Osteopathic Licensure to Conduct a Study Regarding the Feasibility of Combining Those Boards |

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. 179

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SECOND LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

March 24, 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 Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

- | | |
|----------|---|
| L.D. 153 | An Act to Prohibit the Unauthorized Mooring of Watercraft |
| L.D. 205 | An Act to Amend the Bag Limit for Turkey |
| L.D. 716 | An Act to Restrict the Hunting of Coyotes |
| L.D. 728 | An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Smelt Fishing |

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Joseph M. Baldacci Senate Chair	S/Rep. Tiffany Danielle Roberts House Chair
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READ and with accompanying papers **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The Following Communication:

S.C. 177

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

March 21, 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 State and Local Government has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

- | | |
|----------|---|
| L.D. 50 | An Act to Provide the Right of First Refusal to Towns in Which the University of Maine System and Similar Quasi-independent State Entities Are Selling Property |
| L.D. 216 | An Act to Change the Statutory Adjournment Date for the Second Regular Session of the Legislature |

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Joseph M. Baldacci
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Suzanne M. Salisbury
House Chair

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

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Unfinished Business

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

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

NOMINATION - of Amy Dieterich, Esq. of Auburn for appointment as a District Court Judge

S.C. 168

Tabled - March 25, 2025 by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook

Pending - **CONSIDERATION**

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 (#74)

YEAS: Senators: None

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BRENNER, FARRIN

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

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

NOMINATION - of The Honorable Matthew G. Tice of Scarborough for reappointment as a District Court Judge
S.C. 169

Tabled - March 25, 2025 by Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland

Pending - **CONSIDERATION**

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 (#75)

YEAS: Senators: None

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BRENNER, FARRIN

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Unfinished Business

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

JOINT ORDER - Expression of Legislative Sentiment
Recognizing Judy Meyer, of Auburn

SLS 273

Tabled - March 18, 2025 by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin

Pending - **PASSAGE**

The Joint Order was **READ**.

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

Senator **ROTUNDO:** Madam President and my Fellow Colleagues of the Senate, I rise today to recognize Judy Meyer, who is stepping down as executive editor of the Lewiston Sun Journal after working there for 35 years.

Judy began her career at the Sun Journal when she was home with children and was looking for a way to get more involved in her community. After taking a job as a freelance writer, she took on stories about life and events happening in rural Oxford Hills towns and quickly gained a reputation in the community as a reliable reporter.

Three years into her tenure at the Lewiston Sun Journal, Judy learned of a 27-year-old papermill worker who died on the job. After reaching out to the state medical examiner for details, she wrote a brief story on the incident. Shortly after the story was published, the mother of the deceased worker called her to ask her how she had come to obtain the information, when even the mother had not been able to obtain it. This incident sparked something in Judy, and she became a passionate advocate for open records and open government that stuck with her for the rest of her career. Meyer became committed to this effort, and her work earned her positions with the Right-to-Know Advisory Committee to the Legislature, which she has served on since its inception, and continues to serve on, it's found her a role in the New England Newspaper and Press Association and the New England First Amendment Coalition.

I had the pleasure of serving as the Senate Chair of Maine's Legislature's Right-to-Know Advisory Committee for several of the years that Judy was on the committee, and I can say that no one promoted and took more seriously the principles underlying Maine's Freedom of Access laws than Judy Meyer. Judy's high journalistic standards and passionate advocacy for transparency in government has earned her admiration from her peers. She is the recipient of many awards, including the Judith Vance Weld Brown Spirit of Journalism Award in 2018. She was also inducted into the Maine Press Association's Hall of Fame in 2022, a rare award for an active journalist.

A co-worker of Judy's had this to say about her, quote, "Judy was outstanding to work with. More than anything, she was a role model for all of us. She rolled up her sleeves and did the interviews, made the phone calls, and wrote the stories so

important to readers, even as Executive Editor. She never wavered from the fundamental mission of illuminating the actions of our government and elected officials so that readers knew what they were doing because what they do so affects our lives greatly. She was also fiercely protective of the newspaper and its role, defending it from those who tried to politicize our mission of getting information to the readers. If that wasn't enough, she could get more done in an hour than most people get done in a day, and she did it all with a smile on her face", unquote.

Thank you, Judy, for your high journalistic standards and for your tireless work to create greater transparency in government. You have served and continue to serve the people of Maine well, and have set a high standard for all of us to follow. Thank you.

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

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Madam President, Fellow Members of the Senate. Judy Meyer started serving the people of the Oxford Hills about the same time I did, back around 1990; she in journalism and me in politics, having been elected to the -- my first term in the Maine House. Thirty-five years doesn't seem as long now as it did back then.

Judy has been a fixture in Maine journalism and her retirement is truly the passing of an era. Journalism has suffered a lot in recent years, and it will be further diminished by your retirement, Judy, and I just wanted to add my voice to those to recognize this important milestone in her life and in the life of our community in western Maine and throughout the state of Maine.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator **BICKFORD:** Thank you, Madam President. I've been very honored to have been interviewed several times over the past 20 years by Judy Meyer, and I just want to say she's always been fair and impartial when she did do an interview with me, and I'm going to miss Judy being on the Lewiston Sun Journal. Good luck in your retirement, Judy.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize the Senator from York, Senator Bailey.

Senator **BAILEY:** Thank you, Madam President. I just wanted to take a moment and rise and also add my voice to recognizing Judy Meyer.

You've heard about her journalist career and her work on the Right-to-Know Advisory Commission, but I've had the honor and privilege of working with her as a member of the Criminal Records Review Committee and her contributions to that committee over the years have been invaluable. Again, you know, reminding us about the public's right to know and balancing that against someone right to have their criminal record be confidential. And I hope that if the Criminal Records Review Committee continues, that Judy will consider continuing to serve there.

So, Thank you, Madam President.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the Chamber, Judy Meyer and her family, husband Phil Meyer, her daughter, Laura Pratt, her son-in-law, Scott Pratt, and her grandson, Cam Pratt. They are the guests today of the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Rotundo. Will they please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate?

ORDERS

Joint Resolutions

Joint Resolutions in Memoriam:

WHEREAS, the Legislature has learned with deep regret of the death of:

Judith I. Stebbins, of Winthrop. Mrs. Stebbins had an extensive background in community service, beginning with a suicide hotline she helped establish as a college student. She served on the Winthrop School Board, Winthrop Town Council, Special Olympics, Uplift, Americorps, Girl Scouts, the Governor's Service Award program committee, Western Kennebec Economic Development Alliance, Tabitha's Closet and the Rotary Club, among other organizations. She participated in the Winthrop Players and acted at the Winthrop Grange Hall. In 2011, she was recognized as the first winner of the annual Champion of Service award by the Maine Commission for Community Service. In 2014, she chaired the fundraising campaign for the Charles M. Bailey Public Library expansion. She was a longtime supporter of the American Field Service and enjoyed hosting and spending time with AFS students in Winthrop. Mrs. Stebbins will be long remembered and sadly missed by her family, friends and community;

SLS 298

Sponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Representative: HASENFUS of Readfield.

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

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

Senator **HICKMAN:** Thank you, Madam President, Women and Men of the Senate. I rise to honor a long life well lived.

Judith Iris Johnson Stebbins passed away at the Maine Veterans Home in Augusta on Friday, February 14, 2025. She was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, on April 17, 1942, the daughter of Barbara Iris and Stanley Johnson. Judi graduated from West Springfield High School in 1960 and attended the University of New Hampshire. While there, on a blind date, she met her future husband, Arnold Stebbins. She attended graduate school at UMass, where she got a degree in speech pathology, a job she adored. In April of 1966, she married the love of her life and in 1967, they welcomed their first of three children. In 1972, a job transfer led the family from Natick, Mass, to Winthrop, Maine, where they raised their children and lived for 51 years before moving to the Maine Veterans Home in Augusta in October of 2023.

As you've heard from our Secretary - but I will read it again

because it's worth it - Judi lived a life of volunteerism. In college, she and a friend created DIAL HELP, a 24-hour suicide hotline which operated in Massachusetts for years. Sometimes called the Mayor of Winthrop, she served on the Winthrop schoolboard, the Winthrop Town Council, Special Olympics, Uplift, AmeriCorps, Girl Scouts, the Governor's Service Award program committee, the Western Kennebec Economic Development Alliance, Tabitha's Closet, and the Rotary Club, where I got to know her really well when I was with her as past president.

She participated in the Winthrop Players and acted at the Winthrop Grange Hall. In 2011, she was recognized as the first-ever winner of the annual Champion of Service Award by the Maine Commission for Community Service. In 2014, she chaired the fundraising campaign for the Charles M. Bailey Public Library expansion.

Judi was a long-time supporter of the American Field Service and enjoyed hosting and spending time with AFS students in Winthrop, particularly Arben, Daniela, Jesus, and Tessa, of whom she considered her own children.

After retirement, Gramcracker, as she was known to her grandchildren, enjoyed spending time with all of them, and particularly watching their activities, including music concerts and various sporting events.

Judi loved playing the piano, which she would practice for hours at home or play for parties that she was hosting. She also loved sailing. Whether with her neighbors on the Cape or overnights with her friend in Maine. Her favorite part on earth was sitting on the porch at the family's cottage in Monument Beach, Cape Cod. Her fondest memories were spending summers on the Cape and all the family and friends who visited her over the years.

Judi was predeceased by her mother and father and her siblings, Richard Johnson, Robert Johnson, and Karen Newsom. She is survived by her husband of 58 years, Arnold, her children and spouses, Mark and Karen Stebbins of Farmingdale, Andrew and Michelle Stebbins of Woburn, Mass, and Katy Stebbins of Hallowell, as well as six grandchildren.

A celebration of her long life will be held at the American Legion Hall at 117 Bowdoin Street in Winthrop this Saturday from noon to three.

And Madam President, in honor of Women's History Month, this was definitely an historic woman. Her daughter, Katy, wanted to share this photo that I think has been going around where she was standing proudly with United States Senators Susan Collins and Olympia Snowe.

And so, with that, our community -- we've missed her a little bit already since she had to leave us to go to the Maine Veterans Home in Augusta, but today, we know that there is another angel in heaven.

Thank you, Madam President.

The Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the Chamber, Mark Stebbins of Farmingdale and Katy Stebbins of Hallowell. They are the son and daughter of Judi. They are the guests today of the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Hickman. Would they please rise and accept the condolences of the Maine Senate?

WHEREAS, the Legislature has learned with deep regret of the death of:

May Ross Coffin, of Augusta. While raising her children, Mrs. Coffin served as an assistant Brownie leader and a Cub Scout den mother and was active in the PTA. She was very involved in church activities and served as a Bible school teacher at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. Later in life she became a communicant of St. Mary's Church, part of St. Michael's Parish in Augusta. Returning to work when her children became school-aged, she worked in the Maine Senate as a Senate stenographer. After several years in various roles in the Senate office, she was elected as the Assistant Secretary of the Senate and subsequently as the Secretary of the Senate, serving several terms in that role. Mrs. Coffin was the first woman in Maine to hold these positions. She was highly respected on both sides of the aisle at the State House and throughout Maine as a knowledgeable parliamentarian and a woman of integrity. She retired after 32 years of service. She was active in the Business and Professional Women's Club and the Zonta Club of Augusta, as well as the Jaycee Wives. She served as President of the local YMCA Board of Directors and was active in the State YMCA Board of Directors, serving as Secretary and Vice President. She was an adviser for Tri-Hi-Y, and she received the Maine State YMCA award for work with the Maine Youth in Government program. She was very active in the Maine Association of Retirees and received the association's award for Volunteer of the Year. She was elected to serve on the Augusta Charter Commission and was appointed to the Community Development Advisory Committee. She was also a member of the Calumet Club and a Life Family Member of the Kennebec Historical Society. Mrs. Coffin will be long remembered and sadly missed by her family, friends and community;

SLS 299

Sponsored by Senator BRADSTREET of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Senators: BAILEY of York, BALDACCI of Penobscot, BEEBE-CENTER of Knox, BENNETT of Oxford, BERNARD of Aroostook, BICKFORD of Androscoggin, BLACK of Franklin, BRENNER of Cumberland, CARNEY of Cumberland, CURRY of Waldo, CYRWAY of Kennebec, President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, DUSON of Cumberland, FARRIN of Somerset, GROHOSKI of Hancock, GUERIN of Penobscot, HAGGAN of Penobscot, HARRINGTON of York, HICKMAN of Kennebec, INGWERSEN of York, LAWRENCE of York, LIBBY of Cumberland, MARTIN of Oxford, MOORE of Washington, NANGLE of Cumberland, PIERCE of Cumberland, RAFFERTY of York, RENY of Lincoln, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, STEWART of Aroostook, TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland, TEPLER of Sagadahoc, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, TIPPING of Penobscot, Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, ADAMS of Lebanon, ALBERT of Madawaska, ANKELES of Brunswick, ARATA of New Gloucester, ARCHER of Saco, ARDELL of Monticello, ARFORD of Brunswick, BABIN of Fort Fairfield, BAGSHAW of Windham, BECK of South Portland, BELL of Yarmouth, BISHOP of Bucksport, BLIER of Buxton, BOYER of Poland, BOYER of Cape Elizabeth, BRENNAN of Portland, BRIDGEO of Augusta, BUNKER of Farmington, CAMPBELL of Orrington, CARLOW of Buxton, CARUSO of Caratunk, CHAPMAN of Auburn, CIMINO of Bridgton, CLOUTIER of

Lewiston, CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, COLLINS of Sidney, COOPER of Windham, COPELAND of Saco, CRAFTS of Newcastle, CRAY of Palmyra, CROCKETT of Portland, DAIGLE of Fort Kent, DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, DEBRITO of Waterville, DHALAC of South Portland, DILL of Old Town, DODGE of Belfast, DOUDERA of Camden, DRINKWATER of Milford, DUCHARME of Madison, EATON of Deer Isle, EDER of Waterboro, FAIRCLOTH of Bangor, FARRIN of Jefferson, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, FLYNN of Albion, FOLEY of Wells, FOSTER of Dexter, FREDERICKS of Sanford, FREDETTE of Newport, FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor, FROST of Belgrade, GATTINE of Westbrook, GEIGER of Rockland, GERE of Kennebunkport, GIFFORD of Lincoln, GOLEK of Harpswell, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, GREENWOOD of Wales, GRIFFIN of Levant, GUERRETTE of Caribou, HAGGAN of Hampden, HALL of Wilton, HASENFUS of Readfield, HENDERSON of Rumford, HEPLER of Woolwich, HYMES of Waldo, JACKSON of Oxford, JAVNER of Chester, JULIA of Waterville, KESSLER of South Portland, KUHN of Falmouth, LAJOIE of Lewiston, LANCE of Paris, LANIGAN of Sanford, LAVIGNE of Berwick, LEE of Auburn, LEMELIN of Chelsea, LIBBY of Auburn, LOOKNER of Portland, LYMAN of Livermore Falls, MACIAS of Topsham, MALON of Biddeford, MASON of Lisbon, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, MATHIESON of Kittery, MATLACK of St. George, MCCABE of Lewiston, MCINTYRE of Lowell, MEYER of Eliot, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, MINGO of Calais, MITCHELL of Cumberland, MONTELL of Gardiner, MOONEN of Portland, MORRIS of Turner, MURPHY of Scarborough, NUTTING of Oakland, O'HALLORAN of Brewer, OLSEN of Raymond, OSHER of Orono, PARRY of Arundel, PAUL of Winterport, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, PLUECKER of Warren, POIRIER of Skowhegan, POMERLEAU of Standish, PUGH of Portland, QUINT of Hodgdon, RANA of Bangor, RAY of Lincolnville, RIELLY of Westbrook, ROBERTS of South Berwick, ROEDER of Bangor, ROLLINS of Augusta, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, RUNTE of York, SACHS of Freeport, SALISBURY of Westbrook, SARGENT of York, SATO of Gorham, SAYRE of Kennebunk, SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, SIMMONS of Waldoboro, SINCLAIR of Bath, SKOLD of Portland, SMITH of Palermo, SOBOLESKI of Phillips, STOVER of Boothbay, STROUT of Harrington, SUPICA of Bangor, SWALLOW of Houlton, TERRY of Gorham, THORNE of Carmel, TUELL of East Machias, UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle, WADSWORTH of Hiram, WALKER of Naples, WARREN of Scarborough, WEBB of Durham, WHITE of Guilford, WHITE of Ellsworth, WOOD of Norway, WOOD of Greene, WOODSOME of Waterboro, YUSUF of Portland, ZAGER of Portland.

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

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

Senator **TIMBERLAKE:** Thank you, Madam President. In the Legislature, the Members of this Body as well as the ones down the hall tend to focus on the political side of things. As politicians, we debate policy. We stake out our positions on things of importance to us and we may try to use our influence and persuasion to convince others to make certain decisions. Unfortunately, Madam President, we're not always successful in that regard, but that is what we do. Yet the unsung heroes

behind the important work that we do here in this State House are the employees of the Maine Legislature. It's 215 people behind the scenes who day in and day out set our session agenda, processes the 2,000+ bills we generate to keep us focused on the peoples' work. As we near the end of Women's History Month today, we are recognizing one of Maine's pioneers in particular who served Maine's people for 32 years, right here in this Senate. Today, we recognize May Margaret Ross Coffin.

She began her 32-year career as a Senate stenographer in the 100th Legislature in 1961, a time when the work in the Senate was recorded manually, yet in minute detail. While I am certainly ancient enough to remember it, I'm sure most of us in this Chamber can't imagine what it was like in that time before the technology we have today. She made history when she was the first woman elected as the Assistant Secretary of the Senate in the 106th Legislature, under the Republican Senate President of Kenneth MacLeod. That was over 50 years ago, in 1973.

She made history again when she was elected as the Secretary of the Senate four years later for the 108th Legislature in 1977, under the Republican Senate President of Joseph Sewall, a role she would hold for six years, before returning to it again in 1994 under the Republican Senate President Jeff Butland in the 117th Legislature. It was after that last term when she retired from the Maine Legislature in 1996. Pioneering Woman Ends Senate Career read the headline of the renowned Bangor Daily News. Yeah, she was a pioneer for the Senate in a way. Over the years she spent working for this Body, the job she left was much different than the one she began in 1961.

Madam President, May Margaret Ross Coffin represents what Women's History Month is all about. She was a pioneer, a consummate professional, a parliamentarian who was liked and respected on both sides of the aisle. As Senate President Butland said at a time of her retirement, her work ethic was beyond reproach.

May was an avid Red Sox and Patriots fan, as a 1953 graduate of Cony High School and Cony Rams never left her heart. More importantly, she lived a full life, as a daughter, a sister, and a mother of another pioneer, who is the only woman to have held both positions, the Secretary of the Senate and the House Clerk, Heather Priest, who was my Chief of Staff for four years. I never really got to know May as well as I would've liked to, but I did get to know the daughter and the family she raised. And you know she had to be a pioneer and a great woman by what she raised for a family around her. And I got to know them. Heather, you should be so proud of your mom. I know you may not be in here, but I know you're listening. She was a great woman and, in her footsteps, Heather continues to serve Maine's people today after three decades. So, she's so much like her mom.

Madam President, I am proud to recognize May Margaret Ross Coffin today in this Chamber. She embodies what Women's History Month is all about. Thank you, Madam President. Thank you, Members of the Senate.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize the Senator from York, Senator Lawrence.

Senator **LAWRENCE:** Thank you, Madam President, Men and Women of the Senate. I'm very pleased to join in the remarks of the Good Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Timberlake.

I knew May Ross, knew her for years, and she was an incredible and wonderful person. She was here in the Senate

when I first came to the House back in the '80s, and I looked at this resolution and I said, you know, they describe her as a knowledgeable parliamentarian and a woman of integrity, and those are understatement, those are tremendous understatement of who May really was. She was one of the most knowledgeable parliamentarians I knew here in Augusta. She helped me a lot to understand parliamentary procedure. And to say she was a woman of integrity, she was a woman of incredible integrity. When she served in the roles of Assistant Secretary and Secretary, she was absolutely nonpartisan, despite the fact that she would be elected by a partisan majority sometimes and sometimes, she was unanimously elected to those positions.

She was a person of tremendous integrity, but she was also a person of kindness, who you could always approach, ask a question of, no matter who you were or where you come from, and she would help you. She's someone I would describe both as who started out as a colleague and became a friend as I served. And you would see her at the State House, as I'm sure we see Secretary Grant here, at all hours of the night, working tirelessly late to be here to make our work happen so well.

So, I do think it's incredible that we are honoring her during Women's History Month, but I think as a person, regardless of gender, regardless of the firsts she accomplished in her life, she was one of the best Secretaries of the Senate we've had, and we've had many, many great ones here. And I can say that in all honesty and all sincerity because I knew her well and knew how she operated. And I'm very sad she has left us, but she has left a great legacy in this institution because she was an institutional person and she understood the Legislature is not about partisanship, it's about the institution. And through her life, she protected the institution greatly. So, I'm happy to join in honoring her.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Stewart.

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I certainly would echo the remarks made by the two previous speakers.

I unfortunately didn't have the opportunity to know Mrs. Coffin personally, but feel like both from the standpoint of this institution, learning about the people that come before you, what they do, what they're known for, the mark that they left here, as well as the opportunity to get to know some of her family, that I did get to know her in a way, and I think we all have. You know, you'll see - the legacy that she's leaving behind, I think, it's remarkable to me that, you know, we zero in on the things that we're familiar with, right? The roles that she served here as the Assistant Secretary and Secretary and was absolutely a trailblazer in that, but that's a sentence in this memorial, right? There's a lot there. There's a lot of impact that she had on her community, in her church, through and with her children and grandchildren, and all the many lives in this community here in Augusta that she impacted and improved.

And to me, what is the real measure of a life is, you know, not how long your obituary reads or what, you know, is included in that, but through who you're leaving behind. And that, I think, is the most remarkable thing for me about May is, you know, I mentioned I've had the opportunity to know Heather, her daughter, and the passion, compassion that Heather demonstrated towards her mom in her final years while juggling

all the incredible responsibilities of this place in the role she had, and not missing a beat. And that level of -- I know where that level of professionalism and dedication came from, you could see it, you still can every single day. One of the truly most professional women that I have ever met, had the ability to know, learn from, work with, receive advice from, and that, you know, that impression comes from her upbringing and the lessons that her mom taught her. The trail that her mom blazed, she certainly picked up the torch and carried on.

And it's not just Heather, there's others in her family who I've gotten to know, grandkids, some of whom I've played softball with on the Congressional team down in DC, and it radiates throughout the entire family, the commitment to upholding this institution but also public service. And I can't -- when I think about what that means, I can't think of a better example of a family that embodies that than this one. It is multiple generations of legacy, of dedication to serving the public, truly serving the public, and that legacy is going to live on for a very long time, and she should feel very proud about that. And certainly, we all owe a debt of gratitude for that public service that May provided our state and her family are now providing our state and our country in a variety of ways.

So, with that, our sincerest condolences to her family, but know that she is living on every single day through the good work and the good deeds and approach to life that May embodied and has passed on to other generations. So, thank you.

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

Senator **BRADSTREET:** Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I'm honored today to rise and join my colleagues in remembering the life of May Ross Coffin.

Ms. Coffin served in many positions in the Senate, starting as a stenographer, and then became the Assistant Secretary of the Senate, and then the Senate Secretary. As the first woman to serve in these positions, she was a true pioneer, leading the way for other women to serve in these positions as well.

During her service in the 108th, 109th, 110th, and 117th Legislature as Secretary of the Senate, she gained respect from Members of both sides of the aisle for her parliamentary prowess and integrity. After a long life of service to her family, the City of Augusta, and the State of Maine, Ms. Coffin passed on March 4, 2025. The impact she had on her community was evident by the large number of people who attended her funeral service. And Madam President, I was amazed at the number of people who were there from far and wide, it's just incredible testimony to the work of May. She certainly was the epitome of a dedicated public servant.

I'm also pleased to note today that some of her family members are in attendance here with us, also true public servants, including our own Heather Priest. We join her family in mourning, but we also celebrate with gratitude her accomplishments and service to the State of Maine.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize the Senator from Oxford, Senator Bennett.

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Madam President, Fellow Members of the Senate. It's hard to add anything to the wonderful words that we've heard spoken about a very worthy

public servant, May Ross Coffin. I just wanted to add one personal note, which is that one of the things that she's being recognized for in this sentiment is her involvement in the Maine Youth in Government program, which was one of the places where I first was inspired to devote part of my life to public service and particularly the legislative branch. So, don't blame her for that, though.

She -- the one point I wanted to make is about how welcoming May was to me as a young person in high school trying to learn about the Legislature, trying to involve myself in public service, and that welcoming openness and the graciousness that she always exhibited I think has strengthened the involvement in our public service throughout this building, throughout this community, and throughout the state. And I have so many fond memories of May along the years, forty -- well, I guess that would've been -- I don't even want to do the math, 40+ years. And it's so fitting that we take this moment and not only to pass the sentiment, the memoriam, but also to give voice to these values that we all share and that she shared and help inculcate in all of us through her steady stewardship of this institution, this State House, and this political system that we have here in Maine. And thank you, Madam President.

The Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would echo many of the sentiments said by my colleagues and would add, knowing how important and vital it is having the role of Secretary Grant next to me, I understand just a little bit of the legacy that May Ross Coffin left as well.

And now, I would like to recognize in the rear of the Chamber, the family of the Honorable May Ross Coffin, including our own, her daughter, Heather Priest. Would they please rise and accept the condolences of the entire Senate?

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Provide a Source of Revenue for School Construction and for the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund"
S.P. 542 L.D. 1312

Presented by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Increase the Membership of the Public Utilities Commission to 5 Members"

S.P. 539 L.D. 1309

Presented by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Senator: LAWRENCE of York, Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, GEIGER of Rockland, O'HALLORAN of Brewer, RUNTE of York.

Bill "An Act to Promote Responsible, Cost-effective Energy in Maine by Amending the Tariff Rates Applicable to the Commercial and Institutional Net Energy Billing Program"

S.P. 547 L.D. 1317

Presented by Senator BENNETT of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Senators: BICKFORD of Androscoggin, HARRINGTON of York, Representative: WADSWORTH of Hiram.

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 Continue the Exemption for Polystyrene Foam Disposable Food Service Containers Prepackaged at Wholesale" (EMERGENCY)

S.P. 536 L.D. 1306

Presented by Senator BRADSTREET of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Senators: BICKFORD of Androscoggin, CYRWAY of Kennebec, MARTIN of Oxford, STEWART of Aroostook, Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, FLYNN of Albion, FOSTER of Dexter, GUERRETTE of Caribou.

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 Expand Maine's Health Care Workforce by Improving Educational Opportunities"

S.P. 541 L.D. 1311

Presented by Senator INGWERSEN of York.
Cosponsored by Representative ZAGER of Portland and Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, MOORE of Washington, NANGLE of Cumberland, TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland, Representatives: DUCHARME of Madison, JAVNER of Chester.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Mandated Reporter Laws Regarding Medical Records, Additional Information and Immunity"

S.P. 546 L.D. 1316

Presented by Senator MOORE of Washington.
Cosponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor and Senator: BAILEY of York.

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 Amend the Laws Governing Insurance Coverage of Preventive and Primary Health Services"

S.P. 540 L.D. 1310

Presented by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Senator: HAGGAN of Penobscot, Representative: MORRIS of Turner.

Bill "An Act to Protect Cannabis Industry Workers' Access to Personal Credit"

S.P. 544 L.D. 1314

Presented by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock.
Cosponsored by Representative EATON of Deer Isle and Senators: BRENNER of Cumberland, HICKMAN of Kennebec, RENY of Lincoln, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, Representatives: BOYER of Poland, CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, MORRIS of Turner.

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.

Resolve, Directing the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to Establish a Working Group to Explore Opportunities to Maintain Public Access of Land

S.P. 538 L.D. 1308

Presented by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, DILL of Old Town.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Enhance Data Collection Requirements Related to Immigration Status and Asylum Seekers to Safeguard Services for Legal Residents"

S.P. 548 L.D. 1318

Presented by Senator BERNARD of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Representative DUCHARME of Madison and
Senators: HARRINGTON of York, STEWART of Aroostook,
Representative: ARATA of New Gloucester.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Suspend the Remittance Obligation for Paid Family
and Medical Leave Private Plan Users" (EMERGENCY)

S.P. 537 L.D. 1307

Presented by Senator BRADSTREET of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Senator BICKFORD of Androscoggin and
Senators: CYRWAY of Kennebec, MARTIN of Oxford, STEWART
of Aroostook, Representatives: FLYNN of Albion, FOSTER of
Dexter, GUERRETTE of Caribou.

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 Law Regarding the Suspension of
Licenses Issued by the Department of Marine Resources for
Failure to Comply with Reporting Requirements"

S.P. 549 L.D. 1319

Presented by Senator RENY of Lincoln.
Submitted by the Department of Marine Resources pursuant to
Joint Rule 204.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Promote Equity in the Forest Products Industry by
Allowing Commercial Wood Haulers to Be Eligible for Certain
Sales Tax Exemptions and Refunds"

S.P. 543 L.D. 1313

Presented by Senator FARRIN of Somerset.
Cosponsored by Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford and Senators:
BERNARD of Aroostook, BICKFORD of Androscoggin, President
DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, LIBBY of Cumberland, TIPPING of
Penobscot, Representatives: QUINT of Hodgdon, RUDNICKI of
Fairfield, SWALLOW of Houlton.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Authorize the Display of an Inherent Resolve
Campaign Medal Decal on a Special Veterans Commemorative
License Plate"

S.P. 545 L.D. 1315

Presented by Senator MOORE of Washington. (BY REQUEST)
Cosponsored by Senator: FARRIN of Somerset.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Prevent Illicit Cultivation and Trafficking Within
Maine's Regulated Cannabis Industry"

S.P. 550 L.D. 1320

Presented by Senator TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Representative MORRIS of Turner and Senator:
BLACK of Franklin, Representatives: BOYER of Poland,
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

ORDERS

Joint Orders

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

S.P. 551

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and
House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at 10:00
in the morning, or until the call of the President of the Senate and
the Speaker of the House, respectively.

READ and PASSED.

Sent down for concurrence.

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

Joint Resolutions

On motion by Senator **HICKMAN** of Kennebec (Cosponsored by Representative SAYRE of Kennebec and Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, DUSON of Cumberland, MOORE of Washington, TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland, Representatives: BOYER of Poland, DEBRITO of Waterville, FREDERICKS of Sanford, HASENFUS of Readfield), the following Joint Resolution:

S.P. 319

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARCH FROM SELMA TO MONTGOMERY

WHEREAS, March 25, 2025 marks the 60th anniversary of the end of the 3rd of 3 marches from Selma, Alabama to Montgomery, Alabama in support of the voting rights movement, which in turn contributed to the passage of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, a landmark achievement of the civil rights movement in the 1960s; and

WHEREAS, on March 7, 1965 approximately 600 civil rights marchers, led by John Lewis of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, who later became a member of the United States House of Representatives, and Reverend Hosea Williams of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, headed east out of Selma, Alabama to the State Capitol in Montgomery, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, the civil rights activists sought to nonviolently protest discriminatory voter registration practices and the shooting of Jimmie Lee Jackson, who was shot after protecting his mother and grandfather in a civil rights demonstration on February 18, 1965 in a restaurant in Marion, Alabama and who died 8 days later on February 26, 1965; and

WHEREAS, the nonviolent marchers were met and attacked with clubs, whips, police dogs and tear gas by state troopers, local law enforcement officers and townspeople at the Edmund Pettus Bridge as they were leaving Selma; and

WHEREAS, dozens of peaceful marchers were injured by state troopers, local law enforcement officers and townspeople in the forced retreat; and

WHEREAS, images of innocent protestors brutally beaten and severely injured on March 7, 1965, remembered as "Bloody Sunday," were depicted on television screens and in newspaper articles across the country; and

WHEREAS, Bloody Sunday galvanized a generation of nonviolent civil rights activists and heightened support and awareness for the civil rights movement; and

WHEREAS, on March 9, 1965, 2 days later, Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., led a nonviolent protest of reportedly as many as 2,500 people before turning around after crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge due to a barricade of state troopers; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 1965, despite pressure from political figures, United States District Court Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr., issued an injunction allowing the voting rights march from Selma to Montgomery to proceed, overturning Governor George Wallace's prohibition of the protest; and

WHEREAS, on March 21, 1965, with the protection of United States Army troops, the Alabama National Guard under federal command, the FBI and federal marshals, more than 3,000 people, led by Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., set out from Selma to Montgomery, a 54-mile journey, marching an average of 10 miles a day along Route 80 and sleeping in fields; and

WHEREAS, the nonviolent protestors safely reached the steps of the State Capitol building on March 25, 1965, by which point their numbers had grown to 25,000, including many religious and community leaders of all denominations, races and backgrounds; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 1965, with the Selma protestors at the forefront of the news, President Lyndon B. Johnson addressed a joint session of Congress, calling for federal voting rights legislation to dismantle the barriers that prevented African Americans from voting; and

WHEREAS, with the country captivated by the courage and conviction displayed by the civil rights marchers and activists, the United States Congress passed and President Lyndon B. Johnson enacted into law the landmark Voting Rights Act of 1965 on August 6, 1965; and

WHEREAS, many people from Maine, of all races and religions, were involved in not only the march from Selma to Montgomery, but the civil rights struggle as well; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the historic civil rights marches from Selma to Montgomery and to honor all those who struggled in search of equality and the freedom to participate in our democracy.

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

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

Senator **HICKMAN:** Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, Women and Men of the Senate, in a murderous time, the heart breaks and breaks and lives by breaking. Those are the words of two-time poet laureate and national book award recipient Stanley Kunitz. The heart breaks and breaks and lives by breaking.

Madam President, my heart has been breaking a lot lately. Recent events throughout our nation and even here at home are ripping my heart to shreds. But today, I want to go back and

remember words of wisdom, words of inspiration to a nation divided. I wasn't here 60 years ago and I won't be here 60 years from now, and so, if you would indulge me, Madam President, I would like to deliver a few excerpts from the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "How Long? Not Long" speech in Montgomery, Alabama, at the culmination of the Selma to Montgomery march on March 25, 1965. And so, I quote:

My dear and abiding friends, Ralph Abernathy, and to all of the distinguished Americans seated here on the rostrum, my friends and co-workers of the state of Alabama, and to all the freedom-loving people who have assembled here this afternoon from all over our nation and from all over the world: Last Sunday, more than eight thousand of us started on a mighty walk from Selma, Alabama. We have walked through desolate valleys and across trying hills. We have walked on meandering highways and rested our bodies on rocky byways. Some of our faces are burned from the outpourings of the sweltering sun. Some have literally slept in the mud. We have been drenched by the rains.

But today, as I stand before you and think back over that great march, I can say, as Sister Pollard said - a seventy-year-old Negro woman who lived in this community during the bus boycott - and one day, she was asked while walking if she didn't want a ride. And when she answered, no, the person said well, aren't you tired? And with her ungrammatical profundity, she said, my feet is tired, but my soul is rested. And in a real sense this afternoon, we can say that our feet are tired, but our souls are rested.

They told us we wouldn't get here. And there were those who said that we would get here only over their dead bodies, but all the world today knows that we are here and we are standing before the forces of power in the state of Alabama saying, we ain't goin' let nobody turn us around.

Now, strangely, the climactic conflicts always were fought and won on Alabama soil. After Montgomery's heroic confrontations loomed up in Mississippi, Arkansas, Georgia, and elsewhere, but not until the colossus of segregation was challenged in Birmingham did the conscience of America begin to bleed. America was profoundly aroused by Birmingham because it witnessed the whole community of Negroes facing terror and brutality with majestic scorn and heroic courage. And from the wells of this democratic spirit, the nation finally forced Congress to write legislation in the hope that it would eradicate the stain at Birmingham. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 gave Negroes some part of their rightful dignity, but without the right to vote it was dignity without strength.

And so, our whole campaign in Alabama has been centered around the right to vote. In focusing the attention of the nation and the world today on the flagrant denial of the right to vote, we are exposing the very origin, the root cause of racial segregation in the southland. Racial segregation as a way of life did not come about as a natural result of hatred between the races after the Civil War. There were no laws segregating the races then. As the noted historian, C. Vann Woodward, in his book, *The Strange Career of Jim Crow*, clearly points out, the segregation of the races was a political stratagem employed by the emerging bourbon interests in the south to keep the southern masses divided and southern labor the cheapest in the land. You see, it was a simple thing to keep the poor white masses working for near-starvation wages in the years that followed the Civil War. Why, if the poor white plantation or mill worker became dissatisfied with his low wages, the plantation or mill owner would merely threaten to fire him and hire former Negro slaves and pay

him even less. Thus, the southern wage level was kept unbearably low.

Now, if it may be said of the slavery era that the white man took the world and gave the Negro Jesus, then it may be said of the Reconstruction era that the southern aristocracy took the world and gave the poor white man Jim Crow. He gave him Jim Crow. And when his wrinkled stomach cried out for the food that his empty pockets could not provide, he ate Jim Crow, a psychological bird that told him that no matter how bad off he was, at least he was a white man, better than the black man. And so, he ate Jim Crow. And when his undernourished children cried out for the necessities that his low wages could not provide, he showed them the Jim Crow signs on the buses and in the stores, on the streets, and in the public buildings. And his children, too, learned to feed upon Jim Crow, their last outpost of psychological oblivion.

Thus, the threat of the free exercise of the ballot box by the Negro and the white masses alike resulted in the establishment of a segregated society. They segregated southern money from the poor whites; they segregated southern mores from the rich whites; they segregated southern churches from Christianity; they segregated southern minds from honest thinking; and they segregated the Negro from everything. That's what happened when the Negro and white masses of the south threatened to unite and build a great society; a society of justice where none would prey upon the weakness of others; a society of plenty where greed and poverty would be done away with; a society of brotherhood where every man would respect the dignity and worth of every human personality.

Today, I want to tell the city of Selma, today I want to say to the state of Alabama, today I want to say to the people of America and the nations of the world, that we are not about to turn around. We're on the move now.

Yes, we are on the move and no wave of racism can stop us. We are on the move now. The burning of our churches will not deter us. The bombing of our homes will not dissuade us. We are on the move now. The beating and killing of our clergymen and young people will not divert us. We are on the move now. Like an idea whose time has come, not even the marching of mighty armies can halt us, because we are moving to the land of freedom.

Let us therefore continue our triumphant march to the realization of the American dream. Let us march on segregated schools until every vestige of segregated and inferior education becomes a thing of the past. Let us march on poverty until no American parent has to skip a meal so that their children can eat. Let us march on poverty until no starved man walks the streets of our cities and towns in search of jobs that do not exist. Let us march on poverty until wrinkled stomachs in Mississippi are filled and the idle industries of Appalachia are realized and revitalized, and broken lives in sweltering ghettos are mended and remolded. Let us march on ballot boxes until race-baiters disappear from the political arena.

Let us march on ballot boxes until the salient misdeeds of bloodthirsty mobs will be transformed into the calculated good deeds of orderly citizens.

Let us march on ballot boxes until the George Wallaces of our nation tremble away in silence.

Let us march on ballot boxes until we send to our city councils, state legislatures, and the United States Congress, men who will not fear to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with thy God.

Let us march on ballot boxes until brotherhood becomes more than a meaningless word on an opening prayer but the order of the day on every legislative agenda.

The only normalcy that we will settle for is the normalcy that recognizes the dignity and worth of all God's children. The only normalcy that we will settle for is the normalcy that allows justice to run down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream. The only normalcy that we will settle for is the normalcy of true peace, the normalcy of justice.

And so as we go away this afternoon, let us go away more than ever committed to this struggle and committed to nonviolence. Our aim must never be to defeat or humiliate the white man but to win his friendship and his understanding. We must come to see that the end we seek is a society at peace with itself, a society that can live with its conscience.

And I know you are asking today, how long will it take? Somebody's asking, how long will prejudice blind the visions of men, darken their understandings, and drive bright-eyed wisdom from their sacred throne? Somebody's asking, when will wounded justice, lying prostrate on the streets of Selma and Birmingham and communities all over the south be lifted from the dust of shame to reign supreme among the children of men? Somebody's asking, when will the radiant star of hope be plunged against the nocturnal bosom of this lonely night, plucked from weary souls with chains of fear and the manacles of death? How long will justice be crucified and truth bear it?

I come to say to you this afternoon, however difficult the moment, however frustrating the hour, it will not be long, because truth crushed to earth will rise again.

How long? Not long, because no lie can live forever.

How long? Not long, because you shall reap what you sow.

How long? Not long, because the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice.

How long? Not long. For mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord; He is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored; He has loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword; His truth is marching on.

Glory, hallelujah! Glory, hallelujah!

Glory, hallelujah!

His truth is marching on.

Thank you, Madam President.

The Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Ought to Pass

The Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Charter of the Lewiston-Auburn Water Pollution Control Authority"

H.P. 79 L.D. 114

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 **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Bill "An Act to Allow a Water District Created by Special Act of the Legislature to Borrow Money and Issue a Warrant Prior to a Default"

H.P. 310 L.D. 481

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 **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Procedure for Filing a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights and Responsibilities"

H.P. 587 L.D. 922

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.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Update the System of Learning Results Review Timeline"

H.P. 38 L.D. 74

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

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
LIBBY of Cumberland
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

MURPHY of Scarborough
BRENNAN of Portland
CROCKETT of Portland
DODGE of Belfast
LYMAN of Livermore Falls
MITCHELL of Cumberland
SARGENT of York

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

Signed:

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham
HAGGAN of Hampden

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

Reports **READ**.

Senator **RAFFERTY** of York moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS** Report, 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 (#76)

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

NAYS: Senators: BICKFORD, BLACK, CYRWAY, GUERIN, HAGGAN, MARTIN, MOORE, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: BRENNER, FARRIN

24 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 9 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **RAFFERTY** of York to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS** Report **PREVAILED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

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

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Bill "An Act to Lower Energy Costs by Repealing the Law Setting Out the State's Goals for Consumption of Electricity from Renewable Resources"

H.P. 298 L.D. 444

Reported that the same **Ought Not to Pass**.

Signed:

Senators:

LAWRENCE of York
GROHOSKI of Hancock

Representatives:

SACHS of Freeport
GEIGER of Rockland
KESSLER of South Portland
RUNTE of York
WARREN of Scarborough
WEBB of Durham

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass**.

Signed:

Representatives:

FOSTER of Dexter
MCINTYRE of Lowell
PAUL of Winterport
WADSWORTH of Hiram

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Reports **READ**.

Senator **LAWRENCE** of York moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report, 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 PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from York, Senator Harrington.

Senator **HARRINGTON:** Thank you, Madam President. I stand in opposition to this motion, not because I don't support renewable energy, but I support -- I don't support the past six years of one party's consistent movement in only moving towards renewable energy. And we've seen affordable energy sources constantly being fought on the energy committee and I think if we're going to have goals as a state, we should have affordable energy goals, not just renewable energy goals. And the last six years have shown me that we only have renewable energy goals which are directly rising the cost of energy here in Maine. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Acceptance of the Majority Ought Not to Pass 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 (#77)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BRENNER, FARRIN

20 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **LAWRENCE** of York to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **PREVAILED**, in concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act to Designate the Spring Peeper as the Official State Amphibian"

H.P. 36 L.D. 72

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

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot
BEEBE-CENTER of Knox
MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook
COPELAND of Saco
FARRIN of Jefferson
MATLACK of St. George
ROLLINS of Augusta

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

Signed:

Representatives:

ADAMS of Lebanon
GREENWOOD of Wales
POMERLEAU of Standish
TUELL of East Machias
UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

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

Reports **READ**.

Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS** 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 Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#78)

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

NAYS: Senators: BRADSTREET, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: BRENNER, FARRIN

30 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 3 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS** Report **PREVAILED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

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

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act to Designate the Wood Turtle as the Official State Reptile"

H.P. 37 L.D. 73

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

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot
BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook
COPELAND of Saco
FARRIN of Jefferson
MATLACK of St. George
ROLLINS of Augusta

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

Signed:

Senator:

MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

ADAMS of Lebanon
GREENWOOD of Wales
POMERLEAU of Standish
TUELL of East Machias
UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

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

Reports **READ**.

Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS** Report.

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 Penobscot, Senator Baldacci.

Senator **BALDACCI:** I just wanted to provide a little light on this

subject, and that is that our own Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has listed the wood turtle, which is one of the state's rarest turtles, as a species of special concern, which is one step before they get to endangered species. So, that was part of the reason why this is being brought forward is to bring extra attention to the wood turtle and to try to avoid it when you're on the interstate and try to preserve it -- to try to preserve it so that it doesn't become endangered, because it's part of our natural habitat. Thank you.

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

Senator **BAILEY:** Thank you, Madam President. I would like to pose a question to the Chair.

THE PRESIDENT: The Senator may proceed.

Senator **BAILEY:** Thank you, Madam President. Having failed miserably in biology, can someone finally explain to me the difference between an amphibian and a reptile? Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Senator from York, Senator Bailey, has posed a question to the Body to any Member who may wish to respond or prevailed in Biology.

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

Senator **BALDACCI:** I would just say that's well above my pay grade, but thank you.

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

Senator **CYRWAY:** Thank you, Madam President. All I can say is the amphibian -- the spring peeper can speak and say knee-deep, it'll tell you how deep it is in the water. But I was just asking about a question to the -- to the Chair -- to the President -- do you know the difference between, if there is a difference, of the spotted wood turtle or the regular general wood turtle? I don't know if there's a difference or if that's all the same.

THE PRESIDENT: The Senator from Kennebec, Senator Cyrway, has posed a question to the Body to any Member, once again, with a good backing of biology, who may wish to respond.

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

Senator **NANGLE:** I would like to answer both of those questions, and I suggest that the question could very quickly and easily be answered by Google.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Waldo, Senator Curry.

Senator **CURRY:** Thank you, I wish to answer the question or refer the questioner to a hand I saw shot up in the Chamber. I believe once we are at ease, we have an expert in our room, one of our pages is quite aware of the difference between a reptile and an amphibian, and I would encourage the page and the

Senator to connect.

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

Senator **LIBBY:** I can read an AI outcome. Thank you, Madam President. The key difference between amphibians and reptiles lies in their skin, habitats, and reproduction. Amphibians have moist, smooth skin and live in or near water, while reptiles have dry, scaly skin, and can live in a wide range of environments. I could qualify as a reptile, I'm not sure, but thank you very much, Madam Chair.

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

Senator **TIPPING:** Thank you, Madam President. Not to belabor the point here, as a former employee of Petco, all I knew is that you had to keep them in separate cages. But I would say there was some interesting testimony on the bill that I do believe the discussion here has illustrated. There was a quote that we only protect what we love, we only love what we understand, and we only understand what we are taught. So, I believe we contributed to some teaching, some understanding today. I hope we pass this bill and we continue to love our turtle friends.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass 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 (#79)

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

NAYS: Senators: BRADSTREET, GUERIN, MARTIN, MOORE, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: BRENNER, FARRIN

27 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 6 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS** Report **PREVAILED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

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

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act to Increase the Expenditure Limit for the Informal Bidding Process for the Selection of Professional, Architect and Engineer Services"

H.P. 65 L.D. 100

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

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot
BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook
COPELAND of Saco
FARRIN of Jefferson
MATLACK of St. George
ROLLINS of Augusta

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

Signed:

Senator:

MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

ADAMS of Lebanon
GREENWOOD of Wales
POMERLEAU of Standish
TUELL of East Machias
UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

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

Reports **READ**.

Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS** 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 Penobscot, Senator Baldacci.

Senator **BALDACCI:** Thank you, Madam President. I would just indicate that the bill -- currently, there's a limit up to 25,000 for informal bidding. This bill, which I'm not sure when it was enacted, but this bill would just raise it to 50,000. So, we felt that was based on current prices and current market conditions, which we felt was reasonable in terms of trying to save time for getting these professionals on the job. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass 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 (#80)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BRENNER, FARRIN

19 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 14 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS** Report **PREVAILED**, 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 Provide a Court Authority to Issue Proximity Restrictions in Protection from Abuse Orders"

S.P. 269 L.D. 586

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.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

ORDERS

Joint Order

An Expression of Legislative Sentiment recognizing:

Carolyn Naiman, of Augusta, on her retirement from the Secretary of the Senate's office at the Maine State Legislature after 31 years of public service. Ms. Naiman was hired in 1994 as a Committee Clerk before she transferred to the Secretary of the Senate's office to work as a Senate Stenographer. She was promoted to Executive Secretary in 1996 and became a Legislative Information Assistant in the Legislative Information Office in 2000. In 2016, she moved back to the Secretary of the Senate's office, where she most recently served as the Senior Stamping Clerk. We extend to Ms. Naiman our appreciation for her long service and offer her our best wishes;

SLS 309

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

The Joint Order was **READ**.

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

Senator **ROTUNDO:** Thank you, Madam President, Fellow Colleagues of the Senate. I rise today to congratulate Carolyn on her well-deserved retirement.

This is a momentous achievement and one you should be very proud of. I and so many others in this building would like to thank you for your 30+ years of service to the Legislature and to the people of the state. Legislators come and go here in the State House, but it is the state -- but it is the state that provides consistency and keeps this -- it should be staff, I'm sorry. But it is the staff that provides consistency and keeps this building functional even under great pressure in times of chaos. You have done so with a smile on your face and in a calm and respectful manner.

My colleagues and I have been extremely fortunate to have Carolyn in the Senate Secretary's office. We see her every session day out front, ensuring that all of the bills and actions of the Senate are properly stamped and recorded. She also works behind the scenes, tirelessly working at much more than we do not see. In addition to tracking the actions of the Senate, she also coordinates the presentation of bills to the Governor once we have them enacted. She creates all Senate bills once they have been submitted and given an LD number. And she assists others in the day-to-day operations of processing committee reports and creating a calendar.

Carolyn has made a reputation for herself as being reliable and a dedicated employee and certainly deserves this moment. We are going to miss you greatly.

Carolyn will always have a very special place in my heart and in the heart of the hundreds of others who have had the pleasure and privilege of working with her in the State House over the years. Congratulations, Carolyn. We are deeply grateful for your service and wish you all the best. We will miss you here very, very much.

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

Senator **BRADSTREET:** Thank you, Madam President. As a fairly new Member of this Body, I really don't have a chance to work with Carolyn that much, and I hope my new presence here hasn't caused her to take an early retirement.

I do -- we heard earlier about the dedicated service that so many employees bring to under the dome here, and she's one of them. I just want to say how much I appreciate all the people who work for us and help us to do our jobs. Certainly, she's right there among them and one of the -- one of the ones who deserve special recognition. I hope that her retirement is a happy one and a successful one and I wish her nothing but the best.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize the Senator from York, Senator Lawrence.

Senator **LAWRENCE:** Thank you, Madam President. I, too, want to congratulate Carolyn, and it's with deep regret that I see that she's retiring. And before my seatmate gets up and claims credit as Senate President for advancing her career, I just want to note that she became Executive Secretary when I became Senate President.

It's a rare group of people we work with around here on Senate Staff, and it's really a tremendous relationship we have. And if you're in leadership, that relationship even becomes closer and you get to know them and they are very diplomatic in what they say around the State House because they know of our -- our fragile egos and kind of what goes on here in the State House. But Carolyn is joining a group of people who I know very, very well. They include Rose who worked in the Senate President's office, my dear friend Marcia Homstead, Teen Griffin, Jennifer, Chris, Jane, Paula - all of them who have left that I've had the pleasure of working with. But I have since learned that they conduct a -- well, I guess it's a Senate Staff session outside of the State House at a secret, undisclosed location at a watering hole. And at that time, their tongues are loosened up a little so they can talk about their experience watching us all here at the Senate. And I know it's an exclusive club and we're not allowed there and it's a secret location, but I'd love to be a fly on the wall sometime to hear them talk about all the people they've seen in this Legislature.

I wish you the best, Carolyn. You've done a tremendous job here, we've loved having you here, and you're joining a select group of friends in retirement, people we all love very dearly, and I just wish you the best in everything. Thank you.

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

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Madam President, Fellow Members of the Senate. Unlike my seatmate here, I claim no credit for people advancing their own careers. Carolyn certainly fits that. She's been here for so many years, and I was just reflecting on the pastor today, talking about the gratitude that she was expressing for the people of Maine, toward all of us as public servants, and I have to pass that along to Carolyn, that gratitude as a public servant.

I was also reminded of my colleague, the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Timberlake, talking about the unsung heroes of this Legislature and what really makes this place work and Carolyn comes to mind. Her efficiency of effort, her kindness of character, it just shines through, and it makes this place better, it's made this place better for 31 years, and I just want to join in saying the State House community has been bettered by Carolyn's participation and it will be diminished by her departure. And I want to wish her all the best as she goes on to the next chapter in her life and I hope that she won't be a stranger and will come back often. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would also like to recognize the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Nangle.

Senator **NANGLE:** I'd just like to say, Carolyn, 31 years of dealing with these people, you deserve this. I know that I'm a delight, but the rest of these people - absolutely. Enjoy.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would also note the deep gratitude and appreciation for the ability of all those who are able to keep this place running, and a special note of appreciation to Carolyn. It is an honor to be able to work alongside you and be part of a team.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: It is the pleasure of the Chair to recognize Carolyn Naiman of Augusta at the front of the Chamber. Would she please rise and accept the greetings and deep, deep appreciation of the Maine State Senate.

Off Record Remarks

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 Prohibit the Use of Neonicotinoid Pesticides and the Use and Sale of Neonicotinoid-treated Seeds"
H.P. 858 L.D. 1323

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** and ordered printed.

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

Bill "An Act to Improve and Expand Student Teaching Opportunities in Maine by Compensating Student Teaching"
H.P. 862 L.D. 1327

Bill "An Act to Establish the Community Schools Success Fund to Ensure the Implementation and Success of Community Schools Programs"
H.P. 867 L.D. 1332

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 Reform Net Energy Billing by Establishing Limitations on the Programs' Duration and Compensation"
H.P. 856 L.D. 1321

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 Protect the Drinking Water for Consumers of Certain Water Systems by Establishing Maximum Contaminant Levels for Certain Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances"
H.P. 861 L.D. 1326

Comes 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 Protect Maine Consumers Shopping for Electric Vehicles from Deceptive Advertising and Marketing Practices"
H.P. 859 L.D. 1324

Bill "An Act to Create Housing and Recovery Services for LGBTQIA+ Individuals"
H.P. 863 L.D. 1328

Bill "An Act to Establish the Maine-Aomori Sister-state Advisory Council"
H.P. 871 L.D. 1336

Resolve, Directing State Agencies and Semiautonomous State Agencies to Provide a List of Surplus Properties and Properties Eligible for Redevelopment to the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority
H.P. 873 L.D. 1338

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.

Resolve, to Establish a Pilot Program to Enhance Youth Hunting Participation
H.P. 857 L.D. 1322

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 Amend the Maine Human Rights Act Regarding Female Athletes and Safety in Women's Single-sex Shelters"
H.P. 872 L.D. 1337

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

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

Bill "An Act to Make Changes to the Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program"

H.P. 868 L.D. 1333

Comes 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.

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Regarding When the Governor May Call the Legislature into Session

H.P. 866 L.D. 1331

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

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

Bill "An Act to Create Clarity in the Laws Regarding Property Tax Abatement Appeals"

H.P. 860 L.D. 1325

Bill "An Act to Clarify That a Business's License or Subscription to Use Software Is Not Considered a Lease for the Purposes of Sales and Use Tax"
H.P. 865 L.D. 1330

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

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

Bill "An Act to Identify United States Citizenship Status on Driver's Licenses and Nondriver Identification Cards"

H.P. 864 L.D. 1329

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

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

Bill "An Act to Require Retailers to Place Any Liquor That Is Accessible to Customers at Least 48 Inches from the Payment Terminal"

H.P. 869 L.D. 1334

Comes 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 Paper

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Life Sentences"

H.P. 870 L.D. 1335

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.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Unfinished Business

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

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (3/20/25) matter:

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

S.P. 506 L.D. 1217

Tabled - March 20, 2025 by Senator **GROHOSKI** of Hancock

Pending - **REFERENCE**

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

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

Sent down for concurrence.

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

Resolve, to Establish the Committee to Study the Use of Sunflower Crops to Produce Biofuels
S.P. 527 L.D. 1297

Tabled - March 25, 2025 by Senator **LAWRENCE** of York

Pending - **REFERENCE**

(Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** suggested and ordered printed.)

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Abolish the 72-hour Waiting Period for a Gun Purchase"

H.P. 805 L.D. 1230

Tabled - March 25, 2025 by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland

Pending - **REFERENCE**

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

(In House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed.)

Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland moved to **REFER** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#81)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BENNETT, BRENNER, FARRIN, HAGGAN

18 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, with 4 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland to **REFER** Bill to the Committee on **JUDICIARY PREVAILED**, in concurrence.

Off Record Remarks

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

Senator **TALBOT ROSS:** Thank you, Madam President. I want to begin by saying just how much I have enjoyed learning and honoring such a diverse and accomplished set of women this month. It has been extraordinary to learn about lives that have been lived, both well known and some of those who never make it to the front pages of our newspaper. I hope that I can only add to that body by not only recognizing Women's History Month, but in acknowledging Marie Maynard Daly, we can also acknowledge that March is National Nutrition Month.

National Nutrition Month is a nutrition education and information campaign created by the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. The campaign focuses attention on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits. The theme for National Nutrition Month 2025 is food connects us. This theme emphasizes the role of food in bringing people together, fostering cultural traditions, and promoting overall health and wellbeing.

So, I was fortunate to be introduced to the life and legacy of Marie Maynard Daly, born in Queens, New York on April 8th, 1921. Marie was raised in a home in which her academic interests were encouraged by her parents, noting that her interest in science was brought forth by a book her mother provided her, the fascinations of Paul de Kruif's popular 1926 book called Microbe Hunters. Microbe Hunters. It's a collection of high adventure stories about male scientists who discovered a new

world under the microscope and rid the world of disease.

Marie was also inspired by her father, Ivan C. Daly, who loved science. Though he received a scholarship to study chemistry at Cornell University, he could not afford to finish the program. So, Marie picked up where he left off. In addition to her research, she was committed to developing programs to increase the participation of women and young people of color in medical schools and graduate science programs, even establishing a scholarship fund to encourage their participation.

Marie Daly's biography helps us to understand how individual curiosity, social support, historical circumstances, and professional dedication can foster social and scientific breakthroughs.

She attended Hunter College High School, an all-women's institution that selectively admitted students based on merit alone. She then went on to get a degree from Queens College with numerous honors and awards and got a bachelor's degree in chemistry. It didn't take long for Queens College to offer her a job as a part-time laboratory assistant. And while she was there, she used that income, along with a series of fellowships, to pursue a graduate degree. She completed her master's degree at New York University in just one year, followed by a PhD at Columbia University in 1947, just three years after enrolling. Quite, quite, quite impressive. In doing so, she became the very first black woman to receive a PhD in chemistry in the United States. Overcoming the dual hurdles of racial and gender bias, she credited her academic success by having a strong network of women researchers who provided mutual intellectual support.

Daly was among the first to investigate the impact of diet, specifically cholesterol, sugar, and the other nutrients on the health of the cardiac and circulatory systems. She discovered the link between high cholesterol, high blood pressure, and clogged arteries. She discovered the link between high cholesterol, high blood pressure, and clogged arteries, which is the cornerstone of our understanding of heart disease. She also made contributions to the study of protein synthesis, identifying that purines and pyrimidines are the building blocks of genetic material, consisting of four base structures. In other words, to make it simple, she worked out which acid bases are the main ingredients of DNA, and that these are found in the same proportions across all life forms.

Fascinated by the human body's complicated inner workings, her legacy not only includes that understanding, but in how the body's chemicals help to digest food, and for providing the world with practical applications for health and nutrition, which leads me back to the beginning. Dr. Marie Maynard Daly, your life and legacy has made lasting contributions to medicine and for that, I rise to honor you during this Women's History Month and also honor you during this National Nutrition Month.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Knox, Senator Beebe-Center.

Senator **BEEBE-CENTER:** Thank you, Madam President. I'm honored today to recognize a Maine woman, still very much alive, whose leadership has shaped our state over more than four remarkable decades.

Gilda Nardone founded what we now know as New Ventures Maine, an organization that started with a simple but powerful mission to help women rebuild their lives. In 1977, the Maine Legislature took a bold step, setting aside \$15,000 for a program

supporting homemakers. Legislators Merle Nelson and Barbara Trafton saw a critical need helping women who suddenly become primary earners after losing a partner through death, disability, or divorce. Gilda was chosen to turn this vision into reality and in 1978, the Maine Displaced Homemakers program was launched. Based at the University of Maine in Augusta, the program began offering career exploration for women in communities across Maine, from Waterville to Bangor to Portland. As word spread, more and more women found support and new opportunities. In 1991, Gilda was inducted into the Maine Women's Hall of Fame for her groundbreaking work. By 1994, the program had grown into Maine Centers for Women, Work, and Community, expanding its mission.

The organization did more than offer training. It created real pathways out of poverty. Through financial education and matched savings programs, women could build assets. By introducing women to high-paying trade and technical careers and providing entrepreneurship training, the program opened doors that were previously closed. In 2015, the organization evolved again, becoming New Ventures Maine, broadening its reach to serve all Mainers. When Gilda spoke of her career, she used the beautiful phrase roots and wings. Her work is rooted in personal experience and feminist values of fairness and connection, but she also has the vision to help others soar, to see possibility where others might see obstacles.

Gilda leads by empowering others. She builds teams, trusts people, and sees potential in everyone. Her optimism and belief in human possibility have transformed countless lives. Today, nearly 50 years after its founding, the organization continues Gilda's mission. Even after her retirement in 2021, New Ventures Maine continues to help Mainers pursue their dreams and fully participate in our state's economy.

I want to thank Eloise Vitelli and Thea Hamilton, both managers in Women Work and Community who helped me put this together, and Gilda was invited and she is in New Zealand, so she couldn't come. So, thank you very much.

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

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

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

Senator **DAUGHTRY:** Thank you, Madam President Pro Tem. I very quickly - I abbreviated my comments - rise today and come off the rostrum on the last legislative day of Women's History Month to honor a true trailblazer in Maine politics and to pay homage to someone who stood at the very rostrum I do now and was the first woman to do so; Bev Daggett, the first woman to serve as President of the Maine Senate.

Her historic election as Senate President in 2002 shattered a glass ceiling that had stood for more than 180 years, paving the way for women in Maine politics and proving that leadership knows no gender. She led with wisdom, fairness, and a deep

commitment to the people of Maine, and her work extended far beyond the State House. She continued to serve her community on the Kennebec County Commission as well as in numerous sports and many civic activities. She always put public service above politics. She was a life-long advocate for the people of Maine, serving in both the Maine House and Senate, always standing up for working families, environmental protections, and the values that make our state strong. She was not just a leader, she was a mentor, mother, a role model, and a tireless advocate for progress, and her legacy reminds us that when doors are open, others - like myself - can walk through them.

She passed away on September 6, 2015, and while there is way more to her life and legacy than I can share in a quick floor remark, I did want to share this one part from her obituary:

Beverly was a classy lady, perhaps another characteristic of her southern upbringing. You could count on one hand the number of curse words she is known to have uttered publicly. She was a diplomat, she suffered fools reluctantly but gently, and birthdays and holidays were always met with cards, calls, and thoughtfully selected gifts, and the trappings of each holiday season were maintained assiduously, now matter how busy she was or how bad she was feeling.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, let us recognize Bev Daggett's contributions and reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that all Maine women and across the country that women continue to have the opportunity to lead, inspire, and break barriers. Please join me in the celebration of Bev Daggett's legacy. Thank you.

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

Senator **ROTUNDO:** Thank you, Madam President Pro Tem, Fellow Colleagues of the Senate. I rise today to recognize Florence Brooks Whitehouse, Maine's most influential voice in the women's suffrage movement. Her story is one of courage, determination, and an unwavering belief in women's rights.

Born in Augusta in 1869, Florence Whitehouse was also a playwright, a published novelist, a suffragist, an artist, and a peace activist, as well as a mother and wife. She remains an inspiration to many of us today.

Florence Whitehouse first joined the Maine Women's Suffrage Association near the end of 1913, at the age of 44. She became the founder of the Maine branch of the more radical suffrage organization known as the National Women's Party, and served as its chair from 1915 until women gained the right to vote in 1920. During this time, she became known for her talents as an organizer and regularly took part in debates and lectures. She had a column in the Lewiston Sun Journal and traveled throughout the state to found local branches of the National Women's Party. She also traveled to Washington DC to picket the White House and Congress, and traveled to Wyoming in 1916, where she was a source of vocal opposition to President Wilson, who was not in support of women's suffrage, saying over and over while she was out there the slogan, he kept us out of suffrage.

She plied the halls of this State House as well, as she worked tirelessly to push male legislators to vote to allow women to vote. After suffrage was won, Florence Whitehouse continued to work with the National Women's Party to pass the Equal Rights Amendment and dedicated herself to working toward world peace. She was very vocal in support of the League of Nations

that had been proposed by President Wilson, and she chaired the local branch of the Women's Committee on World Discernment. In total, she was involved in nearly half a dozen peace groups and did weekly radio broadcasts on WGAN on topics of peace and international disarmament.

Florence Whitehouse continued to be a champion for women throughout her life, advocating for the inclusion of women in the political and social fabric of this country. She worked closely with the League of Women Voters, an organization when founded that promoted informed and active participation in government, ensuring that women remained engaged and empowered in the democratic process.

For those of you who would like more information about this amazing Maine woman, I would encourage you to read the biography of her written by her great-granddaughter, Anne Gass. The book is entitled Voting Down the Rose: Florence Brooks Whitehouse and Maine's Fight for Woman Suffrage.

It's an honor to share the story of Florence Brooks Whitehouse with you today and the important role she played in securing Maine women the right to vote and a place at the table. I hope her life and the values and causes she fought so hard for and so courageously for will inspire us all to continue to work create a more just, peaceful, and inclusive world. Thank you.

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

On motion by Senator **DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland, Senator **HICKMAN** of Kennebec and Senator **BRADSTREET** of Kennebec, **ADJOURNED**, pursuant to the Joint Order, until Tuesday, April 1, 2025 at 10:00 in the morning, in memory and lasting tribute of Judith I. Stebbings, of Winthrop and the Honorable May Ross Coffin, of Augusta.