

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

In Senate Chamber
Wednesday
April 30, 2025

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

Prayer by Reverend Jane Hague of The Episcopal Church of St. Mary in Falmouth.

REVEREND JANE HAGUE: Thank you very much for having me. Let us pray.

Holy One, O Blessed One, O Gracious God, we thank you for the abundance you have gifted us, in the rising of the tide and its ebbing, in the waxing of the moon and its waning, in the dawning of the sun and in the twilight. Help us to have hope for our world, our nation, and our state of Maine.

When we see scarcity, let us see the fullness of your gifts. When we encounter darkness, let us seek the gift of light in each other and our creator. May we walk humbly yet boldly in the pursuit of justice. Help us to stand strong against oppression. Call us to be the voice of those who have no voice or who can only whisper their pain. Direct us to be stewards of your creation, cherishing the earth, nurturing its life. Grant us mercy and may we look with mercy upon all your people. And in the challenges we face, let us be reminded of your eternal promise of renewal and grace. Guide us, O Holy One, as we step forward in faith and compassion, seeking the sacred in every moment. Amen.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator Joseph E. Martin of Oxford County.

Reading of the Journal of Tuesday, April 29, 2025.

Medical Provider of the Day, Lisa Lucas, DO of Cumberland.

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Sex Offender Management and Risk Assessment Advisory Commission Regarding Tier II Offenses" (EMERGENCY)
S.P. 718 L.D. 1836

Submitted by the Sex Offender Management and Risk Assessment Advisory Commission and approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Expand Law Education and Training by Creating a Night Law School Program"

S.P. 715 L.D. 1833

Presented by Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Senators: **BAILEY** of York, **RAFFERTY** of York.

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 Improve Nonemergency MaineCare Transportation"

S.P. 717 L.D. 1835

Presented by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Senators: **MOORE** of Washington, **TIPPING** of Penobscot, Representatives: **GRIFFIN** of Levant, **MATLACK** of St. George, **MCINTYRE** of Lowell, **ROEDER** of Bangor, **SHAGOURY** of Hallowell.

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 Clarify Available Relief for the Protection of At-risk Children"

S.P. 714 L.D. 1832

Presented by Senator **BAILEY** of York.
Cosponsored by Representative **ARATA** of New Gloucester and Senator: **CARNEY** of Cumberland, Representatives: **KUHN** of Falmouth, **LEE** of Auburn, **SINCLAIR** of Bath.

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

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Allow Dental Care Providers to Opt In to Receive Claim Reimbursement Payments Made by Virtual Credit Cards"
S.P. 716 L.D. 1834

Presented by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Affecting Insurance"
S.P. 720 L.D. 1837

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

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Establish Stepparent Visitation Rights"
S.P. 725 L.D. 1842

Presented by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston and Representative: MCCABE of Lewiston.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Strengthen the So-called Maine Hire-a-Vet Program"
S.P. 722 L.D. 1839

Presented by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Representative HYMES of Waldo and Senators: FARRIN of Somerset, RAFFERTY of York, RENY of Lincoln, TIPPING of Penobscot, Representatives: CHAPMAN of Auburn, FREDETTE of Newport, ROEDER of Bangor, THORNE of Carmel.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Modify the Process of Selling Tax-acquired Properties"
S.P. 724 L.D. 1841

Presented by Senator MOORE of Washington. (BY REQUEST)
Cosponsored by Representative LEMELIN of Chelsea and Representatives: MINGO of Calais, TUELL of East Machias.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Provide Opportunities and Sustainable Revenue for Maine Farms, Agricultural Fairs, Wabanaki Tribes and Veterans' Homes"
S.P. 721 L.D. 1838

Presented by Senator FARRIN of Somerset.
Cosponsored by Representative ROLLINS of Augusta and Senators: DUSON of Cumberland, HICKMAN of Kennebec, MOORE of Washington, Representatives: FREDETTE of Newport, PARRY of Arundel.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act"
S.P. 723 L.D. 1840

Presented by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Representative BOYER of Poland and Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, FARRIN of Somerset, TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, TIPPING of Penobscot, Representatives: FREDERICKS of Sanford, OSHER of Orono, SUPICA of Bangor.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

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

ORDERS

Joint Orders

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

S.P. 719

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, May 6, 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.

Off Record Remarks

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Expressions of Legislative Sentiment recognizing:

Marina Bassett, of South Portland, a player on the Portland Beacons hockey team, who received the 2025 Becky Schaffer Award. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;
SLS 515

Sponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BECK of South Portland, DHALAC of South Portland, KESSLER of South Portland.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

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

Senator **CARNEY:** Thank you, Madam President. I rise today, colleagues, to recognize the achievements on the ice of an impressive South Portland hockey player.

Marina Bassett won the prestigious Becky Schaffer Award this winter, becoming the first South Portland High School player to do so. The award goes to the top senior girl's hockey player in our state. Marina played for the Beacons, which is the Portland, Cape Elizabeth, Deering, South Portland, Waynflete co-op team under Coach Bob Mills. Her stats say it all: 58 goals, 17 assists, and all of that in just 21 games. That's almost an average of a hat trick per game and, in fact, she scored three or more goals 13 times, including a midseason run of seven consecutive games.

Over her four-year high school hockey career, Marina notched 150 goals and 78 assists, earning her Varsity Maine honors each year. This season, she was named Varsity Maine Girls Hockey Player of the Year, yet another jewel in her crown.

Marina, congratulations on your hard work on the ice. Thank you for how well you have represented South Portland in arenas throughout our state. I know you will continue to do so over the next four years at Rivier University in New Hampshire.

Colleagues, please join me in wishing Marina the best in her future endeavors on and off the ice.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is now pleased to recognize in the rear of the Chamber, Marina Bassett and her family, Deb Williams, Kyle Bassett, and Paulette Williams, from the city of South Portland. They are the guests today of the Senator from

Cumberland, Senator Carney. Would they please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate?

Sent down for concurrence.

The South Portland High School Girls Basketball Team, which won the Class AA South Championship. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 516

Sponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BECK of South Portland, DHALAC of South Portland, KESSLER of South Portland.

The South Portland High School Girls Basketball Team, which won the Class AA State Championship. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 517

Sponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BECK of South Portland, DHALAC of South Portland, KESSLER of South Portland.

The Joint Orders were **READ**.

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

Senator **CARNEY:** Thank you, Madam President, Colleagues of the Senate. I will rise again this morning to celebrate the South Portland High School Girls Basketball Team which won the girls AA State title this season.

This March, the Red Riots clinched the championship game after a hard-fought season, which saw them win the Class A South regional title as well. Under the mentorship of their new head coach, Brianne Maloney, a South Portland alumnus, the Red Riots won their first state title since 1986. When speaking about their win, senior Emma Travis wisely said communication is the key in any good team, with anything, offense or defense. We were helping each other out and we just executed the way we needed to. This spirit of teamwork helped the Red Riots bring home the gold ball, and we couldn't be more proud. I know that this group of young women will continue to bring that spirit on and off the court and make our community proud.

I just have to add a note that when we were posing for a picture in the Chamber, they were the most organized group of people I have ever seen. So, congratulations both to the South Portland Girls Basketball Team and also -- yes, on both of your victories. Congratulations.

The Joint Orders were **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is now pleased to recognize in the rear of the Chamber, the South Portland High School Girls Basketball Team and their coaches, Brianne Maloney, Kelsey Flaherty, and John Maloney from the city of South Portland. They are the guests today of the Senator from Cumberland, Senator

Carney. Would they please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate?

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Unfinished Business

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

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (3/4/25) matter:

JOINT ORDER - Expression of Legislative Sentiment
Recognizing Joe Dube, of Lewiston
SLS 190

Tabled - March 4, 2025 by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin

Pending - **PASSAGE**

The Joint Order was **READ**.

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

Senator **ROTUNDO:** Thank you, Madam President and my Fellow Colleagues of the Senate. I rise today to recognize an outstanding member of the Lewiston High School Football Team, Joseph Dube, the recipient of the prestigious 2025 Gaziano Memorial Defensive Lineman Award.

Joe was chosen for the award for his outstanding performance on the field as a defensive end. He embodied everything a defensive player should be. He was disciplined, aware, and athletic. He had a starting position all four years of his high school career and was a captain of the team during his junior and senior years. He was recognized as an All-Conference player in each of his four seasons and is the 2024 Class A North Defense Lineman of the Year with 87 tackles, six pass breakups, six sacks, two forced fumbles, three fumble recoveries, a blocked punt, and blocked field goal.

Joe also excelled in his academics, earning honor roll every quarter, membership in the National Honor Society, and ranking in the top 5% of his class. While I'm very sorry that Joe cannot be with us today, I'm very happy to be able to recognize his achievements. I know he will continue to find great success in whatever he chooses to pursue in life and will continue to make his home community of Lewiston very proud. Thank you.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (6/13/13) matter:

JOINT ORDER - Expression of Legislative Sentiment
Recognizing the Lewiston High School Cheering Team
SLS 106

Tabled - February 25, 2025 by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin

Pending - **PASSAGE**

The Joint Order was **READ**.

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

Senator **ROTUNDO:** Thank you, Madam President. Madam President and my Fellow Colleagues of the Senate, I rise again today to recognize the members of the Lewiston High School Cheerleader Team, the Class A cheering champions for the second year in a row.

Earlier this year, this extraordinary group of young athletes not only defended their title from the previous year, but continued Lewiston's long tradition of bringing home state titles. This program repeatedly turns out teams that are objectively some of the very best in the state, going toe to toe with some of the hardest competition Maine high schools have to offer. This win marks the third Class A championship win for the Blue Devils in the last four years, and their ninth in the last 15 years. This success is in no part -- no small part due to their coaches, Matt Hanley and Torey Weldon. Coach Hanley has been leading the team since 2019/2020 season and coaching the sport at various levels for the last 20 years.

Although the three seniors on the team will be missed next year, the amount of talent the team is retaining - ten of their 13 members - means they will be right back in the running to continue their dynasty with another state title. I'm confident this team will continue to be a formidable force for any school in the state trying to take the title from them and will continue to make the city of Lewiston proud. I am so pleased the team could be here today for this recognition. I look forward to seeing them back here next year to celebrate their next state championship. Thank you.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the Chamber, the Lewiston High School Cheering Team, with Phoenix Beaulieu, Aubrey Wood, Isabella Caldeira, Ashley Cloutier, Adreanah Duval, Marina Anderson, Addie Martin, and their coach, Matt Hanley. Apologies if I got anyone's name wrong. They are from the city of Lewiston and they are the guests today of the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Rotundo. Would they please rise and accept the not as good as their cheering of the Maine Senate?

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

S.O. 21

ORDERED, that a message be sent to the House of Representatives proposing a Convention of the two branches of the Legislature be held at 11:00 this morning in the Hall of the House for the purpose of extending to Brigadier General Diane L. Dunn, Adjutant General of the Maine National Guard and Commissioner of the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, an invitation to attend the Convention and make such communication as she may be pleased to make.

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 she had delivered the message with which she was charged.

Off Record Remarks

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

Senator **LAWRENCE:** Thank you, Madam President. May I have permission to speak to the Senate off the record -- or, actually, on the record?

THE PRESIDENT: So moved.

Senator **LAWRENCE:** So I don't need permission to speak on the record, so -- many of you have heard me mention that one of my school districts has a New Hampshire town in its district, so I brought living proof today with James as my shadow senator. He is from Rollinsford, New Hampshire, right across the border from South Berwick. He's a senior at Marshwood, but not only is he a senior but he is attending Harvard University next year in a pre-med program. So, the New Hampshire students are being taught very well in Maine. And he did attend Dirigo Boys State, too, this year, as a New Hampshire resident, he was able to attend Maine's Dirigo Boys State program.

Thank you, Madam President.

Off Record Remarks

Joint Resolution

The following Joint Resolution:

H.P. 1206

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 2025 AS SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, sexual assault affects all communities in Maine and people of all races, genders and economic backgrounds, and over 14,000 people in Maine are sexually assaulted each year and one in 5 Maine citizens will experience sexual violence in their lifetimes; and

WHEREAS, the effects of sexual violence have wide-ranging public health ramifications and societal costs, and survivors and their loved ones can experience consequences including mental health crises, substance use disorder, homelessness, lost wages and health care costs, among others; and

WHEREAS, sexual violence affects certain groups more often, and that disproportionate impact is related to historical experiences of marginalization and oppression, providing evidence that sexual assault is a tool of control and power; and

WHEREAS, systems of support for survivors of sexual assault often have inadequate resources, do not provide adequate options for justice and healing and retraumatize survivors; and

WHEREAS, widespread stigma and misconceptions around sexual violence result in low rates of reporting of crimes, increased isolation and shame for victims and the continuation of cultures of violence; and

WHEREAS, raising awareness in our communities about the causes of and solutions to sexual violence can lead to long-term positive cultural and systemic changes, and building a future free from sexual violence requires us to commit to making those changes; 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 April 2025 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month and to express our support for and encouragement of all those affected by sexual violence; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault as a token of our respect and support.

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

READ and ADOPTED, in concurrence.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication:

H.P. 1215

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

April 25, 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 25, 2025, 7 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 25, 2025, as follows:

Environment and Natural Resources

Bill "An Act to Enact the Maine Climate Superfund Act" (H.P. 1209) (L.D. 1808) (Sponsored by Representative LOOKNER of Portland) (Cosponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock and Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, ANKELES of Brunswick, DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, DEBRITO of Waterville, DHALAC of South Portland, GEIGER of Rockland, GOLEK of Harpswell, SKOLD of Portland)

Housing and Economic Development

Bill "An Act to Create a Residential Rental Unit Registry" (H.P. 1207) (L.D. 1806) (Sponsored by Representative RANA of Bangor) (Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, GERE of Kennebunkport, GOLEK of Harpswell, MALON of Biddeford, ROEDER of Bangor, Senator: President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland)

Bill "An Act to Provide Low-interest Loans for Accredited College Graduates Entering Trade Professions and an Employer Tax Credit for Trade Tool Reimbursements" (H.P. 1213) (L.D. 1812) (Sponsored by Representative WHITE of Ellsworth) (Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and Representatives: BABIN of Fort Fairfield, DAIGLE of Fort Kent, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, GUERRETTE of Caribou, MCINTYRE of Lowell, THORNE of Carmel, WHITE of Guilford)

Judiciary

Bill "An Act to Formalize a Process for Reviewing the Conduct of Judges and Justices" (H.P. 1211) (L.D. 1810) (Sponsored by

Representative LEE of Auburn) (Cosponsored by Senator BAILEY of York and Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, BOYER of Poland, CARUSO of Caratunk, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, HASENFUS of Readfield, SATO of Gorham, SINCLAIR of Bath, Senator: BENNETT of Oxford)

Bill "An Act Regarding the Submission of Documents for Protection from Abuse and Protection from Harassment Cases" (H.P. 1212) (L.D. 1811) (Sponsored by Representative STOVER of Boothbay)

Taxation

Bill "An Act to Expand the Sales Tax to Luxury Services and Adjust the Sales Tax on Rental Cars" (H.P. 1208) (L.D. 1807) (Sponsored by Representative SKOLD of Portland) (Cosponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland and Representatives: GOLEK of Harpswell, LOOKNER of Portland, MATLACK of St. George, ROEDER of Bangor)

Transportation

Bill "An Act to Further Stabilize Highway Fund Revenue" (H.P. 1210) (L.D. 1809) (Sponsored by Representative ANKELES of Brunswick) (Cosponsored by Representatives: EATON of Deer Isle, MONTELL of Gardiner, RAY of Lincolnville)

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. 321

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

April 29, 2025

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

Re: Nominations to the State Board of Education

Dear President Daughtry:

It is my pleasure to nominate the following individuals to the State Board of Education:

- Abbey Hamilton of Yarmouth for appointment as a student member.
- Victoria Cohen of Farmington for appointment.

Pursuant to Title 20-A, M.R.S.A. §401, these nominations are contingent on confirmation by the Maine Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely, L.D. 1338

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 291

**STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, VETERANS AND
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

April 22, 2025

The Honorable Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0003

Dear Ms. Daughtry:

As the Commissioner of the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management and the Adjutant General of the Maine National Guard, I accept your invitation to address the Joint Session of the 132nd Maine Legislature on Wednesday, April 30 at 11:00 a.m.

Sincerely,

S/Brigadier General Diane L. Dunn
Commissioner and Adjutant General

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 320

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

April 28, 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. Sachs of Freeport, to report the following bill Leave to Withdraw:

Resolve, Directing State Agencies and Semiautonomous State Agencies to Provide a List of Surplus Properties and Properties Eligible for Redevelopment to the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority

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. 317

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

April 28, 2025

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

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

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

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| L.D. 891 | An Act to Exclude Poverty as a Factor When Determining Instances of Willful Neglect or Abuse of a Child |
| L.D. 1237 | An Act to Support Adult Family Care Homes and Residential Care Facilities That Are Small or Located in Rural and Isolated Areas of the State |
| L.D. 1421 | An Act to Clarify Parental Notifications Regarding Child Care Facility Investigations |

L.D. 1487 An Act to Support Community Violence
Prevention and Intervention Programs

S/Sen. Henry Ingwersen
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Michele Meyer
House Chair

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.**

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 322

The Following Communication:

S.C. 318

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

April 28, 2025

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

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

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

L.D. 453 An Act to Require the State to Pay 90 Percent
of All General Assistance Expenses of
Municipalities and Indian Tribes

L.D. 657 An Act to Modify the Law Governing Municipal
General Assistance by Designating Broadband
Internet Access Service and Wireless Access
Point Technology as Basic Necessities

L.D. 1046 An Act to Establish a 180-day State Residency
Requirement for Receiving Municipal General
Assistance

L.D. 1178 An Act to Expedite the Process Involving
Municipalities That Illegally Move a Person to
Avoid Responsibility for General Assistance
Support

L.D. 1489 Resolve, to Provide Stability to Long-term Care
Facility Funding (EMERGENCY)

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

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

April 28, 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. 824 An Act Regarding Pet Fees in Rental Housing

L.D. 1486 An Act to Provide Financing Assistance for
Down Payments for First-generation
Homeowners

L.D. 1569 Resolve, to Direct the Department of Economic
and Community Development to Form a
Stakeholder Group to Analyze and Improve
Home Repair Funding Programs in the State
(EMERGENCY)

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. 323

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

April 25, 2025

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

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

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

L.D. 1352 An Act to Amend Provisions Regarding the Scallop Fishery License Apprentice Program, Licensing and Limited Access Areas

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Denise A. Tepler
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Allison Hepler
House Chair

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 324

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

April 25, 2025

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

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

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

L.D. 1508 An Act to Clarify the Law Regarding Tinted Windows in Motor Vehicles

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.**

The Following Communication:

S.C. 319

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

April 28, 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 Veterans and Legal Affairs has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 1289 An Act to Amend the Election Recount Process

L.D. 1373 An Act to Repeal the National Popular Vote Compact

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

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Craig V. Hickman
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Laura Supica
House Chair

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

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 11:00 in the morning for the purpose of extending to Brigadier General Diane L. Dunn, Adjutant General of the Maine National Guard and Commissioner of the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, an invitation to attend the Convention and make such communication as she may be pleased to make.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

ORDERS

Joint Orders

Expressions of Legislative Sentiment recognizing:

The Caribou High School Girls Varsity Basketball Team, which won the Class B State Championship. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 509

Sponsored by Senator BERNARD of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Representative: GUERRETTE of Caribou.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

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

Senator **BERNARD:** Thank you so much, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Today, I rise to recognize the Caribou Girls Varsity Basketball Team, which won the Class B Girls State Championship.

These young women had an inspirational season, winning 20 games and making big plays when it counted. The endurance that this team built throughout the season was on full display in the state championship game. This game was an instant classic. With two minutes to go in regulation - get ready for a play by play - with two minutes to go in regulation, the Lady Vikings were up 40-33. It seemed that Caribou was going to cruise onto victory, but Biddeford rallied back to tie the game at the end of regulation. Overtime was intense. Being in the stands with thousands of other Caribou fans who made the 300-mile one-way trip, the energy was electric. All I could do was grip my husband's arm and went from screaming they're going to win to oh, no, they might lose. With 1.5 seconds left in overtime, Caribou star Madelynn Deprey went to the free-throw line. Madelynn, who can't miss even when she tries - and I believe she did - buried those two free throws to pull Caribou within one, and it was Biddeford's ball out, with just over a second remaining. Now, Senator Ingwersen, that's where you might want to plug your

ears. It was on the inbound pass that freshman Quinn Corrigan carved her name into history. From out of nowhere, Corrigan ran in front of the Biddeford player, stole the ball, and lobbed a shot into the basket - but foul. With .4 seconds left on the clock, Caribou was at the line with a chance to win that game. After making the first shot, Corrigan threw a beautiful arcing shot and swish, won the game with the second free throw.

This team embodies determination and resilience. During the game, they showed the importance of playing all the way through till the end and never giving up. To win a state championship, a team needs to be cohesive and supportive of each other. This was evident throughout the game as I watched the Lady Vikings give each other many words of encouragement. They kept with it and battled their way to victory. Caribou is so proud of this team and we will certainly be talking about this game for years to come.

Congratulations and go Vikings.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the Chamber, our guests from the Caribou High School Girls Varsity Basketball Team. They are from the town of Caribou and they are the guests today of the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Bernard. I will also add a note from the Chair that I got to go back and rewatch that game and it was one heck of a game. Would they please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate?

The Caribou High School Boys Varsity Basketball Team, which won the Class B State Championship. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 510

Sponsored by Senator BERNARD of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Representative: GUERRETTE of Caribou.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

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

Senator **BERNARD:** I have so much to say today. Thank you very much, Madam President. Madam President, I rise to recognize the Caribou Boys Varsity Basketball Team, who won the Class B State Championships in March.

Imagine that Caribou gets to have two gold balls in one year - just amazing. Yes, awesome, I heard that.

These young men battled hard to break away with a 65-44 win over York. At the beginning of the game, it looked like we were in for another nailbiter, each team trading the lead back and forth. Despite trailing in the first quarter 14-12, Caribou hit a couple of threes in the beginning of the second quarter to turn it around, ending the half at 26-22, and they never looked back. At one point, they opened their lead to 25 points. They demonstrated superb passing skills, including one play where almost every player touched the ball before Robbins found Sargent in the paint to score. To top it off, Max Morrow had a three-point buzzer beater to end the game to make the final a 65-

44 win.

It was easy to be impressed with the teamwork this group displayed. Every player contributed to their success. The Vikings came ready for a championship, and you could certainly tell that by how they carried themselves on the court. During this game, they dominated against a team that was undefeated until that point.

Congratulations, gentlemen, and go Vikings.

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. I rise today as a proud Presque Isle Wildcat but am going to congratulate the Caribou Vikings here.

I just have to say what a true privilege it was to get to watch both of your teams play this year and over the years. You guys have really made, you know, Aroostook County has been known for basketball for a while, but you guys just solidified that without question. Both boys and girls winning a state championship in the same year is just -- I actually don't know when that was last done and is really just such a remarkable feat that you've accomplished here. You know, when the games were happening -- it's true what they say, right, the last one leaving the County, shut the lights out? But seriously, you had the entire County on your back and you played ice cold, particularly for the girls, the last, you know, couple seconds of the game - holy cow! I mean, talk about memories being made there, I think, you know, that's one of those moments where you'll be able to think back and say where were you or do you remember, you know, how the Caribou girls championship game ended, right? And people will never forget that. I mean, you've solidified your place in history in a place where the culture is just dominated by basketball, but you guys have elevated that even more, so.

And the other thing I've got to say too is just your reputation as people is second to none. I mean, not only were you guys tremendous athletes - are tremendous athletes, but you're solid folks, and you're making the County proud in everything that you do every day and I know Iffy's looking down at you, too, with a smile on his face. I can't imagine, you know, the emotions of that, you know, loss, and how you guys dealt with that in the middle of all of it, too, but just, you know, you made all of us proud, made him proud. Keep doing what you're doing. Keep working hard. It's going to continue to pay off for you throughout life. I'm proud to know you, and even as a Wildcat, I'm going to say go Vikings here today. So, don't hold that one against me, Presque Isle, but thank you and congratulations and welcome to the State House.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the Chamber, the Caribou High School Boys Varsity Basketball Team from the town of Caribou. They are the guests today of the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Bernard. Would they please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate?

Madelynn Deprey, of Caribou, who received the Owen Osborne Most Valuable Player Award in Class B Girls Basketball. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 511

Sponsored by Senator BERNARD of Aroostook.

Cosponsored by Representative: GUERRETTE of Caribou.

Madelynn Deprey, of Caribou, who was named the Max Preps Maine Basketball Player of the Year. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 512

Sponsored by Senator BERNARD of Aroostook.

Cosponsored by Representative: GUERRETTE of Caribou.

Madelynn Deprey, of Caribou, who was named Miss Maine Basketball at the Maine McDonalds All-Star Banquet. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 513

Sponsored by Senator BERNARD of Aroostook.

Cosponsored by Representative: GUERRETTE of Caribou.

The Joint Orders were **READ**.

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

Senator **BERNARD:** Thank you, Madam President. Had enough? It is Caribou Day today, thanks to these young people, and I thank them.

Today, I rise to recognize Madelynn Deprey for being one of the most decorated high school basketball players this season. Madelynn was named Miss Maine Basketball, the Owen Osborne Most Valuable Player, and the Max Preps Maine Basketball Player of the Year. Madelynn won many awards for her performance this season, as she led the Caribou High School girls' varsity basketball team to their championship. She's a motivated young woman and an inspiration for us all. Her basketball game is not something she merely works on during the season, but she spends time on her own outside of the season and competition to improve her game. In an interview, Madelynn noted that she worked to improve her defense throughout the summer and throughout the season, she also improved her conditioning by running for 32 minutes on a treadmill every non-game day.

The work ethic and dedication to becoming a better player made her Miss Maine Basketball and the MVP that she is today. She led the team, averaging 22 points per game, and she had 29 points and 16 rebounds on the final game against Biddeford.

In addition to her achievements, Madelynn is a true leader for her team. During the finals game, I watched her help rally players and give words of encouragement throughout the game. Madelynn on the court makes it so that Caribou will remember her for years and years to come. The skills she showcased this season and her determination to continually improve will serve her well throughout her life. Good luck, Madelynn, in all your endeavors, and thank you for helping to make this truly Caribou Day in the Maine Senate.

The Joint Orders were **PASSED**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the Chamber, Madelynn Deprey of Caribou. Would she please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate?

Sent down for concurrence.

Tristen Robbins, of Caribou, who was named the Class B Most Valuable Player in boys varsity basketball. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 514

Sponsored by Senator BERNARD of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Representative: GUERRETTE of Caribou.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

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

Senator **BERNARD:** Getting old yet? Okay. Thank you, Madam President. I rise to recognize Tristen Robbins, who was named the Class B MVP for the 2024/25 basketball season.

Tristen is a leader on and off the court. During the season, he led his team to the state championships, scoring 50 points over the first three games of the tournament before logging another ten in the championship game. During the regional finals, Robbins logged seven points in a row, playing a pivotal role in Caribou's comeback against Orono. During the season, Robbins also shattered school records. As of December, he had already logged six dunks.

Robbins is a team player. He passes the ball as much as he scores. During the state championship game, he had a couple of great passes, one where he sent a quick pass from the three-point line to a teammate who laid the ball into the basket. The skills that he developed and ability to keep his head up and make big plays when needed will be skills he can use throughout his life. Congrats on being named the MVP and good luck in your future.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the Chamber, Tristen Robbins of Caribou, who was named Class B Most Valuable Player. Would he please rise and accept the greetings of the Senate?

Sent down for concurrence.

Off Record Remarks

At this point the Senate retired to the Hall of the House where a Joint Convention was formed.

Following the Joint Convention the Senate was called to order in the Senate Chamber by the President.

Joint Resolutions

On motion by Senator **MOORE** of Washington (Cosponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor), the following Joint Resolution:

S.P. 713

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING
MAY 1, 2025 AS PUREBRED DOG DAY**

WHEREAS, purebred dogs are living legacies of the cultures that created them, and historically these dogs worked alongside their people and provided them companionship; and

WHEREAS, the service of these breeds continues today as they work alongside humans while serving as guide dogs, service dogs, conservation dogs, livestock guardians, search and rescue dogs, earthdogs, police dogs and canine soldiers serving alongside our military men and women; and

WHEREAS, purebred dogs also serve as avalanche dogs, trackers, trailers, herders, controllers of vermin, water rescuers, carting and sled dogs, retrievers, protectors, hunters and bird dogs; and

WHEREAS, purebred dogs have been of enormous help to medical science, serving as models for many heritable human diseases, playing a role in humanity's understanding of the human and canine genomes and benefiting pharmaceutical research and development; and

WHEREAS, purebred dogs are guardians of family, home and hearth, and always they are companions near and dear to humans; and

WHEREAS, each purebred breed is indelibly etched in the history of the culture that created it just as surely as are that culture's music, art and language; and

WHEREAS, all dogs should be valued, whatever their ancestry, but the purpose-bred dog and the predictability of its breed should be cherished and preserved; and

WHEREAS, there is currently no day set aside to celebrate and acknowledge the contributions of the purebred dog; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize May 1, 2025 as Purebred Dog Day in celebration of purebred dogs and the many service and companion benefits they provide in Maine.

READ and ADOPTED.

Sent down for concurrence.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Ought to Pass

The Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act to Make May Progressive Supranuclear Palsy Month" H.P. 221 L.D. 321

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 **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act to Change in Statute the Areas Represented by the Members of the Board of Trustees of the Cross Insurance Arena from Sets of Municipalities to the County Commissioner Districts of Cumberland County" H.P. 758 L.D. 1153

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 **MARINE RESOURCES** on Bill "An Act to Provide for a Vessel Breakdown License Exception for Commercial Halibut Fishing License Holders" (EMERGENCY) H.P. 318 L.D. 489

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-74)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-74)**.

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

Bill READ ONCE.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-74) **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 **TRANSPORTATION** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Transportation Laws" H.P. 87 L.D. 154

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-75)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-75)**.

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

Bill READ ONCE.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-75) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

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

Off Record Remarks

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

On motion by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford, the following Joint Order:

S.P. 726

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Joint Rules be amended by amending Joint Rule 308, subsection 1 to read:

1. Suggested Reference by Secretary and Clerk. At the direction of the presiding officers, ~~when the Legislature is in session~~, the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House shall jointly suggest an appropriate committee reference for every bill, resolve and petition offered. In determining the appropriate committee reference, the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House shall consider the request of the sponsor of the bill, resolve or petition, if that request has been made in writing to the Secretary or Clerk prior to the determination. The suggested reference must be placed upon the Advance Journal and Calendar of each chamber. If they the Secretary of the Senate and the Clerk of the House are unable to agree, the question of

reference must be referred to a conference of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House. Upon their agreement, the suggested reference must be placed upon the Advance Journal and Calendar of each chamber. If they are unable to agree, the question of suggested reference must be referred to the Legislative Council for resolution. Upon the decision of the Legislative Council, the suggested reference must be placed upon the Advance Journal and Calendar of each chamber.

Each suggested reference appearing upon the Advance Journal and Calendar of each chamber must contain a recommendation for the printing of the document being referred and may contain a recommendation on the number of copies of that document to be printed.

Any member may move for reconsideration of a committee reference on the floor. Notwithstanding Joint Rule 103, a majority vote is necessary to overturn the original committee of reference.

; and be it further

ORDERED, the House concurring, that the Joint Rules be amended by amending Joint Rule 308, subsection 2 to read:

2. Reference to Committee by Secretary and Clerk in Cases of Disagreement with Suggested Reference. ~~When the Legislature is not in session or is in recess, the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House may refer the bills to the appropriate joint standing committee for public hearing and order printing, subject to the approval of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House.~~

Upon reference of a bill to a committee by the Secretary of the Senate and Clerk of the House pursuant to this subsection 1, if a majority of the chairs and leads of the committee agree, in advance of scheduling the bill for public hearing, that the reference to that committee is inappropriate, a communication must be sent to the Senate and House with a recommendation of "change of committee reference." Upon reference of a bill to a committee pursuant to this subsection, if a majority of the chairs and leads of the committee agree, in advance of scheduling the bill for public hearing, that the reference to that committee is appropriate, that bill remains in that committee. If there is not a majority agreement among the chairs and leads regarding reference of that bill, the bill is designated for discussion by the committee for a possible committee report of "refer to another committee" under Joint Rule 310, subsection 2. Any bill that undergoes a reference determination pursuant to this subsection that is retained by the committee must be scheduled for a public hearing.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland moved to **REFER** to the Committee on **JOINT RULES**.

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

Senator **CARNEY:** Thank you, Madam President. I move that we refer this matter and all of its accompanying papers, to the extent there are any, to the Joint Standing Committee on Joint Rules. I believe that we are pretty late in the session to be changing our referencing rules and it would be a good idea to take this up in the interim. Thank you.

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

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Madam President, Fellow Members. It was only reluctantly that I put this Joint Order before you, and I felt it is an emergency, and that's why I will vote to oppose sending this to committee.

We decided on another matter not to send it to committee because we felt that it needed to take effect during this session. This one is absolutely critical. We're here at just 12 minutes before a lot of committees are meeting, we've spent a lot of time, as we do every single day, referencing bills, referring bills to committee, and then we wait for the Other Chamber to bring us the bills back on supplements so that we can then refer those bills. While we already have a competent authority in the Clerk of the House and the Secretary of the Senate who are referring bills part of the time when we're not in session. The only time that bills don't get referred by those officers is when we're in session. And it makes absolutely no sense, number one, to have a hybrid system of referencing bills, and secondly, to take up valuable time in order to stand up and refer bills, it's a complete waste of time. In fact, my committee, Housing and Economic Development, meets on session days and repeatedly, week after week, we have been late getting going on public hearings and work sessions because the Chambers have taken too long at our business because we choose among our business to mindlessly refer bills.

Now, I actually think if we want pomp and circumstance in this Chamber, recognizing sports teams, recognizing people of accomplishment that come to this Body, is a heck of a lot better use of our time than waiting around for supplements to come from the House so we can refer bills.

So, if we want to send this to the Rules Committee, I appreciate the fact that it might get considered at some point whenever the Rules Committee meets, but I think this is an urgent matter right now, this is the day that we should pass this so that we stop wasting our precious time referencing bills and delaying the start of our committee work. So, I encourage you to vote against referring this bill, this measure, so that we can just outright pass it and send it down to the Other Body.

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

Senator **CARNEY:** Thank you, Madam President. I'll speak very briefly in the interests of time.

My concern with this isn't about the process, however, it does make a substantive change in the basis for referencing. Right now, we reference bills based on the jurisdiction of the committee and this would change that standard to include the request of the sponsor, and so that untethers it from the jurisdictional descriptions of committees.

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

Senator **BENNETT**: Thank you, Madam President. If the Good Senator from Cumberland would like to amend this measure, I would be happy to have this tabled for a day and then we can come back and make that change. But we need to do this now. We cannot wait any longer. I request the yeas and nays.

On motion by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford, 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 (#132)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BALDACCI, BLACK

18 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 15 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused the motion by Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland to **REFER** to the Committee on **JOINT RULES, PREVAILED**.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** on Bill "An Act to Prohibit Geoengineering"

H.P. 328 L.D. 499

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 as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-73)**.

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**.

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

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **LABOR** on Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 201: Employer Reporting and Payments, a Major Substantive Rule of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 53 L.D. 89

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-71)**.

Signed:

Senator:
TIPPING of Penobscot

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

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-72)**.

Signed:

Senator:
BRADSTREET of Kennebec

Representatives:
DRINKWATER of Milford
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-71)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-71)**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-71)** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-71) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

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 **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act to Ensure That the Will of the Voters Is Reflected in Interim Appointments of United States Senators"

H.P. 491 L.D. 749

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

Signed:

Senators:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox
MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

ADAMS of Lebanon
GREENWOOD of Wales
MATLACK of St. George
POMERLEAU of Standish
TUELL of East Machias
UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

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

Signed:

Senator:

BALDACCI of Penobscot

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook
COPELAND of Saco
FARRIN of Jefferson
ROLLINS of Augusta

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

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

Senate

Ought to Pass

Senator CARNEY for the Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act to Provide Limited Immunity to Maine Human Rights Commission Mediators"

S.P. 77 L.D. 141

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

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Senator CARNEY for the Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act to Clarify the Maximum Value That a Small Estate May Be Under the Maine Uniform Probate Code to Permit Collection of Personal Property by Affidavit"

S.P. 629 L.D. 1545

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

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Ought to Pass As Amended

Senator BEEBE-CENTER for the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** on Resolve, to Rename the Twin Rivers Fire Academy in Fairfield the Duane Bickford Fire Academy

S.P. 45 L.D. 28

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-31)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-31) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Senator CARNEY for the Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act Regarding Information That May Be Shared by Law Enforcement Entities with a School Superintendent or a Principal" S.P. 167 L.D. 386

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-33)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-33) **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 **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** on Bill "An Act to Fund Rural Patrol Services in Washington County" (EMERGENCY)

S.P. 194 L.D. 461

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-32)**.

Signed:

Senators:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox
CYRWAY of Kennebec

Representatives:

ABDI of Lewiston
ARDELL of Monticello
BUNKER of Farmington
LAJOIE of Lewiston
MCINTYRE of Lowell
NUTTING of Oakland
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

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

Signed:

Representatives:

HASENFUS of Readfield
LOOKNER of Portland
MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **BEEBE-CENTER** of Knox, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **ACCEPTED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-32) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Sent down forthwith for concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act to Expand Landowner Liability Protections to Include Sport Shooting Ranges"

S.P. 467 L.D. 1137

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

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland, the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **ACCEPTED**

Sent down for concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **LABOR** on Bill "An Act to Enact the Agricultural Employees Concerted Activity Protection Act"
S.P. 272 L.D. 588

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

Signed:

Senators:

TIPPING of Penobscot
RAFFERTY of York

Representatives:

ROEDER of Bangor
ARCHER of Saco
BECK of South Portland
GEIGER of Rockland
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
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

Reports **READ**.

Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot 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 PRESIDENT: The Chair now recognizes the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Bradstreet.

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

This is a recurrent bill and, you know, I don't doubt the sincerity of the people who are supporting it, however, I think it's quite unnecessary. There is already a Department of Labor Monitor Advocate who can handle any complaints that are coming forth from the agricultural workers. This is also putting another layer, another burden on the agricultural industry. They're under constant attack, it seems, from Augusta, requiring things that there's really no need for. The workers who work at these

agricultural entities are oftentimes like part of the family. They're provided transportation, housing, good wages, there are a number of things that -- benefits that they receive. There's -- this is just a -- I think it speaks to an anachronism, the situations that once called for a measure like this no longer exist.

So, I hope you'll join me in recognizing that and voting against the motion.

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 have to speak up. I grew up on a farm, as well as Senator Bradstreet, and we understand farming. When we were speaking from our hearts that the farming industry is really hurting. We've lost 35% of the dairy farms just in the last two years, where we're looking at crop farms are hurting, and this just puts another layer of difficulty for farmers. They have hardships and we're not doing much for the farmers as it is and now we're going to put something else to put a little bind on them.

You know, when we talk about even piecework, you know, a lot of times it might be just as simple as strawberry pickers, you know, they get so much -- the kids that get a chance to go out and do work for a few hours and they get so much for their strawberries of what they pick and it gives them an incentive to work a little harder and it's all good, it's competition, they like to do that, and the kids love it. I just think that -- and blueberries the same way, all -- you know, here at -- one of our biggest crops is blueberries and potatoes. We're looking at, you know, a lot of farms depend on just a certain time of year to get those crops in and now we're going to just put a little bind on them.

So, I really appreciate of not going through this motion and have Ought Not to Pass, and I'm sure the farmers would, too. Thank you.

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

Senator **TIPPING:** Thank you, Madam President. To clarify, this bill would not harm farmers in any way, especially those who treat employees like family. It's not unionization that we would be allowing or the right to strike, even. It is simply in this bill the basic idea that workers can speak with each other about their wages and working conditions without being fired or facing other retaliation. It's a basic protection and we have heard in our committee specific examples where workers were fired for simply talking with each other and they had no recourse against that retaliation. This is a necessary piece of law, and I'm proud to support it.

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

Senator **CYRWAY:** Thank you, Madam President. You know, I didn't -- wasn't going to get up for a second time, but I do think that if you ever worked with farmers, they all talk together, it's a family. I don't know of any farmers that don't work together because they all use each other's equipment, they use each other's land, they constantly are trying to get ideas and I don't know very -- I've never heard of too many workers that complain, either.

So, I just think that this is just another added problem that don't need off of farmers.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator **TALBOT ROSS:** Thank you, Madam President. I know that being part of a family means that you should be able to talk freely, express your opinions freely, and trust that your family members will honor what you say. This is not about treating people as family members. Which, by the way, I don't understand if that is the case then why not pass this bill and make sure that those family members have the rights under the law.

I will remind this Body that the equal protection clause of the United States Constitution provides that no State shall deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protections of the laws. Similarly, Article I, Section 6-A of the Maine Constitution states no person shall be denied the equal protection of the law. I ask that you keep these constitutional principles in mind as you take your vote.

As this Chamber knows, historically, agricultural workers, farm workers, have been expressly excluded from our basic labor laws that protect most workers. They have been denied equal protection under both federal and state law. Currently, in 2025, Maine farm workers are still not considered employees under fundamental state laws. You know, unlike almost every working person in the state of Maine and throughout the United States, farm workers can still be fired and that's what this bill aims to address. They can still be fired for simply talking about their working and living conditions, so that if they are family members, what is the harm? What would be the harm in talking about your working conditions if you are family?

You know, I want to acknowledge that most farmers who employ migrant seasonal and year-round farm workers treat them with great dignity and respect and therefore I will just reiterate that this bill is not about farmers and it's not about the struggles that they're going through right now. I acknowledge that, we acknowledge that, the state of Maine knows that we have to invest more in our farms. I have a farm. I know what it's like. This is not about farms going under, it has nothing to do with it at all, this is about respecting the right to be able to talk about your working conditions with another colleague. I hope that we keep the Constitution in front of us as we take this vote. Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator **BICKFORD:** Thank you, Madam President. I didn't plan on speaking on this, but hearing some of the testimony, I managed businesses for 40 years. My employees did not all make the same amount of money. One thing that was confidential with my employees was their rate of pay. This should be the same in the agricultural world also. If I have an overperforming employee that I want to pay a lot more than my other employees, I should be able to do that, and that should be able to be confidential. There's a reason that that should be allowed. Because you want the highest, most capable employees doing the highest job outcomes and that's -- that's how you manage a good, productive business. You don't pay everybody exactly the same. If you want to do that, go work in a union shop.

You can be an overachiever and you make the same money as somebody that's an underachiever, and that's -- that's too bad. But that has no place in agriculture or in business. Thank you.

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

Senator **TIMBERLAKE:** I promised myself I was going to keep my mouth shut, until some people said some things that I probably don't agree with. Good afternoon, Madam Speaker, and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. This bill has nothing to do with family or --

THE PRESIDENT: The Member will defer. The Chair would inquire if the Member meant Madam President. I'm teasing you, you said Speaker.

Senator **TIMBERLAKE:** Madam President, I apologize. I just was trying to get some numbers to be -- make sure what I said was right, and I didn't get them because I'm not as quick as some other people are on computers, but. This has nothing to do with family, this is about farms that employ a lot of employees during the season and there's different employees make different amounts of money. All across the country, the majority, I'm going to phrase it that way, I think it's like 40 states, but I'm not positive of that, do not have this law. And it's because you can't afford during harvest to have a whole bunch of breakdown take place upon the farm. It's not necessary, there are ways to deal with it, it's been dealt with through the Department of Labor for years and years and years. This is not a problem that's brewing up. This is a bill in search of a problem that doesn't exist, and I just ask that you support the farming community. It was every farm organization in the state spoke against this bill that I know of except for maybe MOFGA, but all the others did, and I would just ask that you just support all the farming -- farmers within your community, and I'm just going to leave it there.

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

Senator **TIPPING:** Thank you, Madam President. First of all, wages are not confidential if the employee chooses to share them and in fact, that practice is protected by federal law. So, the practices that my colleague from Androscoggin mentioned are already protected for all other workers in the same way as this would extend to agricultural workers. Second, I just want to share two very recent incidents that I'm sure are not reflective of farms and farm workers across the state but did happen.

Two workers were recently at -- they recently asked for a 25-cent raise. Their employer verbally and physically assaulted them, fired them, and refused to pay their final check. They had far fewer opportunities for recourse because they didn't have these protections. Eight workers recently working for a wreath-making facility complained to their boss of serial sexual harassment and assault. They were fired for making that complaint and they were also, because they were living there as well, kicked out of their homes and they had no recourse because this law wasn't in place.

So, I concede, absolutely, that farmers are rowing a tough, you know, line right now. They're having difficulty in this state, and we should support them. But we should also support the farm workers that are doing incredibly important work providing

food for our families, and this is one very basic protection that we can put into place. Thank you.

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

Senator **TIMBERLAKE:** Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. The Good Senator that just spoke, I think in every one of those cases, if you go and look, the Department of Labor, if they broke the law, they're in charge of they can get fines, violations, and all of the above. And if what he says is true, happened, then they should be held accountable to the full extent of the law and fined and paid. Now, nobody is entitled to hold back wages and not pay you for what they owe. There's no law in the State of Maine that grants it. This employee's certified concerted activity doesn't give the right for that to happen, either, because that's done by the Department of Labor or the courts. You will be held responsible if you don't pay your employees, that's out there, this bill doesn't do that, this bill is, again, a bill in search of a problem that does not exist and is not necessary and just makes it more difficult for what few farmers there are left.

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

Senator **TALBOT ROSS:** Thank you, Madam President, for allowing me to speak a second time. I just wanted to remind the Chamber that we're talking about LD 588. This bill enacts the Agriculture Employees Concerted Activity Protection Act which gives agricultural -- employees of agriculture the right to engage in certain concerted activity. It has nothing to do with the wages, this is not the wage bill, this is LD 588.

I also want to just provide this Body with the definition of what a second-class citizen is. It's a person who is denied equal rights, opportunities, or respect compared to other citizens within a society or political system. This relegates -- if we do not pass this bill, this law -- into law, this relegates a certain segment of our society to second-class citizenry.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#133)

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

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, BERNARD, 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 Senator being excused the motion by Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS** Report, **PREVAILED**.

Bill READ ONCE.

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

Sent down forthwith for concurrence.

ENACTORS

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

Emergency Resolve

Resolve, to Study Barriers to Financial Assistance Programs for Farmers and Food Producers

H.P. 374 L.D. 606
(C "A" H-65)

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

Pursuant to Constitution Public Land

Resolve, Requiring the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Convey Certain Real Property in the Town of Richmond

H.P. 320 L.D. 491
(C "A" H-66)

In accordance with the provisions of Article IX, Section 23 of the Constitution, passage requires the affirmative vote of two-thirds of

the entire elected Membership of the Senate. 34 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 0 Senators having voted in the negative, and 34 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.

Off Record Remarks

Acts

An Act to Include School Counselors in the Educators for Maine Program

H.P. 63 L.D. 98
(C "A" H-59)

An Act to Protect Emergency Medical Services Persons' Right to Work in Multiple Health Care Settings

S.P. 104 L.D. 238
(C "A" S-22)

An Act Regarding Disclosure by Sellers of Residential Real Property of Notices of Shoreland Zoning Ordinance Violations

H.P. 267 L.D. 413
(C "A" H-67)

An Act to Establish Immunity for a Receiver Appointed by the Public Utilities Commission to Oversee the Operations of a Consumer-owned Water Utility

H.P. 746 L.D. 1127

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

An Act to Fund Free Health Clinics

H.P. 34 L.D. 70
(C "A" H-63)

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

An Act to Establish a Health Care Gap Year Program for Recent College Graduates

H.P. 442 L.D. 703
(C "A" H-64)

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

Resolves

Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in Bingham the Barry A. DeLong Bridge

H.P. 189 L.D. 289
(C "A" H-61)

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

Resolve, Directing the Maine Arts Commission to Study Federal and National Efforts to Protect Artists from Copyright Infringement by Artificial Intelligence Companies and Users and to Monitor Educational Use

H.P. 74 L.D. 109
(C "A" H-58)

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

Resolve, to Establish the Criminal Justice Legal Aid Clinic Pilot Project at the University of Maine School of Law

H.P. 570 L.D. 884
(C "A" H-60)

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

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (4/23/25) matter:

Bill "An Act to Allow Municipalities to Prohibit Firearms Within Their Municipal Buildings and Voting Places and at Their Municipal Public Proceedings"

H.P. 1161 L.D. 1743

Tabled - April 23, 2025 by Senator **HARRINGTON** of York

Pending - **REFERENCE**

(Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** suggested and ordered printed.)

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

Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot moved to **REFER** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and order printed, 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 (#134)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BLACK

20 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 14 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused the motion by Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot to **REFER** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**, in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (4/29/25) matter:

NOMINATION - of Kelly O'Connor of Camden for appointment to the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services

S.C. 315

Tabled - April 29, 2025 by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland

Pending – **CONSIDERATION**

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

Senator **CARNEY:** Thank you, Madam President, and I know that I stand between us and lunch as well as a full afternoon's work, so I'll speak briefly. But I am really committed to seeing this nomination through and seeing Ms. O'Connor become a member of the Commission on Public Defense Services.

I've been working on Public Defense Services for the last five years as Senator of the Judiciary Committee and I really think that this addition to the Commission would -- is exactly the direction our state needs to go. There are objections to this nominee, I think that those are based on a very narrow rather than a more holistic view of who should be on the Public Defense Services Commission and what that commission should be doing. I think as you all know, the way that we provide public defense services in the State of Maine has changed dramatically in the last five years from a commission that would refer cases to private attorneys and pay those private attorneys to a statewide system of public defense offices, there are four located in various districts in our state and there will be more of those offices coming in the future.

So, we've really kind of done a sea change in how we

provide public defense services. I also want to observe that those offices have workers other than just lawyers in them. They have contracts with social workers and others so that they can better support the work of the people who they -- better support the needs of the people, the criminal -- indigent criminal defendants who they represent. The duties of the commission have been recently amended and they're a little broader than they used to be, so now the duties of the commission include developing and maintaining a system that employs -- employ counsel and public defenders, uses appointed private attorneys, and contracts with individual attorneys or groups of attorneys. It also says the commission shall consider other programs necessary to provide high quality, effective, and efficient indigent legal services. Again, moving to -- in a more holistic direction to how we serve these individuals and provide them with their Sixth Amendment rights.

This applicant, Kelly O'Connor, she is an employee of the Maine Commission to End Domestic Violence. She was asked whether she could, as an employee -- as a person with that background serve adequately and appropriately on the commission and she said absolutely, that she said that she has learned through her years of work that there is not this binary divide between people who are defendants in criminal cases and people who are crime victims, that there is actually a significant overlap, and she thought that that perspective would be quite valuable on the commission, and I agree 110%.

In addition, the defense -- the public defense services provides other services that she's uniquely familiar with, including retaining lawyers either on the roster and hiring lawyers who will work within the public defense services to represent parents who are parties in child protective cases. That's a voice that's been absent from the commission and is sorely needed.

I would also say that just in general this nominee is really experienced and knowledgeable of the challenge that the clients of the public defense services face in their day-to-day lives and I think that she would bring that really important voice to the commission.

I want to give just a few examples of the testimony in support of this candidate because I think it's really important to know her a little bit more as a person. So, there's testimony from Julian Richter. Julian Richter is a rostered attorney with the Public Defense Services who serves as the president of the Maine Parental Rights Attorneys Association and through his advocacy - or her advocacy, I -- for their advocacy on behalf of families have come to know and work with Kelly O'Connor, this person says. Kelly -- let's see -- in my interactions with Kelly, I have always found her to be thoughtful, engaging, someone who possesses a deep understanding of the issues that Maine families face. I trust that Kelly would bring a balanced perspective to the important discussions on complex issues and would be an important voice on -- to the conversations that the commission addresses, and particularly called out her experience interacting with the justice system as being not monolithic but an important perspective.

In addition, there is someone who is a Professor of Practice at the University of Maine School of Law. So, this nominee enrolled in January in a criminal procedure adjudications case in order to develop the background information -- additional background information needed to serve in this role. He said that she is not a degree candidate but has performed extraordinarily well in the class, particularly given that she's in a class with people who are current law students, and she has no law education. He said that although she's only auditing the course,

she's engaged in all aspects and that her substantial background in criminal justice has been apparent in classroom discussions, has benefited her classmates, and also noted that she received a perfect score in the midterm exam, tying her with six other students for the top grade of the exam in a class of 47 students.

Someone named Taylor Kilgore, who is an attorney in Turner, Maine, who serves as a resource council in those protective custody cases that I mentioned a little bit earlier that the Public Defense Service Commission deals with noted that this nominee has consistently demonstrated a profound understanding of the challenges faced by survivors, families, and the legal professionals who serve them. Her expertise has been invaluable to him personally and to other, he says, quote, "and to many of my colleagues in the public defense community." And I could go on and on but as I said lunch and committee work calls. So, I would just say that this nominee is a first step is an important direction for the commission. I think the commission could be filled out even better by having the valuable contributions of others like prison rights advocates, civil rights advocates, who don't fit that narrow model of the commissioner having to be a criminal defense lawyer.

So, I would ask you to support this nominee, vote in favor of her by voting no. Thank you for your attention.

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

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#135)

YEAS: Senators: GROHOSKI, NANGLE, RENY, TALBOT ROSS, TIPPING

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BLACK

5 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 29 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senators being excused and 5 being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of **Kelly O'Connor** of Camden for appointment to the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services was **CONFIRMED**.

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

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (4/29/25) matter:

Bill "An Act to Advance Equitable Energy Policy in Maine"
H.P. 464 L.D. 725

Tabled - April 29, 2025 by Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot

Pending - motion by Senator **LAWRENCE** of York to **REFER** to the Committee on **LABOR** in concurrence

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

Subsequently, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **LABOR** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

House Papers

Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford moved the Senate **SUSPEND THE RULES** for the purpose of **REFERENCING** all Bills and accompanying papers on the supplement to the Committees of suggested reference, in concurrence with the House.

The Chair ordered a Division. 22 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 12 Senators having voted in the negative, the motion by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford moved the Senate **SUSPEND THE RULES** for the purpose of **REFERENCING** all Bills and accompanying papers on the supplement to the Committees of suggested reference, in concurrence with the House, **FAILED**.

Bill "An Act to Expand the State's Workforce by Supporting the Transition from Incarceration to Employment"
H.P. 1228 L.D. 1844

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

Senator **BEEBE-CENTER** of Knox moved to **REFER** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

At the request of Senator **HARRINGTON** of York a Division was had. 32 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 0 Senators having voted in the negative, the motion by Senator **BEEBE-CENTER** of Knox to **REFER** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

Bill "An Act to Implement Recommendations for Improved Dam Safety"

H.P. 1232 L.D. 1848

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

Senator **BEEBE-CENTER** of Knox moved to **REFER** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

At the request of Senator **HARRINGTON** of York a Division was had. 32 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 0 Senators having voted in the negative, the motion by Senator **BEEBE-CENTER** of Knox to **REFER** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

Bill "An Act to Establish a Minimum Age at Which a Juvenile May Be Adjudicated"

H.P. 1233 L.D. 1849

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

Senator **BEEBE-CENTER** of Knox moved to **REFER** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

At the request of Senator **HARRINGTON** of York a Division was had. 32 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 0 Senators having voted in the negative, the motion by Senator **BEEBE-CENTER** of Knox to **REFER** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

Bill "An Act to Improve Interagency Coordination on Renewable Energy Construction Projects"

H.P. 1234 L.D. 1850

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.

Bill "An Act to Provide Peer Respite for Individuals with Mental Health Care Needs"

H.P. 1227 L.D. 1843

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 the Board of Counseling Professionals Licensure, Board of Dental Practice, Board of Speech, Audiology and Hearing and Board of Occupational Therapy Practice to Obtain Fingerprint-based Federal Bureau of Investigation Criminal Background Checks for Initial Applicants and Licensees Seeking Compact Privileges"

H.P. 1238 L.D. 1854

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 Build Housing for Maine Families and Attract Workers to Maine Businesses by Amending the Laws Governing Municipal Land Use Decisions"

H.P. 1224 L.D. 1829

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

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

Bill "An Act to Promote Equitable Property Taxation by Reducing Valuation Based on Nearby Clean Energy Projects"

H.P. 1236 L.D. 1852

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 Amend the Law Governing Notification to Vehicle Owners and Lienholders When a Vehicle Is Towed or Left Without Permission on Residential or Business Property"
H.P. 1230 L.D. 1846

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 Support Small Adult Use Cannabis Businesses by Establishing a Micro Cannabis Facility License"
H.P. 1226 L.D. 1831

Bill "An Act to Institute Testing and Tracking of Medical Use Cannabis and Cannabis Products Similar to Adult Use Cannabis and Cannabis Products, Dedicate a Portion of the Adult Use Cannabis Sales and Excise Tax to Medical Use Cannabis Programs and Create a Study Group"
H.P. 1231 L.D. 1847

Bill "An Act to Bring Parity Among the Wabanaki Nations Regarding the Generation of Revenues from Gaming"
H.P. 1235 L.D. 1851

Bill "An Act to Impose an Excise Tax on Spirits-based Cocktails Containing No More than 12 Percent Alcohol"
H.P. 1239 L.D. 1855

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

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

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

House Papers

Bill "An Act to Establish an Educational Tax Credit Program to Help Parents Pay for Nonpublic School Tuition and Fees"
H.P. 1237 L.D. 1853

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

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

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

Resolve, to Establish a Pilot Program to Protect Firefighters from Cancer

H.P. 1225 L.D. 1830

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

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

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

Bill "An Act to Establish the Working Waterfront Advisory Council"
H.P. 1229 L.D. 1845

Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** suggested and ordered printed.

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**.

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

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Pursuant to Resolve

The Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act Directing the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services to Assist Persons Filing Post-judgment Motions to Seal Criminal History Record Information"

H.P. 1240 L.D. 1856

Reported that the same be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**, pursuant to Resolve 2023, chapter 103, section 8.

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

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

Bill and accompanying papers **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**, in concurrence.

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

Off Record Remarks

On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland, **ADJOURNED**, pursuant to the Joint Order, until Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at 10:00 in the morning.