

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

In Senate Chamber
Tuesday
April 22, 2025

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

Prayer by Pastor Travis Armstrong of Hope Baptist Church in Manchester.

PASTOR TRAVIS ARMSTRONG: Let's pray. Father God, I am so thankful today that you are a sovereign God. You are completely in control of each and every moment in our lives and in this world. I am grateful that even though there are many times that we don't know what is going to happen in our world, you do. I'm comforted with the knowledge that though we often and regularly make mistakes, you don't. You are a God of grace and mercy. There is no greater example of that than the holiday we just celebrated a few days ago, Easter Sunday. What a perfect display of sovereignty, your power over death.

God, the men and women in this room that you created, that you have sovereignly put into leadership over our state to govern and to make decisions on our behalf, you know that they are not perfect, you know that they don't make perfect decisions, you know that they are -- they are full of mistakes, yet you are perfectly in control. You have placed them into this place of leadership, and you are perfect. Every decision you make is perfect and you, God, are perfectly in control. You didn't make a mistake when you chose these men and women to represent us. And so, God, I pray that you would impart on this Body your divine and perfect wisdom so that they might make the decisions that you would have them make. That they might make moral and just judgments. That they would be united in their desire to do what is best for the people of Maine and for your glory. That they would focus on what is right and true, not on what is popular or partisan.

And so, God, I pray with expectation that you would be active in this Senate as well as over at the House and in the office of our Governor. May your sovereignty be evident through today's business and through each Member of this constitutional and continuous body, to bring blessing upon our great state.

And finally, God, I pray for each Member of this Senate, for all who will be active in this session, that you would bring blessing on their lives as they serve. I praise you, Sovereign God, in the Name of Jesus. Amen.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator Henry L. Ingwersen of York County.

Reading of the Journal of Thursday, April 17, 2025.

Medical Provider of the Day, Kendra Paradis, DO of Orrington.

Off Record Remarks

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

Senator **RAFFERTY:** Thank you, Madam President. I just wanted to take a moment and have the opportunity to say thank you to Mr. Steve Bailey and Robbie Feinberg are here today with -- from Maine School Management and along with them are a number of schoolboard members from across the state.

So, I just wanted to say thank -- thank them personally as well as from our group for their leadership and efforts on behalf of public education throughout Maine. Thanks very much.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the Chamber as well as in the balcony, schoolboard members from across the state, from Kennebec to Baileyville, for the Maine Schoolboard Associations Day at the State House. Would they please rise? They are the guests today of the Senator from York, Senator Rafferty, as well as the entire Maine Senate.

Off Record Remarks

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

ORDERS

Joint Order

An Expression of Legislative Sentiment recognizing:

Jessica Linzer Simpson, of Cape Elizabeth, who won the 2024 AARP Maine Steadfast Advocate Award for her countless volunteer hours and unending efforts to support the AARP Maine mission. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;
SLS 477

Sponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BOYER of Poland, KESSLER of South Portland.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

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

Senator **CARNEY:** Thank you very much, Madam President. Good morning, Senators, and all of our honored guests. I rise today to recognize one of my constituents and neighbors in Cape Elizabeth for her dedication and advocacy in support of older

Mainers.

Jessica Linzer Simpson is the recipient of the 2024 AARP Maine Steadfast Advocate Award, which celebrates an individual's -- an individual volunteer's countless and unending efforts to support the AARP Maine mission. This will likely come as no surprise to many of you since you've seen her every Tuesday in this Chamber and in the halls of the State House with her fellow AARP volunteers.

I have had the privilege of working closely with Jessica this session on a bill that is near and dear to both of our hearts, An Act to Prevent Financial Exploitation of Maine Residents 62 Years of Age or Older. This was Jessica's idea in order to help protect the finances of older Mainers from scammers. She came to me late last year with examples of what is commonly referred to as stop and hold legislation from other states and wondered if Maine had something similar on the books.

Now, I just have to deviate from my remarks for a minute because this was actually like a day or two before cloture and when I said yes, we should be looking into this, Jessica was immediately hopped on it and did a tremendous amount of groundwork in about 18 hours.

Back to my serious remarks. I was inspired, as I actually always am, to work with her on this legislation because of the stories she brought from her time volunteering as part of the AARP Maine Fraud Watch Team, which works closely with older Mainers to educate them about scams. She has dedicated so much of her time to advocating on issues that have a direct impact on older Mainers. In her own words, some of the issues she finds important are, quote, "protecting Social Security, advocating for affordable housing, expanding access to healthcare, working for broadband and digital equity, fighting for lower utility costs, strengthening retirement security, and educating my local community about frauds and scams." She notes that it has all given her purpose, fulfillment, and happiness, and I would say it's given the same things to our community.

Please join me in thanking Jessica Linzer Simpson for all her volunteer and advocacy. I know that we all look forward to seeing Jessica in the halls on many more Tuesdays to come. And congratulations, Jessica, on receiving the Steadfast Advocate Award.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the Chamber, Jessica Linzer Simpson and Henry Simpson of Cape Elizabeth, and the AARP Maine Tuesdays at the State House volunteer advocates. They are from the town of Cape Elizabeth and they are the guests today of the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Carney. Would they please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate?

Off Record Remarks

On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland with unanimous consent on behalf of Senator **LAWRENCE** of York, the following Senate Order:

S.O. 20

ORDERED, that a message be sent to the House of Representatives proposing a Convention of the two branches of the Legislature to be held on Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 10:00 in the morning in the Hall of the House for the purpose of honoring Franco-American Day.

READ and PASSED.

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

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

Senate at Ease.

Senate called to order by the President.

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act Regarding the Beneficial Electrification Policy of the State"

S.P. 676 L.D. 1730

Presented by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Increase the Supply of Child Care Services Through the Use of Contracts"

S.P. 682 L.D. 1736

Presented by Senator RENEY of Lincoln.
Cosponsored by Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, GROHOSKI of Hancock, MOORE of Washington, TIPPING of Penobscot, Representatives: BOYER of Cape Elizabeth, FARRIN of Jefferson, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth.

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 Provide Reduced Interest Rates for Logging and Fishing Operations"

S.P. 679 L.D. 1733

Presented by Senator BENNETT of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Representative RIELLY of Westbrook and Senators: BERNARD of Aroostook, HICKMAN of Kennebec, Representatives: COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, DAIGLE of Fort Kent, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, OSHER of Orono, PLUECKER of Warren, WADSWORTH of Hiram.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Ensure the Future of Maine's Sporting Camp Heritage"

S.P. 683 L.D. 1737

Presented by Senator STEWART of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Senators: BALDACCI of Penobscot, FARRIN of Somerset, HICKMAN of Kennebec, Representative: CARUSO of Caratunk.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Increase the Rate of Reimbursement to Municipalities for Revenue Lost as a Result of the Maine Resident Homestead Property Tax Exemption"

S.P. 675 L.D. 1729

Presented by Senator BENNETT of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Senator: BICKFORD of Androscoggin, Representatives: CARUSO of Caratunk, FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor, HEPLER of Woolwich.

Bill "An Act to Allow a Municipality to Waive the Excise Tax on an Antique Automobile Owned by a Person 65 Years of Age or Older"

S.P. 678 L.D. 1732

Presented by Senator BENNETT of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Representative: LANCE of Paris.

Bill "An Act to Exempt Over-the-counter Medicines from the Sales and Use Tax"

S.P. 680 L.D. 1734

Presented by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative WEBB of Durham and Senators: BAILEY of York, BICKFORD of Androscoggin, BRENNER of

Cumberland, HARRINGTON of York, RENY of Lincoln, Representatives: BOYER of Cape Elizabeth, NUTTING of Oakland, ZAGER of Portland.

Bill "An Act to Provide an Income Tax Deduction for Certain Contributions to a Qualified Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Account"

S.P. 681 L.D. 1735

Presented by Senator GUERIN of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Senator: BICKFORD of Androscoggin.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Increase the Influence of the Maine State Ferry Advisory Board on the Funding and Operations of the Maine State Ferry Service"

S.P. 677 L.D. 1731

Presented by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock.
Cosponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor and Senators: BEEBE-CENTER of Knox, CURRY of Waldo, MOORE of Washington, Representatives: EATON of Deer Isle, GEIGER of Rockland, MATLACK of St. George, RAY of Lincolnville.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

At this point a message was received from the House of Representatives, borne by Representative MOONEN of Portland, informing the Senate that the House concurred with the proposition for a Convention of the two branches of the Legislature to be held in the Hall of the House at 10:00 in the morning for the purpose of honoring Franco-American Day.

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Ensure Uniformity in the Regulation of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Pesticides"
H.P. 1015 L.D. 1557

In Senate, April 15, 2025, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Comes from the House, that Body having **INSISTED** on its former action whereby the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**.

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

Joint Resolutions

The following Joint Resolution:

H.P. 1155

**JOINT RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING CHRISTIAN HOLY WEEK IN MAINE**

WHEREAS, the week preceding the Christian celebration of Easter contains observances relating to the Biblical description of last days of Jesus; and

WHEREAS, on Palm Sunday, Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem; and

WHEREAS, on Holy Monday, Jesus freed the sacrificial animals and cleansed the temple; and

WHEREAS, on Holy Tuesday, Jesus taught at the temple; and

WHEREAS, on Holy Wednesday, a disciple named Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus for pieces of silver; and

WHEREAS, on Maundy Thursday, the Last Supper with the disciples occurred, and Jesus washed their feet; and

WHEREAS, on Good Friday, Jesus was crucified on a cross, and darkness covered the whole earth; and

WHEREAS, on Holy Saturday, Jesus rested in the tomb; and

WHEREAS, on Resurrection Sunday, also known as Easter Sunday, Jesus rose from the dead, and his death, burial and resurrection paid for the sins of the people and gives all who believe in him eternal life; 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, take this opportunity to recognize Christian Holy Week in Maine; and be it further

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

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

READ and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication:

S.C. 275

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

April 16, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Grant,

Pursuant to my authority under Public Law, Chapter 163, I am pleased to appoint Gregory Copeland to the Maine Library of Geographic Information Board seat 10, representing the real estate and development interests, effective the date of this letter.

Please let me know if you have questions about this appointment.

Sincerely,

S/Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 277

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

April 17, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Grant,

Pursuant to my authority under EO 2, FY 24/25, I am pleased to appoint Representative Mathew McIntyre of Lowell to the *Maine Artificial Intelligence Task Force*, effective immediately.

Representative McIntyre will serve as a member of the House of Representatives who is from one of the two parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature.

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. 283

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

April 18, 2025

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

RE: Nominations to the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Advisory Council

Dear President Daughtry:

I am pleased to nominate the following individuals to the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Advisory Council:

M. Wing Goodale of Rockport, James Andrews of Farmington, Joseph Powers of Mapleton, Scott Ireland of Vassalboro, Catherine M. Gordon of Bangor, David Craven of Bucks Harbor, Eric Ward of Harfords Point Township, Anthony Liguori of Kennebunk and Michael Gawtry of Yarmouth

Pursuant to Title 12, MRSA §10151, these nominations are contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 284

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

April 18, 2025

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

RE: Nominations to the Maine State Housing Authority

Dear President Daughtry:

I am pleased to inform you that I am nominating Nancy Harrison of Veazie, and Noël Bonam of Portland for reappointment as Commissioners of the Maine State Housing Authority.

Pursuant to Title 30-A, MRSA §4723.2, these nominations are contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 278

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

April 17, 2025

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

Dear Madam President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry has had under consideration the nomination of the Honorable Donald G. Marean of Hollis, for reappointment to the State Harness Racing Commission.

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

YEAS	Senators	1	Talbot Ross, R. of Cumberland
	Representatives	6	Pluecker, B. of Warren, Cooper, M. of Windham, Cray, D. of Palmyra, Dill, J. of Old Town, Frost, S. of Belgrade, Jackson, C. of Oxford
NAYS		0	
ABSENT		5	Sen. Black, R. of Franklin, Sen. Ingwersen, H. of York, Rep. Bunker, S. of Farmington, Rep. Guerrette, T. of Caribou, Rep. Hepler, A. of Woolwich

Seven members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of the Honorable Donald G. Marean of Hollis, for reappointment to the State Harness Racing Commission be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Rachel Talbot Ross
Senate Chair

S/Bill Pluecker
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** be overridden?"

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

The Chair noted the absence of the Senator from York, Senator **LAWRENCE**, the Senator from Oxford, Senator **MARTIN**, and the Senator from Aroostook, Senator **STEWART** and further excused the same Senators from today's Roll Call votes.

YEAS

ROLL CALL (#116)

YEAS: Senators: None

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

EXCUSED: Senators: LAWRENCE, MARTIN, STEWART

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 32 Senators having voted in the negative, with 3 Senators being excused, and none being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and that the nomination of the **Honorable Donald G. Marean** of Hollis, for reappointment to the State Harness Racing Commission was **CONFIRMED**.

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 279

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

April 17, 2025

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

Dear Madam President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry has had under consideration the nomination of the Honorable Chandler Woodcock of Farmington, for reappointment to the State Harness Racing Commission.

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

Senators	1	Talbot Ross, R. of Cumberland
Representatives	6	Pluecker, B. of Warren, Cooper, M. of Windham, Cray, D. of Palmyra, Dill, J. of Old Town, Frost, S. of Belgrade, Jackson, C. of Oxford
NAYS	0	
ABSENT	5	Sen. Black, R. of Franklin, Sen. Ingwersen, H. of York, Rep. Bunker, S. of Farmington, Rep. Guerrette, T. of Caribou, Rep. Hepler, A. of Woolwich

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 32 Senators having voted in the negative, with 3 Senators being excused, and none being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and that the nomination of the **Honorable Chandler Woodcock** of Farmington, for reappointment to the State Harness Racing Commission was **CONFIRMED**.

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 276

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

April 16, 2025

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

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

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

- | | |
|----------|--|
| L.D. 257 | An Act to Eliminate the Practice of Net Energy Billing |
| L.D. 450 | An Act to Lower Electricity Costs by Repealing the Laws Governing Net Energy Billing |

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Mark W. Lawrence Senate Chair	S/Rep. Melanie Sachs House Chair
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READ and with accompanying papers **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

Seven members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of the Honorable Chandler Woodcock of Farmington, for reappointment to the State Harness Racing Commission be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Rachel Talbot Ross Senate Chair	S/Bill Pluecker House Chair
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READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** be overridden?"

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#117)

YEAS: Senators: None

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

EXCUSED: Senators: LAWRENCE, MARTIN, STEWART

The Following Communication:

S.C. 282

L.D. 1244 An Act to Establish Requirements for Warming
Shelters

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

April 17, 2025

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

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

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

L.D. 1309 An Act to Increase the Membership of the
Public Utilities Commission to 5 Members

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Mark W. Lawrence S/Rep. Melanie Sachs
Senate Chair House Chair

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

The Following Communication:

L.D. 1384
S.C. 274

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

April 16, 2025

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

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

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

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Joseph M. Baldacci S/Rep. Suzanne M. Salisbury
Senate Chair House Chair

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 280

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

April 16, 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":

Resolve, Directing the Department of Public Safety and the
Department of Transportation to Examine Motor Vehicle
Accidents Involving Pedestrians

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Tim Nangle S/Rep. Lydia Crafts
Senate Chair House Chair

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 281

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

April 17, 2025

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

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

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

- | | |
|----------|--|
| L.D. 511 | Resolve, to Direct the Department of Transportation to Implement the Recommendations of the Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council |
| L.D. 956 | Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Implement the Recommendation of the Calais Branch Rail Use Advisory Council to Create a Multi-use Trail |

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 at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Maine Criminal Code Governing Restitution to Include the Costs of All Analyses of Suspected Illegal Drugs"

H.P. 456 L.D. 717

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

Signed:

Senators:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox
CURRY of Waldo

Representatives:

HASENFUS of Readfield
ABDI of Lewiston
BUNKER of Farmington
LAJOIE of Lewiston
LOOKNER of Portland
MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

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

Signed:

Senator:

CYRWAY of Kennebec

Representatives:

ARDELL of Monticello
MCINTYRE of Lowell
NUTTING of Oakland
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

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

Reports **READ**.

Senator **BEEBE-CENTER** of Knox moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report, in concurrence.

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

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

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Madam President. Request permission to pose a question through the Chair?

THE PRESIDENT: The Member may proceed.

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Madam President. I am just -- my attention has just been drawn this morning to this piece of legislation and I have been a bit frustrated in my understanding of the language in the bill and I'm wondering if somebody could explain to me whether this bill would put some -- potentially some burden of restitution or payment for testing of drugs on someone who is not convicted of a crime but just has been accused or -- or subject to investigation without a conviction.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator **BALDACCI:** It would only apply to those convicted. You would have to be convicted of an offense and an order for the restitution to be ordered.

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 (#118)

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

NAYS: Senators: BALDACCI, BENNETT, BERNARD, BICKFORD, BLACK, BRADSTREET, CYRWAY, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, HAGGAN, HARRINGTON, LIBBY, MOORE, NANGLE, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: LAWRENCE, MARTIN, STEWART

17 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, with 3 Senators being excused the motion by Senator **BEEBE-CENTER** of Knox to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** on RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish That All Maine Residents Have Equal Rights Under the Law

H.P. 163 L.D. 260

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-40)**.

Signed:

Senators:
CARNEY of Cumberland
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:
KUHN of Falmouth
LEE of Auburn
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:

Senator:
HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:
BABIN of Fort Fairfield
CARUSO of Caratunk
HENDERSON of Rumford
O'HALLORAN of Brewer
POIRIER of Skowhegan

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-40)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the RESOLUTION **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-40)**.

Reports **READ**.

Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence.

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 Penobscot, Senator Guerin.

Senator **GUERIN:** Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Men and women already have equal protection under the law in the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendment. I am thankful for these protections.

I am opposed to the bill before us because its many unintended consequences. Women have many protections that would be removed if the ERA is ratified. In the realm of family, women would no longer be eligible for alimony or child support, mothers would no longer have special priority in child custody cases, special grants and programs available to women in business would no longer be legal. The exemption from military draft or combat would no longer be available. And of course, as has been well debated in this building this year, the ratification of the ERA would create unacceptable disadvantages for females competing in women's sports competitions.

These economic and social consequences would hurt the very women that supporters are claiming to help. Please join me in voting against the pending motion and standing in support of women.

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

Senator **TALBOT ROSS**: Thank you, and good morning, Madam President. I rise today in support of LD 260, a resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Maine that would affirm what should already be self-evident, that all Mainers have equal rights under the law.

Let me begin by honoring the late Honorable Lois Galgay Reckitt, a fierce advocate, a moral compass, and a tireless champion of equality. It is in her memory that I stand before you today.

This resolution is not about politics, it's about principle. It's not about partisanship, it's about the promise of equality. It's not about rewriting our laws and values, it's about finally writing them down. The Equal Rights Amendment reflects a simple truth, that no one should be denied fairness because of who they are, that dignity is not a privilege, it is a right, and that justice delayed is justice denied. Thirty-eight states have ratified the federal ERA. They didn't wait for the perfect moment; they acted in the right one. Now, it is our turn. Maine should be a state that moves forward, not one that stands still. I'm reminded today of the powerful words of Shirley Chisholm, who said, laws will not eliminate prejudice from the hearts of human beings, but that is no reason to allow prejudice to be enshrined in our laws.

Madam President, Mainers are ready. They are ready to say that equality is not controversial, it is constitutional. They are ready for the rights to be enshrined. They are ready for these to be fundamental to the way that we live. This is not a question of if, but when. I ask how long? Not long. Because the arc of the universe is long, but it bends towards justice. Let's give the people of Maine the opportunity to say yes to dignity, yes to fairness, yes to equality, and yes to justice. Let's give them that chance.

Thank you, Madam President.

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 say that we make the laws and equality is equality and women's rights has been really a big thing through the years. For a century, they've been fighting to have the same rights as men. And I think there's been great big strides made. In fact, I can remember being in this Body and also in the Other Body, how they were so proud of the accomplishments women have made. And I've seen back years ago when I was in college -- actually, after college, my son had a classmate, Cindy Blodgett, who was a basketball star for Lawrence High School and made big strides for the girls team and it really made them shine and the crowds that went to watch was amazing. And then, for us to see what's happening now is sad because I think that this is going to, you know, this will be taking away many things that the women have strived -- made strides for, and I feel that this bill is certainly going to hurt the image that they've been all striving for. And I think that that's why I'm so opposed to this bill.

So, I'm going to vote against this bill. Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator **BENNETT**: Thank you, Madam President. This is not a ratification of the federal ERA. If it were, I would be voting for it. I think our federal Constitution would be improved by putting an amendment in like the ERA. And we have available to us an Article V process that where this State could indeed call for such an amendment.

The Senator from Cumberland, Senator Talbot Ross, said that this is not only self-evident, I agree with that, it is more than self-evident, it's actually written -- these protections are already written into our Constitution. In fact, Article I, Declaration of Rights, Section 1 says: Natural rights. All people are born equally free and independent and have certain natural, inherent and unalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, acquiring, possessing and protection property, and of pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness.

Unlike the federal Constitution, where there is no Declaration of Human Rights in the body of the Constitution, even the Bill of Rights is deficient in this respect, our Constitution in Maine which this provision seeks to amend already covers this and it is the first item on -- that you read beyond the Preamble, if you read Maine's Constitution. It doesn't have a category; it doesn't have a list of characteristics. It says very clearly, all people are born equally free. It says all people. It is well covered in our Constitution.

For that reason, I'll be voting against the pending motion. Thank you.

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

Senator **BALDACCI**: Thank you, Madam President. I would just argue a couple of points. One is if it's already in the Constitution, then it will do absolutely no harm to adopt this amendment. But second of all, I wanted to respond to some suggestions that in the family court system, parental rights, custody, alimony would somehow be affected, and that -- as somebody who has practiced for the last 33 years, this would not affect any of our current laws, our current procedures, and the current laws do not -- are not based on sex, they are based on a whole host of factors regarding the individual person. So, men and women have equal parental rights unless something has happened, or a court has ordered otherwise.

So, that -- those things are not going to change one iota, and I think it's important to pass this bill.

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 (#119)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: LAWRENCE, MARTIN, STEWART

19 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, with 3 Senators being excused the motion by Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-40) **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 Resolve, Authorizing the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Convey Public Land Parcels in Lincoln Plantation and Sandy River Plantation
S.P. 39 L.D. 24

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-19)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-19) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Senator TIPPING for the Committee on **LABOR** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Eligibility Criteria for Creditable Service in the Armed Forces of the United States Under the Maine Public Employees Retirement System"

S.P. 196 L.D. 462

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-21)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-21) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Fund Climate Resiliency Projects Related to the Repair of Campus Infrastructure Used for Active Transportation and Outdoor Recreation"

S.P. 190 L.D. 457

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-20)**.

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham
HAGGAN of Hampden
LYMAN of Livermore Falls

Reports **READ**.

Senator **RAFFERTY** 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 recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Libby.

Senator **LIBBY:** Thank you, Madam President, Men and Women of the Senate. This bill came to us and we had the expectation that leaders in public campuses around the state would support the bill. But that was not the case. The President of the Maine Community College System came and told us -- President Daigler came and told us we are neither for nor against the bill.

We really appreciate what the good Senator is trying to do who is the sponsor of this bill, I think the committee felt the same way, but here we are, saying we know better than the leaders of the campuses in the State of Maine. We don't know better than them on issues like this. This is a \$1 million fiscal note - a \$1 million fiscal note - and we're just going to go ahead with it even though it wasn't supported.

I just -- I didn't think it was a partisan bill at all and yet, it came through with a partisan vote, and that always frustrates me, I guess, around here is that we're trying to do the best we can. I mean, some people who feel like we need to support the University of Maine System, including me, went out there on the edge and said, you know, I'm going to support the bond issue. But these \$1 million here, \$1 million there, are we going to stop spending? Are we going to feel good about every single bill? I mean, like, that's what this is, a feel-good bill. I hate to put it that way, but that is the way it is. And I would love to see it in kind of a normal year where we actually had money to spend. This is not that year. Has anyone noticed? We have a pretty massive deficit to take care of and I don't mean to be, you know, but if -- and I'll take my top ten priorities and I'll send them to the appropriations table, absolutely, and I don't blame you for you doing that, too. But is this one of those? If the leadership in the system says no, then we move on to the next thing, where the leadership of the system says absolutely, this is a must have.

Thank you very much, Madam President, for the time.

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

Senator **CARNEY:** Thank you very much, Madam Chair. I just rise to speak briefly in support of the pending motion and to explain a little bit why I brought this matter forward.

In my district, Senate District 29, the Southern Maine Community College campus is a shared community and college resource. If you've ever been there, you may have strolled along the shore walk to watch regatta or to eat an ice cream cone with your family or just to enjoy some respite. A lot of people go to this area along the shore of SMCC for intensely personal family experiences. I have been approached by many, many people, both in and out of my district, who were married on the bluff that is now closed due to the two winters ago ocean undercutting the bluff and making it unstable during those four terrible storms that our state experienced. There are also memorial benches on top of the bluff that cannot be accessed, again, because of the undercutting of the bluff.

On the other side of the cliff walk, there are academic

buildings that are experiencing the same undercutting, and those academic buildings are in jeopardy. I believe that information was brought forward at the public hearing. However, community colleges are themselves in a really difficult position. They can't put any money on the line to protect these campus and community resources because every cent that is available to them, they need to use to advance immediate educational needs.

Now, the real problem here is that we have systematically excluded educational institutions from the programs that this Body has passed that repair climate damage and that allow for shared resources like college campuses to be part of our work to increase resiliency in light of climate change. And I would ask you to both support the pending motion and also to keep that in mind as we work on future funding mechanisms to establish -- repair climate damage and establish resiliency. Our educational institutions are not immune from climate change, and we should be recognizing that they, too, are suffering from the impacts. Thank you.

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

Senator **RAFFERTY:** Thank you, Madam President, and certainly, Senator Carney has covered a lot of my comments, but I just wanted to clarify that the president did not testify against the bill. The president testified neither for nor against based on the fact that at this time, due to the circumstances throughout, they have other priorities. 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 (#120)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: MARTIN, STEWART

21 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 12 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused the motion by Senator **RAFFERTY** of York to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, **PREVAILED**.

Bill READ ONCE.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-20) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Sent down forthwith for concurrence.

ENACTORS

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

Emergency Measure

An Act to Fund Essential Services for Victims of Domestic Violence

H.P. 561 L.D. 875
(C "A" H-44)

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

Acts

An Act to Eliminate Miscarriage Reporting Requirements
H.P. 59 L.D. 94

An Act to Use Certain Regional Transmission Organization Payments for Beneficial Electrification to Reduce Electricity Rates
S.P. 268 L.D. 585

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

An Act to Support Hunger Prevention in Maine
H.P. 269 L.D. 415
(C "A" H-42)

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

An Act to Provide Funding for Respite Care and Supplemental Services Provided by the Family Caregiver Support Program
H.P. 522 L.D. 815
(C "A" H-45)

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

Resolve

Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in Windham and Gorham the Little Falls Veterans Memorial Bridge

S.P. 362 L.D. 796

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

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:

Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study the Future of Recreational Access in Maine

S.P. 582 L.D. 1441

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 **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (4/17/25) matter:

HOUSE REPORTS - from 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

Majority - Ought Not to Pass (9 members)

Minority - Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-48) (2 members)

Tabled - April 17, 2025 by Senator **TALBOT ROSS** of Cumberland

Pending - **ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT**

(In House, Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.)

Senator **TALBOT ROSS** of Cumberland moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report, in concurrence.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#121)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: MARTIN, STEWART

21 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 12 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused the motion by Senator **TALBOT ROSS** of Cumberland to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (4/17/25) matter:

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

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

Tabled - April 17, 2025 by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland

Pending - **ENACTMENT** in concurrence

(In House, **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**.)

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 32 Members of the Senate, with no Senators having voted in the negative, and 32 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.

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

House Papers

Bill "An Act to Protect Recreational Trails by Establishing the Trails for the Future Program"

H.P. 1180 L.D. 1762

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

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

Bill "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Support Maine's Agricultural Sector, to Create an Agricultural Buildings Property Tax Exemption and to Direct the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Study Barriers to Its Financial Assistance Programs and Study the Potential for a Common Application for Those Programs"

H.P. 1157 L.D. 1739

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Resolve, Directing the Department of Corrections to Study Achieving Gender Equality

H.P. 1167 L.D. 1749

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

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

Bill "An Act to Establish the Maine Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics Matching Grant Program"
H.P. 1158 L.D. 1740

Bill "An Act to Establish the Upper St. John Valley Recovery High School Program"
H.P. 1171 L.D. 1753

Bill "An Act to Allow Firefighters to Be Eligible for State College Funding"
H.P. 1177 L.D. 1759

Bill "An Act to Promote Public Education in Maine by Amending the Laws Governing Student Transfers"
H.P. 1178 L.D. 1760

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 Repeal and Replace the Charter of the Yarmouth Water District"
H.P. 1165 L.D. 1747

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

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

Bill "An Act to Establish the Biohazard Waste Disposal Grant Program to Support Public Health Efforts in the State"
H.P. 1156 L.D. 1738

Bill "An Act to Stabilize Residential Treatment Capacity for Children and Youth in Maine"
H.P. 1163 L.D. 1745

Bill "An Act to Reduce Dental Disease and Ensure Access to Essential Preventive Dental Care Among Maine Children"
H.P. 1164 L.D. 1746

Bill "An Act to Expedite Provider Enrollment in MaineCare"
H.P. 1176 L.D. 1758

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 Update the Laws Governing Osteopathic Physician Licensing"
H.P. 1175 L.D. 1757

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Indemnification Agreements"
H.P. 1179 L.D. 1761

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

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

Bill "An Act to Prohibit a State Social Media Platform Account from Restricting User Comments"
H.P. 1160 L.D. 1742

Bill "An Act to Require the Attorney General to Create and Update Biennially a Model Residential Lease"
H.P. 1168 L.D. 1750

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

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

Bill "An Act to Enhance Businesses' Understanding of Labor Standards and Grow Maine's Energy Economy Through a Training Program"
H.P. 1166 L.D. 1748

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

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

Bill "An Act Regarding County Law Enforcement Administration and Rural Law Enforcement"
H.P. 1159 L.D. 1741

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

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

Bill "An Act to Exempt Broadband Equipment from Sales and Use Tax"

H.P. 1170 L.D. 1752

Bill "An Act to Increase the Maine Historic Property Rehabilitation Tax Credit in Rural Areas"

H.P. 1173 L.D. 1755

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 Statewide Transportation Project Selection Prioritization Process"

H.P. 1174 L.D. 1756

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

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

Bill "An Act to Provide for the Direct Shipment of Spirits to Consumers"

H.P. 1172 L.D. 1754

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

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

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

Off Record Remarks

Senator **TEPLER** of Sagadahoc requested unanimous consent to speak on the Record.

THE PRESIDENT: Seeing no objection, so moved.

Senator **TEPLER:** Thank you. Well, today, we have two special guests in the Chamber now: Maryanne Gichanga of Kenya who's the Chief Executive Officer and co-founder of AgriTech Analytics, and she developed an award-winning solar-powered device for soil diagnostics and pest and disease detection, providing farmers

with 98% accurate real-time insights. Her fellowship project aims to scale solutions to reach 20,000 farmers across 20 countries.

And we also have Shahid Iqbal Choudhary from India, who's the Secretary of the Department of Rural Development and Local Self Government in Jammu and Kashmir. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary manages a \$654 million budget and a workforce of more than 16,000 people. He's a distinguished member of the Indian Administrative Service and received multiple awards for excellence in public administration.

We welcome him and Ms. Gichanga today, along with the Honorable Marge Kil Kelly, and we're pleased to have them here.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would recognize in the rear of the Chamber, Maryanne Gichanga from Kenya, Sayid Choudhary, as well as former Senator Marge Kil Kelly. They are from the town of Dresden and they are the guests today of the Senator from part of Lincoln as well as Sagadahoc, Senator Tepler. Would they please accept the greetings of the Maine Senate?

Off Record Remarks

On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland **ADJOURNED**, until Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at 10:00 in the morning.