

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

In Senate Chamber
Thursday
April 17, 2025

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

Prayer by Pastor Tobin Curtis of Christ Community Fellowship in Madison.

PASTOR TOBIN CURTIS: Thank you, let's pray. Heavenly Father, we want to take this moment to acknowledge you as our creator, our sustainer, our provider, and the one who gives purpose to our lives. Almighty God, we humble ourselves before you today to ask you for the grace, strength, and love that is lacking in all of us. God, I thank you for each of these Senators who have taken on the responsibility to represent, serve, and establish public policy for the hardworking people in Maine.

Lord, we recognize our need for your wisdom. We ask you for that wisdom and know that we will receive it because of your promise to give abundantly to those who ask. And as my Christian brothers and sisters head into the most holy of weekends to celebrate the death, burial, and resurrection of your only begotten son, would you strengthen your faith and power our witness and encourage our love toward all. And may the name of Jesus, our risen Lord and Savior be praised. Amen.

National Anthem Performed by the Winslow High School Choir.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator Craig Hickman of Kennebec County.

Reading of the Journal of Tuesday, April 15, 2025.

Medical Provider of the Day, Bryan Olson, DO of Scarborough.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication:

H.P. 1090

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

April 11, 2025

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

Honorable Matthea Daughtry
President of the Senate
132nd Legislature

Dear Mr. Speaker and Madam President:

On April 11, 2025, 30 bills were received by the Clerk of the House.

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, these bills were referred to the Joint Standing Committees on April 11, 2025, as follows:

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Bill "An Act to Require Law Enforcement Agencies to Adopt Written Policies Regarding Compliance with Certain Constitutional Obligations Related to Disclosure of Evidence" (H.P. 1061) (L.D. 1607) (Sponsored by Representative BUNKER of Farmington) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.)

Education and Cultural Affairs

Resolve, to Facilitate the Ability of the Maine State Museum to Acquire and Preserve Special Collections (H.P. 1068) (L.D. 1614) (Sponsored by Representative SHAGOURY of Hallowell) (Cosponsored by Representatives: DODGE of Belfast, SARGENT of York)

Bill "An Act to Provide Funding for Summer School Programming" (H.P. 1078) (L.D. 1624) (Sponsored by Representative WARREN of Scarborough) (Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, CROCKETT of Portland, MCCABE of Lewiston, RIELLY of Westbrook, ROEDER of Bangor, SUPICA of Bangor, Senator: BALDACCI of Penobscot)

Bill "An Act to Improve Professional Development for Educational Technicians and School Support Staff" (H.P. 1080) (L.D. 1626) (Sponsored by Representative MURPHY of Scarborough) (Cosponsored by Representatives: CRAFTS of Newcastle, KUHN of Falmouth, MACIAS of Topsham, ROEDER of Bangor, SALISBURY of Westbrook, TERRY of Gorham)

Bill "An Act Regarding Workforce Development, Education Reform and Talent Retention" (H.P. 1081) (L.D. 1627) (Sponsored by Representative WHITE of Ellsworth) (Cosponsored by Representatives: BISHOP of Bucksport, FREDERICKS of Sanford, MCINTYRE of Lowell, MINGO of Calais, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, SIMMONS of Waldoboro)

Energy, Utilities and Technology

Resolve, to Establish a Commission to Study Pathways for Creating a Thermal Energy Networks Program in Maine (H.P. 1073) (L.D. 1619) (Sponsored by Representative RUNTE of York) (Cosponsored by Representative: MCINTYRE of Lowell)

Environment and Natural Resources

Bill "An Act to Promote the Recycling and Reuse of Construction Materials" (H.P. 1087) (L.D. 1633) (Sponsored by Representative WHITE of Ellsworth) (Cosponsored by Representatives: BISHOP of Bucksport, FREDERICKS of Sanford, MCINTYRE of Lowell, MINGO of Calais, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, SIMMONS of Waldoboro)

Health and Human Services

Bill "An Act to Require Data Collection and Major Substantive Rulemaking for the Lifespan Waiver Providing Home and Community-based Services for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Autism Spectrum Disorder or Other Related Conditions" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 1060) (L.D. 1606) (Sponsored by Representative BOYER of Cape Elizabeth) (Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland and Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, HEPLER of Woolwich, SALISBURY of Westbrook, Senators: MOORE of Washington, TEPLER of Sagadahoc)

Bill "An Act to Establish Maine's Care Force to Address the State's Health Care Crisis" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 1067) (L.D. 1613) (Sponsored by Representative MACIAS of Topsham) (Cosponsored by Representatives: BECK of South Portland, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, HASENFUS of Readfield, MALON of Biddeford, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, RAY of Lincolnville, ROEDER of Bangor, Senator: GROHOSKI of Hancock)

Resolve, to Implement the Recommendations of the Stakeholder Group to Address Child Stay Times in Hospital Emergency Departments (H.P. 1085) (L.D. 1631) (Sponsored by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach) (Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, DEBRITO of Waterville, DUCHARME of Madison, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, JAVNER of Chester, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, STOVER of Boothbay, Senator: RENY of Lincoln)

Bill "An Act Regarding MaineCare Waiting Lists" (H.P. 1088) (L.D. 1634) (Sponsored by Representative OSHER of Orono) (Cosponsored by Representatives: DEBRITO of Waterville, MCCABE of Lewiston, SARGENT of York, SHAGOURY of Hallowell)

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Bill "An Act to Expand Access to Oral Health Care by Creating a New Path for Obtaining a License to Practice Dentistry" (H.P. 1069) (L.D. 1615) (Sponsored by Representative RANA of Bangor) (Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, DUCHARME of Madison, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, FOLEY of Wells, ROEDER of Bangor, Senators: BALDACCI of Penobscot, President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, MOORE of Washington)

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Bill "An Act to Amend Certain Fish and Wildlife Laws Related to Landowner Representation Regarding Abandoned Property" (H.P. 1077) (L.D. 1623) (Sponsored by Representative DILL of Old Town) (Cosponsored by Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, CRAY of Palmyra, MASON of Lisbon, ROBERTS of South Berwick, THORNE of Carmel)

Judiciary

Resolve, to Study the Feasibility of Establishing a Dedicated Family Court in Maine (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 1072) (L.D. 1618) (Sponsored by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach) (Cosponsored by Senator BAILEY of York and Representatives: CARUSO of Caratunk, HENDERSON of Rumford, KUHN of Falmouth, LEE of Auburn, MOONEN of Portland, O'HALLORAN of Brewer, PUGH of Portland, Senator: HAGGAN of Penobscot)

Labor

Bill "An Act to Decrease the Retirement Contributions Required for Teachers and State Employees" (H.P. 1065) (L.D. 1611) (Sponsored by Representative MCCABE of Lewiston) (Cosponsored by Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, DODGE of Belfast, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, WARREN of Scarborough, Senator: INGWERSEN of York)

Marine Resources

Bill "An Act Regarding the Preservation of Working Waterfronts" (H.P. 1079) (L.D. 1625) (Sponsored by Representative MATHIESON of Kittery) (Cosponsored by Senator LAWRENCE of York and Representative: MEYER of Eliot, Senator: GROHOSKI of Hancock)

State and Local Government

Bill "An Act to Allow Municipalities to Regulate Exterior Lights" (H.P. 1082) (L.D. 1628) (Sponsored by Representative QUINT of Hodgdon) (Cosponsored by Representatives: ADAMS of Lebanon, COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, DOUDERA of Camden, GEIGER of Rockland, MATLACK of St. George, WHITE of Guilford, WHITE of Ellsworth, Senator: GROHOSKI of Hancock)

Bill "An Act to Require Legislative Committees to Provide Equal Time to Each Member of the Public Who Testifies" (H.P. 1083) (L.D. 1629) (Sponsored by Representative QUINT of Hodgdon) (Cosponsored by Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston,

HASENFUS of Readfield, Senators: GROHOSKI of Hancock, TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland, TEPLER of Sagadahoc)

Bill "An Act to Streamline Municipal Referenda Recount Initiation" (H.P. 1089) (L.D. 1635) (Sponsored by Representative ARATA of New Gloucester) (Cosponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford and Representatives: BOYER of Poland, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, GATTINE of Westbrook, JACKSON of Oxford, TERRY of Gorham, Senator: ROTUNDO of Androscoggin)

Taxation

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Apportion Differentiated Tax Rates on Real Property According to Use (H.P. 1064) (L.D. 1610) (Sponsored by Representative ANKELES of Brunswick) (Cosponsored by Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, GEIGER of Rockland, MALON of Biddeford, SAYRE of Kennebunk, SHAGOURY of Hallowell)

Bill "An Act to Lower the Exclusion Amount for the Estate Tax and Create an Exclusion for Family Farms and Aquaculture, Fishing and Wood Harvesting Businesses" (H.P. 1071) (L.D. 1617) (Sponsored by Representative GOLEK of Harpswell) (Cosponsored by Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, MACIAS of Topsham, RANA of Bangor, SATO of Gorham)

Bill "An Act to Allow Municipalities to Use Tax Increment Financing Revenues to Support Lake Restoration and Protection Activities" (H.P. 1075) (L.D. 1621) (Sponsored by Representative BRIDGEO of Augusta) (Cosponsored by Senator BRADSTREET of Kennebec and Representatives: DAIGLE of Fort Kent, DUCHARME of Madison, GEIGER of Rockland, LEE of Auburn, ROLLINS of Augusta)

Bill "An Act to Exempt Certain Income from State Income Tax" (H.P. 1076) (L.D. 1622) (Sponsored by Representative ADAMS of Lebanon)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Open Space Tax Law" (H.P. 1084) (L.D. 1630) (Sponsored by Representative SAYRE of Kennebunk) (Cosponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin and Representatives: BELL of Yarmouth, FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor, Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, INGWERSEN of York, TIPPING of Penobscot)

Transportation

Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Solicit Proposals for the Utilization of Unused State-owned Railroad Lines (H.P. 1066) (L.D. 1612) (Sponsored by Representative GOLEK of Harpswell) (Cosponsored by Representatives: BOYER of Poland, EATON of Deer Isle, HYMES of Waldo, MONTELL of Gardiner, SARGENT of York, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, Senators: CURRY of Waldo, LIBBY of Cumberland)

Bill "An Act to Eliminate Requirements for Drivers to Surrender Their Physical Driver's Licenses During a Temporary Suspension" (H.P. 1070) (L.D. 1616) (Sponsored by Representative CRAFTS of Newcastle) (Submitted by the Secretary of State pursuant to Joint Rule 204.)

Bill "An Act to Provide Incentives and Amend Laws Regarding Access to Protect Rural Highway Capacity and Promote Long-term Economic Development" (H.P. 1086) (L.D. 1632) (Sponsored by Representative GERE of Kennebunkport) (Cosponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland and Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, DOUDERA of Camden, EATON of Deer Isle, MONTELL of Gardiner, Senator: CURRY of Waldo)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act to Counter Unlawful Cannabis Cultivation" (H.P. 1062) (L.D. 1608) (Sponsored by Representative PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft) (Cosponsored by Senator HARRINGTON of York and Representatives: ADAMS of Lebanon, ARDELL of Monticello, EDER of Waterboro, FOSTER of Dexter, FREDERICKS of Sanford, MCINTYRE of Lowell, WHITE of Guilford, Senator: CYRWAY of Kennebec)

Bill "An Act to Prevent the Participation of Individuals and Companies Linked to Federally Recognized Criminal Organizations in the Medical and Adult Use Cannabis Programs" (H.P. 1063) (L.D. 1609) (Sponsored by Representative FREDERICKS of Sanford) (Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, BOYER of Poland, HENDERSON of Rumford, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, SOBOLESKI of Phillips)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Regulating the Testing of Adult Use Cannabis and Adult Use Cannabis Products" (H.P. 1074) (L.D. 1620) (Sponsored by Representative BOYER of Poland) (Cosponsored by Representatives: CHAPMAN of Auburn, FREDERICKS of Sanford, MONTELL of Gardiner, RIELLY of Westbrook, SUPICA of Bangor)

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House

S/Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate

Comes from the House, **READ** and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**, in concurrence.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 268

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

April 15, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Grant,

Pursuant to my authority under Resolve Chapter 102, I am pleased to appoint the following to the *Commission to Update Maine's Public Policy on Higher Education*, effective immediately.

These three members of the House of Representatives serve on the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. Two members of the party holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature and one member of the party holding the second largest number of seats in the Legislature:

Honorable Holly Sargent of York, reappointment, as House Chair
Honorable Christina Mitchell of Cumberland
Honorable Sheila Lyman of Livermore Falls

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

Sincerely,

S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 269

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SECOND LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL
AFFAIRS**

April 14, 2025

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

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, we are writing to notify you that we have approved the request by the bill sponsor Sen. Farrin of Somerset, to report the following bill Leave to Withdraw:

L.D. 367 An Act to Authorize General Fund Bond Issues
to Improve Highways, Bridges and Nonhighway
Modes of Transportation

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Margaret R. Rotundo S/Rep. Drew M. Gattine
Senate Chair House Chair

READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 271

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

April 14, 2025

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

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

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

L.D. 1482 An Act to Require Education Regarding
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer,
Questioning and Other Allied Communities

Sincerely,

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

READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 270

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

April 14, 2025

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

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, we are writing to notify you that we have approved the request by the bill sponsor Sen. Tipping of Penobscot, to report the following bill Leave to Withdraw:

L.D. 1492 An Act to Fairly Compensate Teachers for Overtime Hours

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Michael Tipping
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Amy Jean Roeder
House Chair

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 265

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

April 11, 2025

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

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

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

L.D. 1037 An Act to Lower the Energy Burden of Residents by Advancing Climate Change Goals

L.D. 1083 Resolve, to Require the Department of Environmental Protection to Assess Existing Water Retention Structures and Water Levels

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. 264

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

April 14, 2025

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

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

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

Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Study MaineCare Estate Recovery (EMERGENCY)

L.D. 759 An Act to Increase Patient Safety in Long-term Care Facilities

L.D. 904 An Act to Exempt from Fees Certain Services Performed by the Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory for Criminal Investigations

L.D. 1006 An Act to Allow Testing of Pregnant Persons for Drugs Directly Before and After Childbirth

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. 272

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

April 11, 2025

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

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

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

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| L.D. 1053 | An Act to Ensure That Rebates from Prescription Drug Manufacturers Are Passed on to Patients at Pharmacies |
| L.D. 1058 | An Act to Prevent Dental Insurance Companies from Denying Coverage When Other Insurance Is Involved |
| L.D. 1110 | An Act to Require Remittance Fees for Money Transmissions |
| L.D. 1180 | An Act to Prohibit Persons from Providing Incentives to Customers for Opting Out of Paper Billing |

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Donna Bailey
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Kristi M. Mathieson
House Chair

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 266

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

April 14, 2025

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

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

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

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| L.D. 1075 | An Act to Require Annual Reporting Regarding the Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program |
|-----------|--|

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Chip Curry
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Traci Gere
House Chair

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 267

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

April 14, 2025

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

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

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

L.D. 1132 An Act to Further Protect Low-impact Landscaping

L.D. 1335 An Act to Prohibit Life Sentences

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Anne Carney
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Amy D. Kuhn
House Chair

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 273

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

April 10, 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 Transportation has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 164 An Act to Exempt Authorized Emergency Vehicles from Tolls When Operating in an Official Capacity

L.D. 290 An Act to Remit 15 Percent of the Fine for a Violation of the Motor Vehicle Laws to the Municipality in Which the Violation Occurred

L.D. 1039 An Act Regarding Municipal Authority over Heavy Vehicle Operation (EMERGENCY)

L.D. 1156 An Act to Allow Military Surplus Vehicles to Be Collected and Used in Patriotic Exhibitions and Parades

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Tim Nangle
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Lydia Crafts
House Chair

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

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Establish the Maine Charter School Commission as a Public Instrumentality of the State"

S.P. 671 L.D. 1718

Presented by Senator RAFFERTY of York.
Cosponsored by Representative SARGENT of York and Representatives: DODGE of Belfast, MITCHELL of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act Regarding Superintendent Agreements for Transfer Students"

S.P. 672 L.D. 1719

Presented by Senator RAFFERTY of York.
Cosponsored by Representative SARGENT of York and Representatives: DODGE of Belfast, MURPHY of Scarborough.

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 Require Family Life Education to Include a Human Growth and Development Curriculum"

S.P. 669 L.D. 1716

Presented by Senator GUERIN of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representatives: GRIFFIN of Levant, JAVNER of Chester, LEMELIN of Chelsea, TUELL of East Machias.

Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** suggested and ordered printed.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding Benefits and Training for Long-term Care Workers"

S.P. 673 L.D. 1720

Presented by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative RANA of Bangor and Senator: TIPPING of Penobscot, Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, DHALAC of South Portland, ROEDER of Bangor, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, ZAGER of Portland.

Bill "An Act to Establish the Maine Child Care Affordability Program Advisory Board" (EMERGENCY)

S.P. 674 L.D. 1728

Presented by Senator INGWERSEN of York.
Cosponsored by Representative GRAHAM of North Yarmouth and Senators: President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, NANGLE of Cumberland, RENY of Lincoln.

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 Prohibit Certain Provisions in Health Care Provider Contracts with Insurance Carriers"

S.P. 666 L.D. 1713

Presented by Senator BAILEY of York.
Cosponsored by Senator: **BALDACCI** of Penobscot, Representatives: BOYER of Cape Elizabeth, MASTRACCIO of Sanford.

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, to Allow Hemphill Farms, Inc. to Sue the State

S.P. 661 L.D. 1667

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

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Amend the Appointment and Confirmation Process for Certain Judicial, Civil and Military Officers

S.P. 668 L.D. 1715

Presented by Senator BENNETT of Oxford.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding the Voting Requirement to Extend the Date for Adjournment of the Legislature"

S.P. 663 L.D. 1668

Presented by Senator DUSON of Cumberland.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Provide Property Tax Relief to Maine Families"

S.P. 659 L.D. 1665

Presented by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative LEE of Auburn and Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, BICKFORD of Androscoggin, INGWERSEN of York, NANGLE of Cumberland, RENY of Lincoln, TIPPING of Penobscot, Representatives: BOYER of Cape Elizabeth, PUGH of Portland.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Create a New Pathway to Licensure to Drive School Buses"

S.P. 667 L.D. 1714

Presented by Senator BENNETT of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Senator: LIBBY of Cumberland, Representatives: DODGE of Belfast, FOSTER of Dexter, JACKSON of Oxford, LANCE of Paris.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Include in the Ranked-choice Election Method for General and Special Elections the Offices of Governor, State Senator and State Representative and to Make Other Related Changes"

S.P. 660 L.D. 1666

Presented by Senator RENY of Lincoln.
Cosponsored by Representative SUPICA of Bangor and Senators: President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, GROHOSKI of Hancock, HICKMAN of Kennebec, PIERCE of Cumberland, TIPPING of Penobscot, Representative: MOONEN of Portland.

Bill "An Act to Establish the Cannabis Advisory Council"
S.P. 664 L.D. 1669

Presented by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Representative BOYER of Poland and Senators:
DUSON of Cumberland, GROHOSKI of Hancock, TIMBERLAKE
of Androscoggin, TIPPING of Penobscot, Representatives:
CHAPMAN of Auburn, FREDERICKS of Sanford, GUERRETTE
of Caribou, SUPICA of Bangor.

Bill "An Act Regarding Background Checks for Medical Cannabis
Providers"

S.P. 670 L.D. 1717

Presented by Senator HARRINGTON of York.
Cosponsored by Senator: HICKMAN of Kennebec,
Representatives: BOYER of Poland, FREDERICKS of Sanford.

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. 665

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and
House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, April 22, 2025, at 10:00
in the morning, or until the call of the President of the Senate and
the Speaker of the House, respectively.

READ and PASSED.

Sent down for concurrence.

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

On motion by Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland (Cosponsored by
Representative KUHN of Falmouth and Senators: HAGGAN of
Penobscot, TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland, Representatives:
BABIN of Fort Fairfield, CARUSO of Caratunk, LEE of Auburn,
O'HALLORAN of Brewer, SATO of Gorham, SINCLAIR of Bath),
the following Joint Resolution:

S.P. 662

JOINT RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING ACCESS TO JUSTICE DAY PRESENTED BY MAINE'S JUSTICE ACTION GROUP

WHEREAS, the year 2025 marks the 30th anniversary of Maine's
Justice Action Group, a judge-led coalition of leaders from
Maine's legal community who are passionate about helping all
Maine people have access to civil justice; and

WHEREAS, the coalition members include representatives of the
state and federal judiciary, the Legislature, nonprofit civil legal aid
providers, the University of Maine School of Law, the Maine
Justice Foundation, the Maine State Bar Association, the Maine
Trial Lawyers Association, private practice attorneys and others;
and

WHEREAS, key initiator Judge Frank Coffin described the
Justice Action Group as a catalyst, something introduced in small
quantities that produces great change, and the Justice Action
Group has been an advocate for equal access to justice since
1995; and

WHEREAS, equal access to justice is a bedrock principle of a
free, constitutional society, and no system of laws and
constitutional protections can be effective if only those who can
afford private advocates have access to justice; and

WHEREAS, because justice for all is achievable only through the
vigilance and action of the legislative, judicial and executive
branches of government, it is important to provide for access to
justice in all branches of State Government; and

WHEREAS, providing equal access to justice has tangible,
widespread benefits for Maine's families, children, schools,
communities, businesses, charities, government and economy;
and

WHEREAS, legal issues profoundly affect basic human needs
such as safety from violence and exploitation, security and
stability for children and the families in which they are nurtured,
health, shelter and food security; and

WHEREAS, the need for increased support for civil legal aid and
pro bono representation for low-income and vulnerable Maine
people remains acute; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and
Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Special
Session, on behalf of the people we represent, pause to declare
April 17, 2025 as Access to Justice Day and to acknowledge and
express our appreciation and strong support for Maine's civil legal
aid providers and private practice attorneys who provide pro bono
services for those otherwise unable to afford legal representation;
and be it further

RESOLVED: That a suitable copy of this resolution, duly
authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the
Justice Action Group.

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

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

Senator **CARNEY:** Thank you, Madam President. I rise briefly
this morning just to share with my colleagues the extraordinary

work of the Justice Action Group and Maine's seven core nonprofit legal service providers.

This group of providers does excellent work. They are a strong network of civil legal aid providers who spend a lot of energy, excellent legal skill, and tremendous dedication to meet the growing legal needs of Mainers with limited financial resources who are unable to afford an attorney. They work in -- they work hard to ensure that the rights of all Mainers are protected. This is a daunting task in our state because we lack lawyers in rural parts of our state, we need more lawyers with expertise in areas of the law that most impact those who cannot afford an attorney. Critical problems like eviction, domestic violence, elder abuse, and denial of veterans' benefits.

I ask that my colleagues take a moment to reflect on and acknowledge the contributions of the Justice Action Group and Maine's seven core nonprofit civil legal aid providers. Thank you.

The Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the Chamber, Associate Justice of the Maine Supreme Court, Andrew M. Mead, and the Honorable Ellen Gorman, retired Associate Justice of the Maine Supreme Court, and other members of the Justice Action Group. They are the guests today of the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Carney, as well as the entire Judiciary Committee. Would they please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate?

Off Record Remarks

Joint Resolutions

On motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook, the following Joint Resolution:

S.P. 609

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAINE'S REALTORS

WHEREAS, the Maine Association of REALTORS® has more than 6,500 members actively involved in the business of real estate, with members and affiliates including lenders, appraisers, title companies, building inspectors, surveyors and insurance providers; and

WHEREAS, the not-for-profit trade association provides each member with an equal voice and representation in the real estate profession, serving members in all 16 Maine counties and in their communities; and

WHEREAS, a healthy supply of affordable, safe, secure and high-quality residential and commercial real estate inventory statewide supports the continuing growth of Maine's economy; and

WHEREAS, real estate transactions stimulate Maine's economy and include not only the money spent and reinvested in the sale

price of a property but all those services and expenditures that occur in relation to a property transaction, for both a buyer and a seller; and

WHEREAS, according to national statistics, it is estimated that one job is generated for every 2 home sales, each home sale contributes about \$170,100 to the economy and the real estate industry accounts for 19.5% of the gross state product; and

WHEREAS, the real estate market in Maine is strong, as evidenced by the number of home sales and the overall impact on Maine's economy in 2024 of 18.3 billion dollars; and

WHEREAS, real estate ownership is an investment in the future and one of the best ways to build financial security through equity accumulation, and for many in Maine their real property ownership represents their life savings; and

WHEREAS, expanding real property ownership will strengthen our State and its families and communities, enhance our economy and create jobs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, take this opportunity to recognize the Maine Association of REALTORS® and its members for their positive contributions to and the significant role they play in the lives of Maine citizens and their communities and that their service and dedication to this State are a tribute to those values and principles that we all hold dear; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Maine Association of REALTORS® and Maine's 12 local association boards and councils.

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

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

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you very much, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. It's really a pleasure to be able to offer this resolution on behalf of the real estate professionals who do really important work around our entire state, and we're fortunate today to have a number of them here with us. I'd encourage you to go interact with them and hear their story, learn about what's happening in your community, and it's a great way to do it, they oftentimes have the inside lane on that information as well.

So, you know, the facts that were just read into the record speak for themselves about the economics of this industry and why it's so critical to the State of Maine, but it really starts with that interaction and your sort of sherpa throughout the process of uprooting your life and moving can be an incredibly stressful one. I've heard it said before that, you know, moving is one of the top five most stressful things that somebody can do in their life, and I believe that. But it certainly can go a lot smoother if you have somebody that's a dedicated professional who can help you throughout that process. And that's the role that, you know, beyond just the facts and the figures and the deal itself but the emotional support that real estate professionals provide as well.

And I can speak both as a realtor myself, but also as an attorney that works for a title company and we do, you know, hundreds of these interactions every month, and for my other attorney colleagues in the room here today, real estate law is by far the best type of law to practice. The tears that you're going to see are 99% happy tears and there's a lot of emotion that go into getting to that point and, you know, that kind of culminating moment sitting around the closing table and seeing, you know, somebody either get a house or get money, but either way, it's a fulfilling day and a lot of work goes into that behind the scenes to make sure that that can happen.

And so, my hat's off to all the real estate professionals that are here today and across the state. Thank you for what you're doing, it does matter, we appreciate you, and look forward to working with you throughout the duration of this session.

Thank you very much, Madam President.

The Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Change of Committee

The Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act Regarding Retirement Benefits and Salary Adjustments for Judicial Employees"

H.P. 743 L.D. 1124

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

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

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

Ought to Pass

The Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** on Bill "An Act to Repeal the Sunday Amateur Sports Law, the Law Allowing Municipalities to Permit the Operation of Movie Theaters on Sundays and the Law Imposing a Fine or Imprisonment for Playing Games and Sports with Admission Charges on Memorial Day"

H.P. 237 L.D. 337

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 **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** on Bill "An Act to Ensure That the Exemption of Certain Agricultural Buildings from the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code Includes Maple Sugarhouses"

H.P. 371 L.D. 603

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.

Ought to Pass As Amended

The Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** on Bill "An Act to Support Removal of Overboard Discharge Systems"

H.P. 255 L.D. 401

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-51)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-51)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-51) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

The Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Membership of the State Employee Health Commission and Make Referential Changes to the Office of Employee Health, Wellness and Workers' Compensation"

H.P. 446 L.D. 707

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-50)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-50)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-50) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

The Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** on Bill "An Act to Provide an Exception to a Fishing Prohibition near the Crooked Brook Dam"

H.P. 11 L.D. 47

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-46)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-46)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-46) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** on Bill "An Act to Increase the Maximum Permissible Size of Recreational Campfires" H.P. 604 L.D. 939

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

Signed:

Senators:

TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland
BLACK of Franklin

Representatives:

PLUECKER of Warren
BUNKER of Farmington
COOPER of Windham
DILL of Old Town
FROST of Belgrade
GUERRETTE of Caribou
HEPLER of Woolwich

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-48)**.

Signed:

Representatives:

CRAY of Palmyra
JACKSON of Oxford

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

Reports **READ**.

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

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** on Bill "An Act to Protect Sand Dunes on Sears Island and to Establish Criteria for Legislation Regarding Land Development"

H.P. 477 L.D. 735

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

Signed:

Senators:

TEPLER of Sagadahoc
BRENNER of Cumberland

Representatives:

DOUDERA of Camden
ANKELES of Brunswick
BELL of Yarmouth
BRIDGEO of Augusta
CAMPBELL of Orrington
OSHER of Orono
RIELLY of Westbrook
WOODSOME of Waterboro

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

Signed:

Senator:

MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

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

Reports **READ**.

Senator **TEPLER** of Sagadahoc moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT 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 (#109)

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

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

ABSENT: Senators: BRENNER

EXCUSED: Senators: BLACK

19 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 14 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **TEPLER** of Sagadahoc to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report, **PREVAILED**.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Limit Hypodermic Apparatus Exchange Programs to a One-for-one Exchange"
H.P. 142 L.D. 219

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

Signed:

Senators:

INGWERSEN of York
MOORE of Washington
NANGLE of Cumberland

Representatives:

MEYER of Eliot
DAIGLE of Fort Kent
DEBRITO of Waterville
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth
MCCABE of Lewiston
SHAGOURY of Hallowell
ZAGER of Portland

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

Signed:

Representatives:

GRIFFIN of Levant
JAVNER of Chester
LEMELIN of Chelsea

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

Reports **READ**.

Senator **INGWERSEN** of York moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT 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 PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Washington, Senator Moore.

Senator **MOORE:** Thank you, Madam President. I rise today to speak in support of the motion Ought Not to Pass on the floor to LD 219, not because I take the issue of public safety lightly but because I take the health of my constituents in Washington County very seriously.

Washington County has borne the brunt of the opioid epidemic in Maine. We know the numbers. Per capita, no place in the country was targeted more aggressively by pharmaceutical companies than my own district. We are or we were the

epicenter of this crisis, and we are still feeling its weight every single day. That's why I'm especially concerned about the impact LD 219 would have in rural communities like mine. This bill would roll back our state's current one-to-one-plus syringe model, a system that works, and then it would replace it with a rigid, outdated policy that doesn't reflect the lived reality of the people in Washington County.

Let me tell you about what does work. During the pandemic, Maine access points operated a mobile syringe service program across Washington County, led by a woman named Chasity Tuell. Many of you probably haven't heard of her, but in my community, she's a household name for the right reasons. Chasity and her team met people where they were - across the 3300 square mile county, literally. In towns with no pharmacy, no public transportation, and no addiction services for miles. Places where a person might not even have gas money, let alone a car, to get to the nearest program. She offered not just clean syringes to make sure no one ever had to reuse a syringe, but Narcan and wound care kits, fentanyl test strips, safer sex kits and education, home HIV tests and, most importantly, connection to treatment and support. That program was professionally well run and deeply respected, not just by the people it served, but by law enforcement, healthcare workers, and families who saw it saved lives. If you want to see it for yourself, Chasity and other community members were featured in the short documentary entitled *Recovery in Maine*, Washington County, where you can find that on YouTube.

LD 219 would make programs like that nearly impossible to sustain. When someone doesn't have a syringe to return - whether they've lost it, were arrested, or didn't have one in the first place - under this bill, they'd be turned away. I heard stories of them -- some of them going to rest areas and breaking into the disposal boxes so that they could have a syringe to exchange in the old programs, or even going to the Irving gas station restrooms just so they had a syringe to exchange. That's not public safety, that's a recipe for disease transmission, overdose, and despair.

And let me be clear, this isn't a hypothetical risk. Just look next door to Penobscot County, where there's an active HIV outbreak among people who inject drugs, with many of which are also co-infected with hepatitis C. If - or more likely when - that kind of outbreak reaches Washington County, we are not prepared to respond. We don't have the infrastructure, the staffing or the public health safety net to contain an outbreak of that scale.

Limiting access to sterile syringes now will only make it harder to prevent, detect, and control the spread of disease in a county that is already under-resourced and overburdened. This bill would make a dangerous situation worse. Let's be honest, people in my county don't always have the luxury of a second choice. If we deny someone a sterile syringe today, it may be -- it might be too late tomorrow. We all want cleaner streets, safer communities, and less syringe litter, but LD 219 won't get us there. It will only drive people further underground and make it harder for programs to do what they do best; reduce harm, save lives, and build trust. If we are serious about addressing syringe waste, let's talk about funding disposable kiosks, community cleanup programs, and biohazard containers for home use, not policies that have been proven to increase public health risks.

Madam President, I represent a rural district. I represent people who are doing everything they can to survive, recover, and hold on to hope. I cannot support a bill that would strip them of

one of the few lifelines they have left. I urge my colleagues to support the motion on the floor. Let's stay the course with evidence-based policy and let's honor the work of people like Chasity Tool, who remind us what real public health leadership looks like.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator **HARRINGTON:** Thank you, Madam President. I rise in opposition to the pending motion.

I think this bill was a very solid start in the right direction to bring it back to a one-to-one exchange. You know, this idea that these centers are somehow reducing harm, to me is ridiculous. Overdoses are up, the continuous nature of enabling this behavior to me is just proving to be exacerbating this issue. You know, we -- my Good Colleague from Washington County talked about test kits. Let's talk about fentanyl test kits for a minute. Coming from those what I have dubbed criminal activity centers, taxpayer-funded criminal activity centers, these test kits are being used by users for the mere purpose to prove that their bag of fentanyl actually has fentanyl in it and they're not just getting a bag of Bisquick. That's the reality of what those test kits are being used for. We've got to move in a more positive direction. I'm really disappointed that the committee wouldn't've even come to some sort of agreement to reduce the number. The fact that we're sending people out with a box of 100 needles to me is disgusting. Some agreement from the committee that maybe we could've reduced it to even 50 or 20, some sort of rational agreement to bring it back closer to the one-to-one ratio that we had prior to COVID. But nothing, just an Ought Not to Pass on what is a commonsense policy to bring it back to what we had prior to COVID.

We absolutely must do something about this opioid crisis, and this further enabling that we have been doing over the last six years has made the problem much worse. And I can only speak to the small town of Kennebunk that I patrol, but I can give you a long list of people who are tired of picking up needles, who call us regularly to come pick up the needle in the park, on the side of the road, and that is happening across our state. In the city of Sanford, where this bill was really -- the nexus of this bill came from the city of Sanford, strong bipartisan support across the board came from the city to do something about this because it was such a massive problem. Daycares had to shut down, you know, parks that they used to regularly go to because kids were constantly picking up needles. This is ridiculous that we're sending people out with a box of 100 needles and that the committee couldn't even come to some sort of agreement on that to me is just appalling.

So, I would urge you to vote against the pending motion and do something to keep our kids safe in parks. Because while you talk about the hepatitis rates among that population, I would encourage you to look at the young kids in this Chamber who have a right to go to the beach or to a park and not be stuck by a needle and to be brought into this crisis. Thank you.

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

Senator **NANGLE:** Madam President, thank you. I'd like to just state a fact here. My friend from York County indicated that

overdoses are up, and there has been actually, according to the 132nd Maine Legislature, that's us, there has been a 33% decline in fatal overdoses in Maine over the past two years. 490 deaths in 2024 for comparison, Maine experienced a 418 -- it doesn't indicate a decline, but -- we do -- we are seeing a decline in overdoses. And this isn't just about overdoses. This is about disease transmission. When people start reusing needles or borrowing dirty needles - and we say borrowing loosely - that's when disease transmission moves on, hepatitis, HIV, all sorts of communicable diseases. So, this really is about disease control and prevention.

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

Senator **CYRWAY:** Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I just wanted to speak up about the reduction of overdoses. There's been a big increase on suicides, and that is not counted when it comes to overdoses, and I found that out with Gordon Smith, that -- and also that there was other people I talked to about statistics and it's not included. So, I just wanted to make sure that we don't always think that, you know, these decreases in one thing doesn't mean necessarily it's really taken care of the whole thing.

And the other thing, when it comes to these needles, the needle exchange, we're finding needles everywhere, especially in the woods, next door neighbors' homes, in the streets, the parking lots, we're finding them, you know, not too long ago we had individuals wanted to bring their daughter in to Goodwill and they said, no, you don't want to go in the bathroom there because there's blood and needles in that bathroom. So, we really need to really control -- and that's not funny. I think this is really serious, when we're subjecting our youth to the situations out there, and I think we have to also increase more stronger laws. Where every time I turn around, we're seeing trying to decriminalize the drug culture and we really are hurting our youth. Because if someone sees that there is a penalty and accountability, they don't want to do something like that. The same thing with your rules at home, you know, so, if we just take time and think these things out, I think we can come up with solutions, but to me, just being -- spending money and I mean, what -- the COVID part is over, we should not be continually spending the amount of money that this takes up. When I was on the opioid taskforce, we were looking at \$1.6 million for needle exchange. And I tried for just a mere \$50,000 to do prevention and that was too late because the money had been spent.

And so, these are the things that's happening, and I think it's really important that we step back and say what is really good for our state. So, I oppose this position, and I think that we should all take a look at that. Thank you.

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

Senator **ROTUNDO:** Thank you, Madam President. I request permission to pose a question through the Chair to anyone who might wish to answer it?

THE PRESIDENT: The Member may proceed.

Senator **ROTUNDO:** Thank you. Does the bill before us enable municipalities to set their own limits on the number of needles that

can be exchanged?

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

Senator **INGWERSEN:** Thank you, Madam President. To answer the Good Senator from Lewiston, in listening to testimony and listening to the CDC, the policy is that this is best practice, needs based exchange, one to one-plus, but if communities want to set lower levels, they are able to do that. I'm hoping that they - any community that would decide to do that would examine best practices and the evidence based to show how good the one-to-one-plus is. So, I hope that helps.

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

Senator **CARNEY:** Thank you, Madam Chair. I just rise briefly to share with you an email that I received from a constituent who is an internist at a Maine hospital. And he reached out to me in connection with a different one-to-one needle exchange proposal, but I found his words really moving, and so I'd like to share them.

These are his words. We continue to see a high volume of young patients with opiate use disorder at MMC with life-threatening infections of their spines and heart valves, and their inability to have access to clean needles contributes to this problem. A one-to-one needle exchange limit goes against the concept of harm reduction, and I believe is contributing to morbidity and mortality in this population, as well as taxing the already heavily burdened healthcare system, as these patients require long hospital stays, typically on the order of six weeks.

Thank you for your attention.

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

Senator **INGWERSEN:** Thank you, Madam President. I would first want to address the information that's been given out just here in this Chamber today around overdose deaths. In 2022, there were 719 overdose deaths, in 2024, that number was 490.

And I want to say a few things. I'm very amazed at the testimony of the Good Senator and colleague in the Health and Human Services Committee, Senator Moore. She did a really good job about showing the need of this evidence-based program in rural counties in our state. But I think we all share the same goal, we want to reduce syringe waste in our communities. But we also want to protect public health and we want to save lives. LD 219 takes us in the wrong direction. This bill proposes a return to a rigid one-for-one syringe exchange, a policy that's neither evidence based nor is it effective. The Maine CDC and the American Medical Association and our state's leading policy folks and public health agencies from around the country have made it clear, LD 219 would increase not decrease the risks our communities face. The current one-to-one-plus model adopted in 2022, curiously, as which coincides with OD deaths coming down, allowed certified syringe programs, SSPs, to meet people where they are, providing not only sterile syringes, but also access to life-saving services like wound care, drug checking supplies, naloxone, and referrals to treatment services. In 2023 alone, Maine's syringe service providers made over 26,000 referrals to treatment and health services, the highest number ever reported. These are not just statistics, these are lives changed, and often

lives saved.

Let's look at the bigger picture here, though. SSPs, syringe service programs, are proven to reduce HIV and hepatitis C transmission by up to 50%. I don't know if folks know this, but we have one of the highest rates of hepatitis C in the country. Highest rates. People who use syringe service providers are five times more likely to enter treatment. Lifetime treatment costs just for one person suffering from HIV exceeds \$500,000.

In 2023, Maine saw one of the largest decreases in overdose deaths in the nation, due in some part to harm reduction strategies like syringe service programs. At the same time, Maine today is facing real and urgent public health threats. We already have, as I just mentioned, some of the highest rates of hep B and hep C in the country. In Penobscot County, as the Good Senator from Penobscot would know, we are already seeing the devastating -- devastating consequences of limited access to harm reduction services. Since October of 2023, the Maine CDC has identified an HIV outbreak linked directly to injection drug use, 23 confirmed cases and counting. This outbreak is not hypothetical, it's the direct result of one of Bangor's longest running syringe service programs having to scale that back, running out of supplies and ultimately having to shut their doors. When syringe service programs disappear, HIV infections rise. That's not theory, it's reality. It's happening. LD 219 would impose similar restrictions across the state, limiting access to sterile syringes, increasing the risk of HIV and hepatitis outbreaks and pushing people away from the very services designed to help keep them safe. The cost in lives and public health dollars would be profound.

Now, I understand that the concern about discarded syringes in our parks and in our streets and in our neighborhoods, it's real. It's a real problem. But here's what the data tells us, there's no evidence that restricting syringe access reduces syringe waste. In fact, the opposite is true, restrictions increase reuse and unsafe disposal. Syringe waste is a big concern, but LD 219 is not a solution. Instead, the Maine CDC has urged us to explore evidence-based alternatives. Expanding access to biohazard disposal containers people can use at home, supporting community-based cleanup efforts, educating the public on safe disposal practices, collaborating with syringe service programs and local partners to strengthen public safety and health concerns. There's a great program that Portland, for example, has used opioid settlement funds to create a syringe buy-back program that has reduced syringe waste in the last few months to 58%.

And finally, I just want to say that towns and municipalities do have the option to set their own ratios. So, this is not a policy debate, this is really a public health decision that's going to have immediate and measurable consequences. Please vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 219. Let's stand on the side of science, facts, and common sense. Thank you.

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

Senator **HARRINGTON:** Thank you, Madam President. I would just reiterate that this bill does not do away with the exchange. However, I would thank my good colleague from York for bringing up the fact that hepatitis and HIV rates are going up despite us giving away more free needles than ever before. Clearly, not helping the problem. Clearly, we are doing something wrong that despite hundreds of thousands of needles being distributed in the

state, we continue to have rises in hepatitis and HIV. It's a failed program, and simply bringing it back to the one-to-one ratio can at least reduce the harm to our kids playing in parks.

So, I would really urge you to vote against this motion.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is acceptance of the majority 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 (#110)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BLACK

22 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 12 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **INGWERSEN** of York to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report, **PREVAILED**.

Off Record Remarks

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Increase Emergency Medical Services Provider Training Opportunities"

H.P. 629 L.D. 969

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

Signed:

Senators:
BAILEY of York
BALDACCI of Penobscot
HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

MATHIESON of Kittery
CIMINO of Bridgton
FLYNN of Albion
FOLEY of Wells
MASTRACCIO of Sanford
MORRIS of Turner
OLSEN of Raymond

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

Signed:

Representatives:

ARFORD of Brunswick
BOYER of Cape Elizabeth
CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham

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

Reports **READ**.

Senator **BAILEY** of York moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT 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 PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Washington, Senator Moore.

Senator **MOORE:** Thank you, Madam President. I guess this is my day to speak up, right? I rise today to speak in opposition of the Ought Not to Pass motion on the floor to LD 969.

This bill simply directs the Emergency Medical Services Board to adopt rules to allow municipalities to conduct or host emergency medical services, licensing, and relicensing training. As you can imagine, in rural districts such as mine, we are in desperate need of trained emergency medical service workers. Many of my small, often volunteer-based ambulance services are struggling to find personnel to cover their emergency services. This shortage has led to longer response times and a strain on the existing EMS workforce.

You might recall in an attempt to stabilize our state's EMS crisis, the 131st Legislature approved \$31 million of the 70 million that EMS officials requested to provide a lifeline while longer-term solutions could be considered. My understanding is the original goal of that legislation was to shore up the state's eligible 260 EMS providers, many of which were on the brink of collapse. The Rules Committee of the Maine EMS Board oversees how the funds are disbursed and allocated \$9 million for training centers. Currently, there are ten training centers approved by Maine EMS in the state, including Aroostook Region 5 Training Center, Delta Ambulance Training Center, Eastern Maine Community College, Kennebec Valley Community College, Northern Maine Community College, Southern Maine Community College, United Ambulance Training Center, and Washington County Community College. Additionally, United Training Center in Lewiston offers in-person and blended learning options. When a class does

become available, the student must travel quite a distance to attend, placing a hardship on the person and their families. The investment made in training was needed, but its structure left many opportunities for people wanting to become volunteer EMS workers out in the cold. State EMS currently prioritizes using federal workforce grants for those training to become full-time paramedics or EMTs, volunteers are given lower priority, limiting volunteers to two out of 20 seats in a class, if we can even find an available class.

The demand for these classes is great, but they are not enough. Small communities need better access to classes and more classes are needed in a variety of locations. The current system does not meet the training needs of rural volunteer EMS workers. Courses for EMS volunteers must be offered at times and places that fit the schedules of individuals who have full-time jobs and family responsibilities. They must meet at night and in locations that are accessible. I heard from one director the Washington County delegation met with a -- the Pleasant River Ambulance Service just a couple of weeks ago, and their service is based out of Columbia. The Lewiston center is 175 miles from Columbia. She has struggled to find an available class. She even offered to buy a voucher for a future class just to make sure they could get a seat in a class. That request was denied.

As I mentioned earlier, many of the communities in my district rely exclusively on volunteers to provide emergency medical services. Our volunteer EMS staffing is already dangerously low, and will continue to decline. My biggest fear is we will continue to lose EMS coverage if we don't find ways to address the issue. LD 969, An Act to Increase Emergency Medical Services Provider Training Opportunity brings an opportunity to fix one of the broken steps in this system. This one-paragraph bill directs the Emergency Medical Services Board to adopt rules to allow municipalities to conduct or host emergency medical service licensing and relicensing training. The allowance of local training by a person qualified to give that training can add a needed tool to rebuild and maintain our essential EMS workforce.

I am asking you to vote no on the current motion on the floor so we can go back to the drawing board and bring this much-needed training nearby to our local municipalities to fill a critical gap in our workforce.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator **BAILEY:** Thank you, Madam President. I'm just rising to respond to the Good Senator Washington County.

She has accurately summarized the bill, that is what it says, but what we learned in our committee is that they can already do this. So, trainers can already go to municipalities, municipalities can even get together, as they recently did in the Fryeburg-Bridgton area, and a trainer went there and conducted the classes. The difficulty is that there is a lack of trainers. So, even if a municipality wants to host a training session, it's difficult to find a trainer to come and do that because they're stretched thin.

So, what we did in our committee is even though we voted Ought Not to Pass on this bill because, again, it's not needed, they can already do this, and they do do this, they've done it in different municipalities across the state, is we did send out letters to both the Education Committee which is going to hear some bills concerning the community colleges and their programs both

for EMS personnel but also for trainers, to encourage them to do whatever they can to increase the amount of trainers, because that's really what the issue is, and then secondly also to the EMS Board because they are looking at a way to increase qualified trainers is to allow currently certified EMTs to kind of be fast tracked to become trainers, and so encourage the Board to do that.

So, I just wanted to explain that's why we voted Ought Not to Pass, because it's not needed, they can already do it, if we can gear up and really shore up the amount of trainers. Thank you.

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

Senator **NANGLE:** Thank you, Madam President. As a former EMS provider, instructor coordinator, this bill is not necessary. It really isn't.

Any EMS provider can submit a course outline to Maine EMS and get it approved for CEH hours. It doesn't need to be an instructor coordinator. The only time there needs to be an instructor coordinator is if it's a class that leads to licensure, which means you're taking newbies and making them EMTs, okay, and preparing them to pass that test. That's the only time you need an instructor coordinator. I've taught many EMT classes and participated in many paramedic courses as an instructor and you do not need any credentials to put on courses leading to re-licensure. You know, we've had police officers teach scene safety, they are not certified as EMTs. We've had residents -- first year residents come in and do trainings, and it really -- this is just -- this is not going to change anything with regard to how EMS training is performed in the state. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is acceptance of the majority 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 (#111)

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

NAYS: Senators: BERNARD, CYRWAY, FARRIN, GUERIN, LIBBY, MARTIN, MOORE, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: BICKFORD, BLACK

24 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 9 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **BAILEY** of York to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report, **PREVAILED**.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act to Prohibit Persons Under 18 Years of Age from Marrying"
H.P. 790 L.D. 1185

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

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
HAGGAN of Penobscot
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Representatives:

HENDERSON of Rumford
POIRIER of Skowhegan

(Representative DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe - of the House - supports the Majority **Ought To Pass** Report.)

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

Reports **READ**.

Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS** Report.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#112)

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

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BERNARD, BICKFORD, CYRWAY, FARRIN, GUERIN, HICKMAN, LIBBY, MARTIN, MOORE, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: BLACK

23 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 11 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senators being excused the motion by Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS** Report, **PREVAILED**.

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

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **LABOR** on Resolve, Directing the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women to Study the Extent of Workforce Gender Segregation in the State
H.P. 341 L.D. 522

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-49)**.

Signed:

Senators:
TIPPING of Penobscot
RAFFERTY of York

Representatives:
ROEDER of Bangor
ARCHER of Saco
BECK of South Portland
MACIAS of Topsham
SKOLD of Portland

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

Signed:

Senator:
BRADSTREET of Kennebec

Representatives:
COLLINS of Sidney
DRINKWATER of Milford
LIBBY of Auburn
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-49)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-49)**.

Reports **READ**.

Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report.

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

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

Senator **BRADSTREET:** Thank you, Madam President. I rise in opposition to the pending motion.

This case is a case of priorities. I think given our -- you know, even in flush times, I think this would be a marginal approval at best. I'd also want to point out that it's been recently brought to my attention that there already exists a 2024 report from the Commission on the Status of Women entitled A Report on Maine Women's Labor and Economic Security, and I would suggest that the outcome of this bill would be a bit superfluous and also duplicative in many instances.

Also, we're not in flush times, we're having a rough time economically. I was at a budget committee meeting in my hometown the other night and a lot of long faces there given the fact that our costs are going to go up considerably in the town of Vassalboro. Now, \$5,000 doesn't seem like a lot of money, but it is to those people back home. And what this is going to do is send a signal as to how much the Legislature is listening to the people out there in the public who want to know how we prioritize our spending. Because I'd like to point out this is not just an Ought to Pass motion, this is an ought to spend motion, and I think we need to be very circumspect about how we expend the taxpayers' money, and I hope you'll all join me in voting against this motion.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator **TIPPING:** Thank you, Madam President. Just to clarify, this is a continuation in many ways of the report that was mentioned by my colleague from Kennebec County. And it focuses in on a particular finding of that report from the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women, that found that one of the biggest challenges facing our state and our workforce is the gender segregation in professions.

So, in healthcare, in education, especially, professions are often very much one gender or another, it's holding back a large portion of the people in our state from potentially earning more or accessing certain career opportunities. Studying that and seeing

how we can improve our workforce is a worthy goal, I think one that we can all agree would benefit the state much more than the \$5,000 price tag here. I would also note that that is so low because of the work that the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women has already done and intends to do. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is acceptance of the majority 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 (#113)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BLACK

22 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 12 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senators being excused the motion by Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, **PREVAILED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-49) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Senate

Ought to Pass As Amended

Senator TALBOT ROSS for the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** on Bill "An Act to Require the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands to Maintain the Weld to Byron Road in Township 6 North of Weld"

S.P. 228 L.D. 510

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

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-14) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Senator INGWERSEN for the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Support the Northern New England Poison Center"

S.P. 306 L.D. 689

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-17)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-17) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Senator INGWERSEN for the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Modernize the State Supplement to Supplemental Security Income by Removing Marriage Disincentives"

S.P. 373 L.D. 840

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-18)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-18) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Senator HICKMAN for the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Expand the Use of the Veterans' Homelessness Prevention Partnership Fund"

S.P. 54 L.D. 126

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-15)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-15) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

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

ENACTORS

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

Emergency Measure

An Act to Increase Storm Preparedness for Maine's Communities, Homes and Infrastructure

S.P. 29 L.D. 1
(C "A" S-9)

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

Emergency Measure

An Act to Clarify the Law Regarding Prior Authorization for Air Ambulances

S.P. 14 L.D. 5

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

Emergency Resolve

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 6: Delegation of Nursing Activities and Tasks to Unlicensed Assistive Personnel by Registered Professional Nurses, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, State Board of Nursing

H.P. 54 L.D. 90
(C "A" H-41)

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 33 Members of the Senate, with 0 Senators

having voted in the negative, and 33 being more than two-thirds of the entire elected Membership of the Senate, was **FINALLY PASSED** and having been signed by the President, was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

Emergency Resolve

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 12: Fees for Kickboxing Contests and Authorized Participants, a Major Substantive Rule of the Combat Sports Authority of Maine
H.P. 174 L.D. 271
(C "A" H-38)

On motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin, placed on the **SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS TABLE** pending **ENACTMENT**, in concurrence.

Emergency Resolve

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 2: Fees for Muay Thai Contests and Authorized Participants, a Major Substantive Rule of the Combat Sports Authority of Maine
H.P. 175 L.D. 272
(C "A" H-37)

On motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin, placed on the **SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS TABLE** pending **ENACTMENT**, in concurrence.

Acts

An Act to Increase the Debt Limit of the Boothbay Region Water District
H.P. 193 L.D. 293
(C "A" H-39)

An Act to Protect Maine Consumers by Prohibiting Fees Charged for Receiving Paper Statements from Financial Institutions and Credit Card Issuers
S.P. 261 L.D. 580
(C "A" S-8)

An Act Concerning the Restoration of Electricity During Emergencies for Certain Medically Vulnerable Individuals Who Rely on Electronic Medical Apparatuses
H.P. 401 L.D. 633

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

An Act to Expand Municipal Authority over Utility Pole Permits
H.P. 559 L.D. 873

An Act to Update the Solar Energy Development Reporting Date
Deadline

S.P. 395 L.D. 906

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

An Act to Address Food Insecurity by Helping Maine Residents
Access Locally Produced Food

S.P. 206 L.D. 468
(C "A" S-10)

On motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin, placed on the
SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS TABLE pending **ENACTMENT**, in
concurrence.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Off Record Remarks

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Unfinished Business

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

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later
Assigned (4/8/25) matter:

Bill "An Act to Support Maine's Homeless Shelters by Imposing a
Fee for Booking Hotels, Short-term Rentals and Recreational
Vehicle Camping Reservations" (EMERGENCY)
H.P. 968 L.D. 1476

Tabled - April 8, 2025 by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook

Pending - **REFERENCE**

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

(In House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HOUSING AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** and ordered printed.)

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

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later
Assigned (4/8/25) matter:

Bill "An Act Regarding the Voluntary Municipal Farm Support
Program"

S.P. 591 L.D. 1450

Tabled - April 8, 2025 by Senator **TALBOT ROSS** of Cumberland

Pending - **REFERENCE**

(Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND
FORESTRY** suggested and ordered printed.)

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

Sent down for concurrence.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later
Assigned (4/10/25) matter:

HOUSE REPORTS - from the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT
AND NATURAL RESOURCES** on Bill "An Act to Allow for
Rescission of a Site Location of Development Permit When a
Development Is Decommissioned"

H.P. 447 L.D. 708

Majority - Ought to Pass (11 members)[TEPLER, BRENNER,
MARTIN]

Minority - Ought Not to Pass (2 members)

Tabled - April 10, 2025 by Senator **TIMBERLAKE** of
Androscoggin

Pending – Motion by Senator **TEPLER** of Sagadahoc to **ACCEPT**
the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS** Report, in concurrence.

(In House, Majority **OUGHT TO PASS** Report **READ** and
ACCEPTED and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**.)

Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland 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 (#114)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BLACK,

23 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 11 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senators being excused the motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS** Report, **PREVAILED**.

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

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (4/15/25) matter:

SENATE REPORTS - from the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Improve Women's Health and Economic Security by Funding Family Planning Services" S.P. 79 L.D. 143

Majority - Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-12) (8 members)[INGWERSEN, NANGLE]

Minority - Ought Not to Pass (5 members)[MOORE]

Tabled - April 15, 2025 by Senator **INGWERSEN** of York

Pending - **ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT**

Senator **INGWERSEN** of York moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report.

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

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

Senator **PIERCE:** Thank you, Madam President. Madam President and Colleagues of the Senate, I am proud to rise in support of my bill, LD 143, An Act to Improve Women's Health and Economic Security by Funding Family Planning.

This bill allocates grant funding to the Department of Health

and Human Services to ensure that our state's family planning network can weather ongoing challenges. The family planning providers across our state have always been a critical safety net for the most vulnerable Mainers, and these providers are committed to serving them, regardless of ability to pay. Mainers turn to them not just for reproductive healthcare, but also for a range of primary and behavioral health care issues. This includes birth control, cancer screening, well-person care, vaccinations, testing, and treatment of STIs. These providers are often the first and only sometimes medical provider a patient sees in an entire year. This network serves tens of thousands of patients every single year, 70% of whom qualified for free or reduced cost care in 2023.

Family planning providers offer millions of dollars of free care each and every year to anyone who needs it. This mission of the state's family planning network started with a former State Representative, Sherry Huber, a Republican from Falmouth. She and I became acquainted when I first ran for the House in 2014. When she passed away, Maine lost an amazing public servant, I lost a friend and a mentor. Sherry was a staunch defender of family planning services. She knew the importance of women's health and its direct connection to economic security. Today, LD 143 is our opportunity, our obligation, to continue to defend and protect Mainers across this critical -- to protect Mainers' access to this critical healthcare and an opportunity to make sure we do not lose sight of the fact that we as lawmakers have a duty to do this.

What does it look like in practice? During the public hearing, Mainers came forward to tell their powerful stories in spoken and written testimony before the bill -- for the bill before us today. One woman described not knowing where to go for a lump in her breast because she was uninsured. She found the care and treatment she needed at a family planning provider. Another described suffering from chronic pain and being racked with fear due to an infection caused by an IUD. She found relief in a family planning provider who was also able to treat the infection and counsel her on other types of birth control. Yet another described having abnormal pap smear and being, quote, scared and broke, but finding, in her words, timely, affordable, and compassionate care from a family planning provider.

These are just a few of the stories we've heard, but they are emblematic of the essential lifesaving care these family planning providers offer. They illustrate while voting to advance this bill is a vote to protect a wide spectrum of care. It's not just the right thing to do, it's among one of the smartest investments we can make. Research shows that for every dollar invested in family planning saves nearly \$5 in public funding down the road. Yet it may not surprise you that no one in this -- sorry. Family planning providers are facing all the challenges of other medical providers are facing like insufficient reimbursement rates, inflation, and workforce shortages.

Since the public hearing of LD 143, the administration has withdrawn federal funding from family planning so that we are in even more of a chaotic time, risking essential services and providing those services are under more stress. Today, we can take a stand in this Chamber to protect people from York to Aroostook and everywhere in between. I could not be more proud to support the pending motion to continue the Representative Huber and defend Mainers' access to lifesaving, critical reproductive healthcare. Mainers are counting on us. We cannot let them down.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator **INGWERSEN:** Thank you, Madam President, Colleagues of the Senate. There's one thing I think that we can agree on, it's that we want Maine's young people to thrive. As a dad to three, pop-pop or granddad to 12 - and I never get tired of saying that - and a former teacher of countless hundreds of students, I'm always thinking about the future Maine's young people face. Our children, our teens, and folks in their 20s are navigating unprecedented challenges as they grow and mature in a fast-changing world. One critical component of their success is the ability to access healthcare and to keep themselves healthy, productive, and safe. Which brings me to the bill before us today, which I am proud to support as chair of the Health and Human Services Committee.

LD 143 would provide essential support to family planning providers who serve anyone who needs care, even if they cannot pay for that care. Family planning providers statewide provide a range of care, and as my colleague from Cumberland point out, it's not just reproductive healthcare. We're talking about well-person visits, visits for acute health issues, cancer screenings, behavioral healthcare, preventive care that helps people succeed and to thrive.

These family planning providers are a critical part of our healthcare infrastructure and a lifeline for people who are otherwise unable to access care, especially -- especially in rural areas. They offer millions and millions of dollars in free and reduced cost care every single year and they are an essential component of our state's safety net. Best of all, the care that they provide is compassionate, judgment free, and safe. Yet these family planning providers are chronically underfunded and facing financial pressures that may force them to limit their services and make tough choices about the care they do provide. This is not by accident. They've been targeted for years by politicians who are opposed to the type of care they provide. Opposition that I frankly find baffling.

As has been said, just a few weeks ago, these providers were targeted yet again at the federal level as Title X funds were withheld. This is funding that helps the most vulnerable in our communities access family planning care, and it reinforces how much of a target family planning providers have on them and underlines the new urgency of this bill. Our responsibility as a state should be to improve healthcare within our borders and protect it against chaotic and harmful cuts from a federal government looking to find ways to pay for tax cuts for the wealthiest among us. We as lawmakers have a duty to protect critical family planning services that keep Mainers safe and healthy from this national turmoil.

So, who is it that stands to lose if we fail at this? Young people. Young people who may not have the resources to get themselves care. They may be uninsured or they may be underinsured. They may be unemployed or in low-paying jobs at the beginning of their professional lives. And of course, this will impact some young people more than others. Young people who are already vulnerable, including young women, young people of color, young people who are LGBTQ+, young people with mental health and substance use challenges and young people facing domestic violence. And especially, and this is true of all ages, especially folks in rural areas. But you know this. You understand. Vulnerable people who urgently need support all across our state will lose access to care if we fail to deliver for

them.

I bring up young people specifically because they are quite literally the future of this state. And we must ensure that they can flourish, with access to the resources that will keep them here in Maine. When they succeed, we all succeed.

Madam Chair, this is my first time chairing the Health and Human Services Committee, and I came into this job determined to lower cost and protect Maine's future by preserving access to quality, affordable healthcare. When LD 143 came to our committee, I saw it as an essential part of that mission. LD 143 is focused on the family planning services that have strong bipartisan roots.

We all want the people of our state to thrive, especially our kids, our grandkids, and generations we don't know yet. It's what brought so many of us to the Legislature in the first place. So, it is our duty and our obligation to support all Mainers who rely on family planning providers for essential healthcare now and into the future.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator **DUSEN:** Thank you, Madam President, Colleagues of the Senate. Today, I rise to support LD 143, not just because the Senator from Cumberland and I have such a wonderful time working together as caucus leaders this year, but because I see myself in the stories that she and Senator Ingwersen shared.

Growing up, my family had little money and even less access to quality healthcare. We were on public assistance and lived in a medical care desert. I'm the third of five. I was that quiet kid, the good kid, the one who cocooned under the kitchen table with a book while my mom was producing fantastic meals for the family. Well, when I was 17, I entered that kitchen and cozied up to my mom and astounded her by asking for permission to go to Planned Parenthood for gynecological services. I went to that clinic, even though Planned Parenthood was still very much taboo at that time, I went to that clinic for gynecological services, where they described a serious cervical issue. Thankfully, the clinicians were able to get me the care I needed, and I've gone on to have two lovely, fantastic children.

I know my experience is not unique. So many people from across our state came to the public hearing to share their own stories, beginning with some form of Planned Parenthood services or family planning services saved my life by. That's why as mayor and city councilor in Portland, I've fought to maintain access to care in our city. Today, I'm proud to stand in this Chamber and support the effort to maintain access to family planning services across this vast and beautiful state.

Now, it has been a few years since I was that 17-year-old seeking care. Not since that time have I seen access to fundamental care be so burdened by political attacks and floundering resources. That is why today, it is with deep fortitude and a profound sense of urgency that I will support the pending motion. Thank you.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#115)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BLACK

21 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senators being excused the motion by Senator **INGWERSEN** of York to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, **PREVAILED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-12) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

House Papers

Bill "An Act to Increase Penalties to Deter Violations of the Laws Regarding Improper Pesticide Use"
H.P. 1132 L.D. 1697

Resolve, Authorizing the Baxter State Park Authority to Convey Certain Land in Cumberland County
H.P. 1151 L.D. 1724

Come 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 Establish Disclosure Requirements Regarding Law Enforcement Officer Credibility Information"
H.P. 1106 L.D. 1671

Resolve, to Study Ways to Improve Recruitment and Retention of Rural Emergency Medical Services Personnel Through Access to Health Insurance
H.P. 1111 L.D. 1676

Bill "An Act to Exclude from Eligibility for a Community Confinement Monitoring Program a Person Serving a Sentence for Certain Domestic Violence Crimes"
H.P. 1119 L.D. 1684

Bill "An Act to Establish a Sustainable Housing Development Prison Work Program"
H.P. 1128 L.D. 1693

Bill "An Act to Provide Law Enforcement Agencies with an Anti-sex-trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation Protocol"
H.P. 1130 L.D. 1695

Bill "An Act Regarding the Authority to Transport Prisoners Confined in Jail and the Use of Physical Force with Respect to Prisoners and Persons Who Have Been Arrested"
H.P. 1145 L.D. 1710

Bill "An Act Regarding the Membership of and Requirements for County Jail Boards of Visitors"
H.P. 1152 L.D. 1725

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

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

Bill "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission to Study Expansion of Public Preschool and Early Care and Education"
H.P. 1124 L.D. 1689

Bill "An Act to Expand Access to Justice in Rural Maine by Incentivizing Attorneys to Practice in Underserved Areas"
H.P. 1126 L.D. 1691

Bill "An Act to Support the Implementation of Learning Standards and Results in Public Schools"
H.P. 1136 L.D. 1701

Bill "An Act Regarding Adult Education Funding and Oversight" (EMERGENCY)
H.P. 1140 L.D. 1705

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 Provide Just Compensation in Cases of Taking by Eminent Domain by Transmission and Distribution Utilities"
H.P. 1110 L.D. 1675

Bill "An Act to Clarify, Align and Amend Provisions of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A"
H.P. 1121 L.D. 1686

Bill "An Act to Create a Direct Investment Pilot Project Under the Maine Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator"
H.P. 1135 L.D. 1700

Bill "An Act to Enhance the Coordination and Effectiveness of Integrated Distribution Grid Planning"
H.P. 1153 L.D. 1726

Come 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.

Resolve, to Study Maine's Absolute Dominion and Beneficial Use Laws Relating to Water Rights
H.P. 1131 L.D. 1696

Bill "An Act Regarding Changes of Ownership of Dams"
H.P. 1133 L.D. 1698

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Commingling of Beverage Containers"
H.P. 1148 L.D. 1721

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

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

Bill "An Act to Establish the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Prevention and Support Program"
H.P. 1112 L.D. 1677

Resolve, to Establish the Adverse Childhood Experiences Screening and Resiliency Assessment Pilot Project
H.P. 1138 L.D. 1703

Bill "An Act to Require a Person to Be a United States Citizen to Receive State or Local Financial Assistance and to Ensure Municipal Compliance with Federal Immigration Laws"
H.P. 1142 L.D. 1707

Resolve, to Allow Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Benefits to Be Used to Purchase Ready-to-cook Meals
H.P. 1146 L.D. 1711

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

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

Bill "An Act to Require Insurers to Address Climate Risk in Their Business Activities"
H.P. 1109 L.D. 1674

Bill "An Act to Clarify and Increase Access to HIV Prevention Medications"
H.P. 1122 L.D. 1687

Bill "An Act to Encourage Continuing Education Relating to Certain Infection-associated Chronic Conditions for Physicians and Nurses"
H.P. 1123 L.D. 1688

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

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

Bill "An Act to Consider Municipal Shelter Facilities and Housing Projects Essential for Public Health, Welfare and Safety by Updating the Definition of 'Public Service Infrastructure'"
H.P. 1116 L.D. 1681

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Manufactured Housing Communities to Prevent Excessive Rent and Fees Increases"
H.P. 1150 L.D. 1723

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

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

Bill "An Act Regarding Antlerless Deer Permits for Certain Agricultural Landowners" (EMERGENCY)
H.P. 1127 L.D. 1692

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 Make a Freedom of Access Act Request Free of Charge upon Petition"

H.P. 1118 L.D. 1683

Bill "An Act Regarding Notification of Appointment of Legal Representation for Indigent Clients in Custody"
H.P. 1141 L.D. 1706

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

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

Bill "An Act to Establish the Maine Public Employees Retirement System Home Repair and Energy Upgrade Loan Program and Fund"

H.P. 1105 L.D. 1670

Bill "An Act to Amend the Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program to Balance Support of Businesses and Employees"

H.P. 1147 L.D. 1712

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

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

Bill "An Act to Allocate Commercial Menhaden Fishing Licenses for Island Communities"

H.P. 1113 L.D. 1678

Bill "An Act to Allocate Scallop Dragging Licenses for Island Communities"

H.P. 1114 L.D. 1679

Bill "An Act to Create the Commercial Fishing Safety Fund to Further Develop Training and Provide Equipment to Recover Ships and Other Watercraft and Persons in Distress or Lost at Sea"

H.P. 1143 L.D. 1708

Bill "An Act to Simplify the Regulation of Aquaculture Leases"
H.P. 1149 L.D. 1722

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

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

Bill "An Act to Increase Fairness in the Income Tax by Adding Higher Tax Brackets and Tax Rates"

H.P. 1117 L.D. 1682

Bill "An Act to Provide an Income Tax Credit for Certain Disaster Mitigation Projects for Working Waterfront Property"
H.P. 1129 L.D. 1694

Bill "An Act to Create a Refundable Tax Credit for Agricultural Enterprises"

H.P. 1134 L.D. 1699

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 Establish a Permanent Ferry Oversight Committee to Ensure Sustainable and Equitable Ferry Operations"
H.P. 1115 L.D. 1680

Bill "An Act Regarding Antique Automobiles"

H.P. 1144 L.D. 1709

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

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

Bill "An Act to Allow Participation in the Adult Use Cannabis Tracking System to Be Voluntary"

H.P. 1107 L.D. 1672

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Concerning the Direct Initiative Process
H.P. 1120 L.D. 1685

Bill "An Act Regarding Artificial Intelligence in Campaign Advertising"

H.P. 1125 L.D. 1690

Bill "An Act to Amend Election Polling Place Candidate Restrictions"

H.P. 1137 L.D. 1702

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

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

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

House Papers

Resolve, to Establish a Pilot Project to Facilitate the Inclusion of Economic Impact Statements in the Legislative Process (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 1108 L.D. 1673

Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** suggested and ordered printed.

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

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

Bill "An Act to Prohibit a School Administrative Unit from Adopting a Policy That Allows a Student to Use a Restroom Designated for Use by the Opposite Sex"

H.P. 1139 L.D. 1704

Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** suggested and ordered printed.

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

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

Bill "An Act to Ensure Transparency in Consumer Transactions Involving Artificial Intelligence"

H.P. 1154 L.D. 1727

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

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

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

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Ought to Pass

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

H.P. 787 L.D. 1182

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.

Ought to Pass As Amended

The Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** on Bill "An Act to Improve Efficiency of Meat and Poultry Processing Facilities by Requiring the Designation of State Inspectors as Essential" (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 211 L.D. 311

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-54)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-54)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-54) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

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

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

H.P. 492 L.D. 750

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-55)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-55)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-55) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

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

The Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** on Bill "An Act to Require the Issuance of Maine Agricultural Fair Licenses Every 4 Years"

H.P. 597 L.D. 932

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-52)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-52)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-52) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

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

The Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** on Resolve, Directing the Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal to Compile a Statewide Inventory of Aqueous Film-forming Foam Concentrate

H.P. 254 L.D. 400

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-53)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-53)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-53) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

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

The Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** on Bill "An Act to Restore Matching Funding to the Maine Development Foundation"

H.P. 397 L.D. 629

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-56)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-56)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-56) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

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

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Bill "An Act to Align the Schedules for Climate Change Protection Plans and Grid-enhancing Technology Reviews with the Integrated Grid Planning Process"

H.P. 815 L.D. 1240

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

Signed:

Senators:

LAWRENCE of York
GROHOSKI of Hancock
HARRINGTON of York

Representatives:

SACHS of Freeport
FOSTER of Dexter
GEIGER of Rockland
KESSLER of South Portland
MCINTYRE of Lowell
RUNTE of York
WADSWORTH of Hiram
WARREN of Scarborough
WEBB of Durham

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

Signed:

Representative:

PAUL of Winterport

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

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **LAWRENCE** of York, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS** Report **ACCEPTED**.

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 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Promote Awareness of the Maine Parentage Act"

H.P. 360 L.D. 541

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

Signed:

Senators:

INGWERSEN of York
MOORE of Washington
NANGLE of Cumberland

Representatives:

MEYER of Eliot
DAIGLE of Fort Kent
DEBRITO of Waterville
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth
GRIFFIN of Levant
JAVNER of Chester
MCCABE of Lewiston
SHAGOURY of Hallowell
ZAGER of Portland

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-57)**.

Signed:

Representative:

LEMELIN of Chelsea

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

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **INGWERSEN** of York, the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

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

On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland, **ADJOURNED**, pursuant to the Joint Order, until Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at 10:00 in the morning.