

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

In Senate Chamber
Tuesday
May 13, 2025

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

Prayer by Pastor Jamie Bickel of South Hope Community Church.

PASTOR JAMIE BICKEL: Spring allergies excluded, it's an honor to start the day with a beautiful spring and what matters for eternity's sake. Let's pray from Psalm 15 and Philipians 2.

Almighty God, maker of heaven and earth, who may worship in your sanctuary, who may enter your presence on your holy hill? Those who lead blameless lives and do what is right, speaking the truth from sincere hearts, those who refuse to gossip or harm their neighbors or speak evil of their friends, those who despise what is evil and honor those who fear the Lord and keep their promises even when it hurts, those who lend money without charging interest and could not be bribed to lie about the innocent. Such people will stand firm forever.

So, Lord, help us today to not be selfish nor try to impress others. To be humble, thinking of others is better than ourselves, not looking out only for our own interests but taking an interest in others, too. To have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. Thank you for the One who, though he was God, did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges, took the humble position of a servant, and was born as a human being. And when he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. And you elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names. And at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to whom we all give, small and great, and account to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

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

Reading of the Journal of Wednesday, May 7, 2025.

Medical Provider of the Day, Kimberly Boothby-Downing, MSN, ANP-BC of Gorham.

Off Record Remarks

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

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

ORDERS

Joint Orders

Expressions of Legislative Sentiment recognizing:

Nora Hanscom, of Portland, who has received the Girl Scout Gold Award. This is the highest award in Senior Girl Scouting and is given for excellence in skills development, leadership, personal growth and community service. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 609

Sponsored by Senator DUSON of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Senator: TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland,
Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, CROCKETT of Portland, LOOKNER of Portland, MOONEN of Portland, PUGH of Portland, SKOLD of Portland, YUSUF of Portland, ZAGER of Portland.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

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

Senator **DUSON:** Thank you, Madam President. Good morning, Women and Men of the Senate. I rise to recognize an outstanding young woman and constituent of mine, Nora Hanscom of Portland.

Nora recently earned her Gold Award, the highest, most prestigious award in Girl Scouting. To achieve her Gold Award, Nora embarked on a project aimed at reducing food insecurity at Portland High School by addressing the stigma around food donation programs, specifically the Locker Project, a popular program which shares 50,000 pounds of healthy food on a monthly basis throughout the Greater Portland area. Many of Nora's peers at school were initially hesitant to take free food because they didn't want to be labeled by their peers as needy. Nora worked hard to educate students and families about the different resources offered. Nora's project included creating flyers, posters, and videos, working with clubs at school, her teachers, and the multilingual and multicultural center.

Knowing our community has welcomed and benefits from new Mainers, Nora also had the information translated into seven different languages for immigrant families. She also moved the location of the Locker Project's food table and spread the word on social media an in-person outreach. Throughout her time working

on this project and in Girl Scouts, Nora developed valuable skills in leadership, public speaking, project management and planning, and cultural awareness. Her leadership on this project led to a significant increase in food usage at the pantry, while improving access to food resources. She laid the foundation for future collaboration between the Locker Project and the National Honor Society, and created a lasting impact on the school community. Nora's commitment to community and serving others at her age is inspiring. I've no doubt she will continue making places and people around her better wherever her life takes her. I wouldn't be surprised if she's sitting in one of these chairs one day.

I'm proud to be joined by Nora, her mom, Staci, and grandparents, Betsy and Greg, in the Chamber today, and thank you for joining me and my colleagues in congratulating, and congratulations on your remarkable achievement.

Thank you, Madam President.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the Chamber, Nora Hanscom, Staci Hanscom, her mom, as well as grandparents, Greg and Betsy. They are from the city of Portland and they are the guests today of the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Duson. Would they all please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate?

The Mt. Blue High School Boys Ski Team, of Farmington, which won the Class A State Nordic Skiing Championship and received the Sportsmanship Banner. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 627

Sponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin.
Cosponsored by Representative: BUNKER of Farmington.

The Mt. Blue High School Girls Ski Team, of Farmington, which won the Class A State Nordic Skiing Championship and received the Sportsmanship Banner. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 628

Sponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin.
Cosponsored by Representative: BUNKER of Farmington.

Eleanor McCourt, of Farmington, a senior at Mt. Blue High School, who is a recipient of a 2025 Principal's Award for outstanding academic achievement and citizenship, sponsored by the Maine Principals' Association. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 629

Sponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin.
Cosponsored by Representative: BUNKER of Farmington.

The Joint Orders were **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Franklin, Senator Black.

Senator **BLACK:** Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I rise today to recognize a program that has become nothing short of a dynasty in Maine high school athletics, the Mt. Blue High School Nordic Ski Teams.

Year after year, race after race, the Mt. Blue Cougars have not only competed, they have dominated. And this winter was no exception. At Black Mountain in Rumford, the Cougars once again swept the Class A titles, both for the boys' and girls' team, winning their fourth straight state championships.

I will start with the boys -- Mt. Blue Boys Nordic Ski Team who brought home another Class A title with 783 points, three skiers - Henri McCourt, Grayson Hoeft, and Elias Bartlett - finished in the top four in the freestyle pursuit. The boys left no doubt about who the dominant team in Maine was. Their preparation, execution, and depth were unmatched.

Equally remarkable is the Mt. Blue Girls' Nordic Ski Team, who mirrored that success in performance and character. Led by individual champion Nora McCourt and a strong supporting cast of Maya Kellett, Cassidy Hardy, and Abby Dorr, the girls racked up 780 points and locked in their fourth consecutive state title. On top of this success, both teams also took home the sportsmen award, a reminder that a dynasty is built not on just results, but on respect, discipline, and class. At the center of this success is their coach, Ben Geissinger, who leads both programs. His leadership and the support of the assistant coaches, family, and the Mt. Blue community have created an environment where hard work becomes a legacy.

The sport demands grit, endurance, and mental toughness. Mt. Blue has built something rare, a Nordic powerhouse that wins year after year and does it the right way. But before I close, I'd like to give special recognition to Nora McCourt, the girls team leader, and a great example of what a student athlete can be. Nora was recently named recipient of the Principals Award. In addition to her academic excellence, Nora is a talented and dedicated athlete. She is a key contributor for Mt. Blue's cross country, Nordic skiing, and track teams for four years. Her efforts have led her to numerous honors, being named the 2024 Nordic Skier of the Year and this year's Class A Champion in classic, freestyle, and pursuit races. She represents the very best of Mt. Blue. And of course, in every classroom and in the community also. Congratulations, Nora, and again, congratulations to both the Mt. Blue Nordic ski teams.

Thank you, Madam President.

The Joint Orders were **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the Chamber, the Mt. Blue Boys and Girls Nordic Ski Teams, as well as Eleanor McCourt. They are from the town of Farmington and they are the guests today of the Senator from Franklin, Senator Black. Would they please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate?

Aidan Arthur Howard, of Swanville, a member of Troop No. 37, who has attained the high rank and distinction of Eagle Scout. This is the highest award in Scouting and is given for excellence in skills development, leadership, personal growth and community service. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 650

Sponsored by Senator CURRY of Waldo.
Cosponsored by Representative: HYMES of Waldo.

Owen Benjamin Mailloux, of Belfast, a member of Troop No. 37, who has attained the high rank and distinction of Eagle Scout. This is the highest award in Scouting and is given for excellence in skills development, leadership, personal growth and community service. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 651

Sponsored by Senator CURRY of Waldo.
Cosponsored by Representative: DODGE of Belfast.

The Joint Orders were **READ**.

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

Senator **CURRY:** Thank you, Madam President. I rise today to honor two outstanding young men from my district, Owen Mailloux and Aidan Howard, who recently achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, a distinction earned by only about 6% of all Scouts. This remarkable achievement reflects years of dedication, leadership, and commitment to their communities, and I am proud to present them with these legislative sentiments in recognition of their accomplishments.

Owen Mailloux, a fourth-generation Scout and third-generation Eagle Scout, began his journey in scouting as a first-grade Cub Scout. For his Eagle Scout project, Owen took on an ambitious community improvement effort at Belfast City Park, where he removed a dilapidated hitting wall at the tennis courts and replaced it with a newly built one. He also repaired and replaced several benches in the park, organizing a volunteer team that contributed to roughly 65 hours of work to the project. This effort not only enhanced a beloved community space, but also demonstrated Owen's leadership, resourcefulness, and commitment to serving others.

Aidan Howard, a third-generation Scout, began his scouting journey in the fifth grade. Both of his older brothers earned their Eagle ranks with Troop 37, continuing a proud family tradition. For his Eagle project, Aidan constructed a life jacket loaner station at the Swan Lake boat launch in Swanville. This kiosk provides life jackets of all sizes from infant to adult extra large to improve boating safety on the lake. This project was particularly meaningful to Aidan as it was inspired by a tragic drowning at Swan Lake in June of 2021. His work will undoubtedly help prevent future tragedies, ensure that families can safely enjoy the lake for years to come.

Both Owen and Aidan have been members of Troop 37 in Belfast, which has been led by their fathers, Ben Mailloux and Nate Howard, a powerful reminder of the lasting impact that family, mentorship, and community have on the lives of young people.

Please join me in congratulating these two remarkable young men on earning the rank of Eagle Scout and thanking them for

their service to their communities and to the state.

Thank you, Madam President.

The Joint Orders were **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the Chamber, Owen Mailloux, Aidan Howard, and they are accompanied by their Scout Leaders and fathers, Ben Mailloux and Matt Howard. They are from the towns of Belfast and Swanville. Would they please rise? They are the guests today of the Senator from Waldo, Senator Curry. Would they please accept the greetings of the Maine Senate?

Joint Resolutions

Joint Resolutions in Memoriam:

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

Mark Stuart Kierstead, of Waterville. Mr. Kierstead had a 47-year career in the practice of law and business. He represented many Maine people with low incomes on a pro bono basis. He also volunteered with a local committee to prevent the further spreading of sludge on Canaan farmland decades before PFAS contamination became a prominent issue. In the late 1990s, Mr. Kierstead started a company, Global Protein Products, that produces a nontoxic corn protein film to prevent seed rot in potatoes and maintain fresh produce when shipped. He traveled to farms and food processors across the United States for several years selling this innovative product, which is used to this day. In May 2024, he was one of 30 people in Maine honored at the annual Remember Me ceremony organized by the Maine Health Care Association. Mr. Kierstead will be long remembered and sadly missed by his family, friends and community;

SLS 630

Sponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Senator: CYRWAY of Kennebec,
Representatives: DEBRITO of Waterville, JULIA of Waterville.

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

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

Senator **HICKMAN:** Thank you, Madam President, Women and Men of the Senate. I rise this morning to recognize the life and legacy of Mark Kierstead of Waterville.

I met Mr. Kierstead and his lovely wife, Jennifer, last year at the Maine Health Care Association's Remember Me ceremony, when he resided in Gardiner. This ceremony shares brief biographies of pioneering, innovative, and most interesting residents living in Maine's long-term care facilities. Each biography is read by a different person, and I had the honor of reading Mark's. I will take the liberty to do so today.

Mark Stuart Kierstead, born December 8, 1944 - we share a birthday - in Peabody, Massachusetts, and raised in Waterville,

Maine, developed a deep appreciation for nature from his youth spending countless hours outdoors and nurturing a love for exploration and learning. Raised in a home rich in familial history, Mark's upbringing instilled in him a sense of practicality and curiosity. His academic prowess became evident during his time at Coburn Classical Institute where he not only excelled academically, but also honed his linguistic skills, becoming fluent in French. This proficiency would later prove invaluable in his academic and personal pursuits. His tenure as assistant to renowned historian Henry Steele Commager showcased his intellectual acumen and practical abilities, setting the stage for his future endeavors. Despite facing personal challenges, including the care of a son with disabilities and the dissolution of his marriage, Mark's resilience and determination never wavered.

Returning to Maine, he embraced the Back to the Land Movement, embodying a commitment to sustainable living and community engagement. Mark's journey took a unique turn as he embraced the countercultural ethos of the 1960s, eschewing a conventional legal career for a stint in California's hippy scene. Yet, it was his encounter with Angus King that reignited his legal aspirations, prompting him to complete his law degree and embark on a distinguished career spanning nearly five decades.

Throughout his personal life, Mark remained deeply connected to his roots, advocating for environmental conservation and championing causes close to his heart, including disability rights and access to justice for the underprivileged. His dedication extended beyond legal practice as evidenced by his entrepreneurial ventures and philanthropic endeavors, which left a mark on the communities he served.

Mark's personal life mirrored his professional achievements, finding love and building a family with Jennifer, whom he supported wholeheartedly in her daughter's pursuits, including a remarkable athletic career. Today, Mark's enduring love for nature, music and camaraderie continues to inspire those around him, embodying a life rich in purpose and compassion. As we reflect on Mark's remarkable journey, we are reminded of the profound impact one individual can have on the world around them. His legacy serves as a testament to the transformative power of resilience, empathy, and unwavering commitment to community.

Please join me in honoring Mark and the legacy he has left in our world. We extend our sympathies to those here with us today - Jennifer, his wife, his friends Richie Tory and Peter Beckerman, as well as his family and friends, community, and all those whose lives he touched.

Thank you, Madam President.

The Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the Chamber, Jennifer Kierstead, the wife, Richie Tory, a friend, Peter Beckerman, a friend, and they are from the city of Waterville. They are the guests today of the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Cyrway, and Kennebec Senator Hickman. Would they please rise and accept the condolences of the Maine Senate?

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Fund Medical Research and Cancer Prevention"
S.P. 355 L.D. 792
(C "A" S-35)

In Senate, May 6, 2025, the Minority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-35)**.

Comes from the House, the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

House Paper

Bill "An Act to Fund MaineCare" (EMERGENCY)
H.P. 1307 L.D. 1948

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

Comes from the House, under suspension of the Rules, **READ TWICE** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**, without reference to a Committee.

Senator **INGWERSEN** of York moved the Senate **SUSPEND THE RULES** for the purpose of giving this Bill its **FIRST READING WITHOUT REFERENCE**.

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

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

Senator **INGWERSEN:** Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, I appreciate this bill coming forward by a bipartisan group of lawmakers. I just want to say that most of us here in this Chamber have local providers who have struggled since emergency funds have failed to get out the door quickly to our providers throughout the state. This vote today would allow us to do our jobs and get the funding out immediately, without the political drama of holding it up.

There are times, I must say, when I'm here voting on the floor and I'm not always sure of the direct consequences of my vote. I'm so busy up here with all we do - committees, work sessions, bills - that I can lose sight of my community, my constituents, and the direct impact of what I do here on the people of the State of Maine. But today, right now, the vote we take here, yes or no, will have a direct effect on the healthcare workers, the people in our communities, and throughout Maine. A yes vote will get these

emergency funds right out the door, right now. A no vote from us will draw a direct red line between that vote and some very specific healthcare providers, workers, and all the people in the state of Maine who depend on healthcare.

In the Health and Human Services Committee I serve on, we all understand how MaineCare supports our state in all of the districts each of us represent. As the committee of jurisdiction on all matters MaineCare, we ended up voting a resounding, unanimous yes to the providers, the healthcare workers, and the people of our districts and the entire state when we gave our recommendation to the AFA committee earlier this year. And all of us voted yes despite our differences. I'm proud of this work and our willingness to compromise, and I hope we can do -- all do the same today and get this emergency funding to our communities, to our providers, and to our constituents as soon as we can.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator **ROTUNDO:** Thank you, Madam President, Colleagues of the Senate. MaineCare providers across our state are in crisis directly because of delayed promised payments for services provided in 2024 and early 2025. Delays caused by this Body's failure to pass the emergency supplemental budget. The tragic part of this is that we have the funds to make these payments. Simply, we need the votes to get this funding out. Although these payments were finally passed in the continuing services budget, because this Body failed to pass that budget as an emergency measure, providers will not receive these payments until June 18th. That is a long time to wait.

Hospitals, health clinics, and treatment centers already operate on razor-thin margins. We've seen these services slashed, staff laid off, and community clinics pushed to the brink of closure as a result of our inaction this session. In my community, a healthcare clinic has closed satellite sites that provide counseling and dental care for children. I have another counseling center in Lewiston that will close its doors as of July 1st. Healthcare workers are losing their jobs and children and adults in a large area around Lewiston are going without services.

When we cut off funding to an essential program Mainers rely on, the impact ripples through our entire communities, leaving people especially in our most rural districts with fewer places to turn for care they need. This did not have to happen. Today's vote is a chance to change course, to deliver the resources our healthcare system needs and to prevent even more disruption and hardship. This bill has Republican co-sponsors, and I believe that reflects the fact that paying our bills on time is a bipartisan issue.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator **HARRINGTON:** Thank you, Madam President. This bill and this entire posture right now is a complete abomination to the process. The fact that we're sitting here, we're not even willing to have a discussion. Back when we were talking about the supplemental budget, we kept hearing over and over again that we would be -- we'd have opportunities to discuss many of the fixes that, you know, folks on my side of the aisle were

demanding. Those discussions have yet to be had, and yet, here we are today, we're actually completely refusing to have a conversation because we're not even going to send this bill to committee, we're just going to vote on it as is, and I think the people of Maine deserve better.

This bill just writes a blank check for \$117 million, does nothing to fix the broken program, and I would urge my colleagues to vote against the current motion. Thank you.

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

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#141)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: CARNEY, STEWART

21 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 12 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused and 21 being more than two-thirds of the members present and voting, the motion by Senator **INGWERSEN** of York to **SUSPEND THE RULES, PREVAILED.**

Bill READ ONCE.

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

Senator **HARRINGTON:** I was just questioning if -- whether or not we've reached the two-thirds requirement for suspension of the rules.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would advise that we are simply at the suspension of the rules, which requires a simple majority on this matter. The two-thirds would be required for enactment of this bill at this time. Would leadership just please approach?

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would advise Members, and also for anyone following along in the rear of the Chamber or at home, the question that was raised from the Good Senator from York, Senator Harrington, if you would look at the Joint Rules, Joint Rule 308 in regards to reference of bills requires a simple majority for suspending the rules for that reference.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME.**

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#142)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: CARNEY, STEWART

21 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 12 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused this Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**, in concurrence.

Joint Resolutions

The following Joint Resolution:

H.P. 1308

**JOINT RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING MAY 4, 2025 TO MAY 10, 2025 AS
MAINE HOMESCHOOL EDUCATION WEEK**

WHEREAS, the Maine State Legislature is committed to fostering educational excellence, innovation and opportunity for all students and recognizes the vital role of families in the education and development of their children; and

WHEREAS, homeschooling offers families the freedom to customize educational experiences to meet the unique needs, talents and aspirations of each child, cultivating creativity, critical thinking and a lifelong love of learning; and

WHEREAS, over the past several years, Maine has witnessed significant growth in homeschooling, with families across the State embracing this educational model as a means to provide stability, flexibility and individualized instruction, particularly during and following the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the number of students educated at home in Maine has grown substantially, reflecting the dedication of parents, guardians and caregivers who have answered the call to guide their children's academic and personal growth; and

WHEREAS, homeschooling families contribute richly to the educational landscape of Maine, fostering diversity, strengthening community ties and instilling the values of civic responsibility, service and perseverance; and

WHEREAS, homeschooled students across Maine have distinguished themselves through academic achievement, leadership, community service and artistic endeavors, embodying the spirit of excellence that Maine holds dear; and

WHEREAS, the tradition of home education in Maine reflects the deeply held principles of family engagement, parental choice and educational freedom that are cornerstones of a strong and vibrant democratic republic; 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, declare the week of May 4, 2025 to May 10, 2025 as Maine Home Education Week and recognize the importance of homeschooling in Maine; and be it further

RESOLVED: That we acknowledge, celebrate and honor the thousands of homeschooling families for their unwavering commitment to their children's education and futures and recognize and commend the vital contributions they make to the strength, diversity and prosperity of the people of the State.

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

READ and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication:

S.C. 364

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

May 7, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Grant,

Pursuant to my authority under Title 1, MRSA, Ch. 13, Subchapter 1, §411.2-K, I am pleased to appoint Rachel Henderson of Rumford to the Right to Know Advisory Committee, effective immediately.

Representative Henderson will serve on this committee as a member of the House of Representatives who is a member of the Legislature having jurisdiction over judiciary matters.

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

Sincerely,

S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 361

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SECOND LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

May 7, 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. Crafts of Newcastle, to report the following bill Leave to Withdraw:

L.D. 1779 An Act to Make the Possession of Under 2 Grams of Certain Schedule W Drugs a Class D Crime

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Anne Beebe-Center
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Tavis Rock Hasenfus
House Chair

READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 354

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

May 7, 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. Stover of Boothbay, to report the following bill Leave to Withdraw:

L.D. 1811 An Act Regarding the Submission of Documents for Protection from Abuse and Protection from Harassment Cases

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Anne Carney
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Amy D. Kuhn
House Chair

READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 355

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

May 7, 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. Boyer of Poland, to report the following bill Leave to Withdraw:

L.D. 737 An Act Regarding a So-called Clean Slate Initiative for Arrest and Conviction Records

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Anne Carney
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Amy D. Kuhn
House Chair

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 350

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

May 5, 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. Geiger of Rockland, to report the following bill Leave to Withdraw:

L.D. 1885 An Act to Create a State Property Tax Directed Toward 2nd Homes for the Purposes of Funding Education, Early Childhood Programs and the Land for Maine's Future Trust Fund

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Nicole Grohoski
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Kristen Sarah Cloutier
House Chair

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 356

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

May 7, 2025

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

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

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

L.D. 1641 An Act to Allow Municipalities to Implement a Local Option Sales Tax

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Nicole Grohoski
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Kristen Sarah Cloutier
House Chair

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 365

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

May 7, 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. Libby of Auburn, to report the following bill Leave to Withdraw:

L.D. 1880 An Act to Require Photographic Identification for Voting

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Craig V. Hickman
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Laura Supica
House Chair

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 366

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

May 7, 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. Supica of Bangor, to report the following bill Leave to Withdraw:

L.D. 1354 An Act Regarding Liquor Licensing in Outdoor Stadiums and Exclusivity in Licensee Agreements

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Craig V. Hickman
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Laura Supica
House Chair

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 371

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SECOND LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

May 8, 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 Criminal Justice and Public Safety has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 1215 An Act Regarding Residency Restrictions for Sex Offenders

L.D. 1510 An Act to Establish Statutory Deadlines for Processing Applications for Emergency Medical Services Personnel

L.D. 1600 An Act to Provide Regional Support Funding for Municipal Police Departments to Support Special Response Teams

L.D. 1817 An Act to Implement the Recommendation of the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services to Eliminate the Crime of Violation of Condition of Release

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Anne Beebe-Center
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Tavis Rock Hasenfus
House Chair

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 357

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

May 7, 2025

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

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

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

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| L.D. 170 | Resolve, Establishing a Pilot Program to Reduce Personal Electronic Device Distractions During the School Day |
| L.D. 643 | Resolve, to Study the Effects of Artificial Intelligence, Cellular Telephones and Social Media on Public Education |
| L.D. 1495 | An Act to Make the Professional Standards Board Responsible for the Educator Certification Process |

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

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

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 362

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

May 7, 2025

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

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

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

- | | |
|----------|--|
| L.D. 854 | An Act to Provide Equitable Capital Construction Funding for Maine's Charter Schools |
|----------|--|

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

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

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 368

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

May 8, 2025

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

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

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

L.D. 322 An Act to Promote Student Attendance in
Schools by Requiring the Commissioner of
Education to Implement School Attendance
Best Practices

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

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

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 370

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

May 9, 2025

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

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

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

L.D. 1533 An Act to Ensure the Retention of R1 Research
Institution Status by the University of Maine

L.D. 1614 Resolve, to Facilitate the Ability of the Maine
State Museum to Acquire and Preserve Special
Collections

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

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

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 373

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

May 7, 2025

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

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

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

L.D. 630 An Act to Implement Portions of the "Protecting
Maine's Beaches for the Future: 2017 Update"
Report Regarding Beach Nourishment and
Dune Restoration Projects

L.D. 757 Resolve, to Study and Oversee Water in the
State of Maine

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Denise A. Tepler S/Rep. Lori K. Gramlich
Senate Chair House Chair

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 374

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

May 9, 2025

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

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

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

L.D. 1633 An Act to Promote the Recycling and Reuse of Construction Materials

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Denise A. Tepler
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Lori K. Gramlich
House Chair

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 351

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

May 5, 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. 376 An Act to Improve Maternal and Infant Health Outcomes Through Doula Care

L.D. 1108 An Act Regarding the Reunification of Foster Children with Their Parents

L.D. 1367 Resolve, to Study Methods of Gradually Transitioning Individuals from Government Assistance Programs to the Workforce

L.D. 1409 An Act Regarding the Rights of Foster Parents

L.D. 1613 An Act to Establish Maine's Care Force to Address the State's Health Care Crisis (EMERGENCY)

L.D. 1634 An Act Regarding MaineCare Waiting Lists

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Henry Ingwersen
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Michele Meyer
House Chair

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 372

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

May 5, 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. 1465 An Act to Create the Office of Workforce Advancement Within the Department of Economic and Community Development and Establish Statewide Workforce Advancement Goals

This is notification of the Committee's action.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 363

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

May 6, 2025

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

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

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

- L.D. 1124 An Act Regarding Retirement Benefits and Salary Adjustments for Judicial Employees
- L.D. 1670 An Act to Establish the Maine Public Employees Retirement System Home Repair and Energy Upgrade Loan Program and Fund
- L.D. 1791 Resolve, to Direct State Agencies to Implement the Social Security Fairness Act (EMERGENCY)

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Michael Tipping
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Amy Jean Roeder
House Chair

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

The Following Communication:

S.C. 367

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

May 6, 2025

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

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 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. 1625 An Act Regarding the Preservation of Working Waterfronts

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. 352

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

May 2, 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. 1531 An Act to Better Protect Animal-drawn Vehicles and Motorists on Public Roadways

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. 358

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

May 7, 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. 1480 An Act Regarding Exceptions for Persons Learning to Drive Who Have Not Yet Completed a Driver Education Course

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. 359

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

May 6, 2025

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

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 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. 347 An Act to Provide Qualifying Municipalities a Percentage of Adult Use Cannabis Sales Tax and Excise Tax Revenue

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.**

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Establish the Corrections Ombudsman"
S.P. 769 L.D. 1962

Presented by Senator DUSON of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Senator BEEBE-CENTER of Knox, Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill and Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland, Representative: HASENFUS of Readfield.

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 Protect and Compensate Public Utility Whistleblowers" (EMERGENCY)

S.P. 770 L.D. 1963

Presented by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, GROHOSKI of Hancock, Representatives: FAIRCLOTH of Bangor, FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor, WARREN of Scarborough, WEBB of Durham.

Bill "An Act to Require the Development of a Standard Written Disclosure for Sellers and Installers of Distributed Generation Resources, to Make Changes to Other Standard Disclosures and to Make Misrepresentation in the Sale of Electricity Products an Unfair Trade Practice"

S.P. 771 L.D. 1964

Presented by Senator BLACK of Franklin.
Cosponsored by Representative: FOSTER of Dexter.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Clarify the Laws Relating to the Licensure of Certain Facilities by the Department of Health and Human Services"

S.P. 768 L.D. 1961

Presented by Senator INGWERSEN of York.
Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Resolve, to Establish a Task Force to Create a Court Navigation Program Plan (EMERGENCY)

S.P. 772 L.D. 1965

Presented by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan and Senators: BEEBE-CENTER of Knox, CARNEY of Cumberland, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, Representatives: HENDERSON of Rumford, KUHN of Falmouth, LEE of Auburn, O'HALLORAN of Brewer, SINCLAIR of Bath.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Ought to Pass

The Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right to Know Advisory Committee Concerning Public Records Exceptions"

H.P. 1223 L.D. 1828

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 **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Establish Certain Positions Within the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services"

H.P. 22 L.D. 58

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 **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act Regarding the Remote Appearance of Counsel in Pretrial Nontestimonial Criminal Matters"

H.P. 170 L.D. 267

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-107)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-107)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-107) **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 **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act to Allow a Motion to Extend a Protection from Abuse Order After Expiration of the Original Order"

H.P. 516 L.D. 809

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-106)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-106)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-106) **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 **LABOR** on Bill "An Act to Increase the State's Share of Retired Teacher Health Insurance" (EMERGENCY)
H.P. 76 L.D. 111

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-104)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-104)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-104) **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 **LABOR** on Bill "An Act to Exempt a Person Making Electrical Installations in the Person's Existing Bona Fide Personal Abode from Licensing and Permitting Requirements"
H.P. 364 L.D. 545

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-101)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-101)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-101) **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 Make Allocations from Maine Turnpike Authority Funds for the Maine Turnpike Authority for the Calendar Year Ending December 31, 2026"

H.P. 528 L.D. 821

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-105)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-105)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-105) **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 **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Enable Maine National Guard Commanders to More Efficiently Effect Disciplinary Measures Through the Maine Code of Military Justice"

H.P. 21 L.D. 57

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-108)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-108)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-108) **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

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **LABOR** on Bill "An Act to Prohibit Labor Organizations from Imposing Mandatory Service Fees on Nonmembers"

H.P. 120 L.D. 187

Reported that the same **Ought Not 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

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-103)**.

Signed:

Senator:

BRADSTREET of Kennebec

Representatives:

COLLINS of Sidney
DRINKWATER of Milford
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

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

Reports **READ**.

Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report, in concurrence.

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

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

Senator **BRADSTREET:** Thank you, Madam President. I'll be voting against the motion. I hope that you would join me as well.

You know, during the committee hearings on this, we heard conflicting reports about whether or not a so-called right-to-work state, if their economy is better, is it not better, do workers fare better or do they not fare better. But it comes, essentially, down to this is a recent -- fairly recent Supreme Court decision regarding Janus. And they stated the decision was that to force someone to pay service fees for nonmembers, collecting it from nonmembers, is a violation of their constitutional rights of association.

So, I hope that we would recognize that. I think any time

we're flirting with violating the Constitution, I think we have to be very careful, and that's my stance on this today.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator **TIPPING:** Thank you, Madam President. For many decades, no matter what party has been in charge here in Augusta, we have stood together against propositions like this to weaken the rights of workers and their ability to organize and represent themselves and each other, and I hope we'll continue to stand that way today. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Acceptance of the Majority Ought Not to Pass report. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#143)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: CARNEY, LAWRENCE, STEWART

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

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **LABOR** on Bill "An Act Requiring the State to Pay a Retired State Employee's or Retired Teacher's Premium for Medicare Part B Under Medicare Advantage"

H.P. 228 L.D. 328

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-102)**.

Signed:

Senators:

TIPPING of Penobscot

RAFFERTY of York

Representatives:

ROEDER of Bangor

ARCHER of Saco

BECK of South Portland

MACIAS of Topsham

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

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-102)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-102)**.

Reports **READ**.

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

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

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

Senator **BRADSTREET:** Thank you once again, Madam President. I once again stand in opposition to the motion.

This is something I, in any other case, I might've been in favor of. However, those covered by Maine PERS were -- if there were suspected benefits that are unfair to those in the private sector - but they are not, according to testimony from the Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Administration and Financial

Services. Essentially, if I may read just a little bit of her testimony; the State of Maine does not participate in Medicare but they will have Medicare taxes withheld, no different than in the private sector. In your retirement, you will receive state pension disbursements instead of or in addition to Social Security, but you will be fully eligible to enroll in Medicare for your health insurance coverage.

This bill is not responding to an inequity created by the virtue of whether you worked in a private or public sector, there is no inequity. Everyone pays their monthly premium for Medicare Part B coverage. And the thing that really made my mind up for sure was the fiscal note on this. This is over \$20 million in the first year and over \$40 million in the second year. I think in our current situation, that's not tenable, a reachable goal. So, I hope people will recognize that, do the financially fiscally responsible thing and vote against the pending motion.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator **TIPPING:** Thank you, Madam President. I would note that this measure is in part a response to the cut and capping of cost-of-living adjustments for state employees and retired teachers. The intent here is to help a little bit in retirement. The money that has been saved by cutting their retirement is far more than the cost of this bill and it's basically the least we can do for these people.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#144)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: CARNEY, LAWRENCE, STEWART

17 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 15 Senators having voted in the negative, with 3 Senators being excused the motion by Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, **PREVAILED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-102) **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 **LABOR** on Bill "An Act to Raise the Cap on Retirement Benefits for Certain State Employees and Teachers to Which a Cost-of-living Adjustment Is Made"
H.P. 669 L.D. 1040

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-100)**.

Signed:

Senators:

TIPPING of Penobscot
RAFFERTY of York

Representatives:

ROEDER of Bangor
BECK of South Portland
DRINKWATER of Milford
GEIGER of Rockland
MACIAS of Topsham
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

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

Signed:

Senator:

BRADSTREET of Kennebec

Representative:

COLLINS of Sidney

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-100)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-100)**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-100) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

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

Senate

Ought to Pass

Senator TIPPING for the Committee on **LABOR** on Bill "An Act Regarding Reciprocal Licensure for Professional Engineers"
S.P. 257 L.D. 576

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 TALBOT ROSS for the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** on Bill "An Act to Provide Indigenous Peoples Free Access to State Parks"
S.P. 27 L.D. 14

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

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-55) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Senator TALBOT ROSS for the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** on Bill "An Act to Support the Maintenance, Preservation and Promotion of State Historic Sites" (EMERGENCY)
S.P. 320 L.D. 761

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

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-56) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Senator TALBOT ROSS for the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** on Bill "An Act to Support Immersive Outdoor Education by Establishing the Outdoor School for All Maine Students Program" (EMERGENCY)
S.P. 384 L.D. 895

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-61)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-61) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Senator BEEBE-CENTER for the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** on Bill "An Act to Include Brush and Yard Debris in the Definition of 'Litter'"
S.P. 38 L.D. 121

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-68)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-68) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Senator TEPLER for the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** on Bill "An Act to Add an Inflation Adjustment to the Maximum Amount of Funding Disbursed from the Maine Ground and Surface Waters Clean-up and Response Fund for Certain Personal Services of the Department of Environmental Protection"

S.P. 41 L.D. 26

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-64)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-64) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Senator TEPLER for the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** on Bill "An Act to Require the Department of Environmental Protection to Monitor Air and Water Temperatures Around Commercial Solar Energy Developments"
S.P. 496 L.D. 1207

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-65)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-65) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Senator INGWERSEN for the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Provide Access to Quality Family Child Care for Military Personnel by Exempting Certain Military Child Care Providers from State Licensing Requirements"
S.P. 169 L.D. 388

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-62)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-62) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Senator BAILEY for the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Strengthen the Requirements for Medical Payments Coverage"
S.P. 388 L.D. 899

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-58).**

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-58) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Senator BALDACCI for the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** on Resolve, Directing the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to Establish a Pilot Program for the Electronic Tagging of Deer
S.P. 75 L.D. 139

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

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

Resolve **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-52) **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 Service of Notice of Restricted Person Status to Hospitalized Patients"
S.P. 413 L.D. 983

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-57).**

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-57) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Senator BALDACCI for the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act to Provide Compensation to Members of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women to Enhance Equitable Commission Participation from Across the State"
S.P. 71 L.D. 135

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

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-53) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Senator BALDACCI for the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act to Designate the 2nd Week of May as Dark Sky Week"
S.P. 247 L.D. 567

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

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-54) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Senator BALDACCI for the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Law Governing the Membership of the Government Oversight Committee" (EMERGENCY)
S.P. 410 L.D. 954

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-69).**

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-69) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Provide Support for Certain Maine Discovery Museum Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Educational Programming Throughout the State" S.P. 131 L.D. 281

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

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham
CARLOW of Buxton
HAGGAN of Hampden
LYMAN of Livermore Falls

Reports **READ**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-71) **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 **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Fund the Doctors for Maine's Future Scholarship Program"

S.P. 264 L.D. 581

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-70)**.

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
LIBBY of Cumberland
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

MURPHY of Scarborough
BRENNAN of Portland
CARLOW of Buxton
CROCKETT of Portland
DODGE of Belfast
HAGGAN of Hampden
LYMAN of Livermore Falls
MITCHELL of Cumberland
SARGENT of York

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

Signed:

Representative:

BAGSHAW of Windham

Reports **READ**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-70) **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 **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Promote Student Enrollment and Degree Completion in the University of Maine System by Awarding Waivers of Tuition and Fees to Eligible Students" S.P. 317 L.D. 700

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-60)**.

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham
HAGGAN of Hampden
LYMAN of Livermore Falls

Reports **READ**.

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

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

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

Senator **LIBBY:** Thank you very much, Madam President. I'll be very brief.

It just seems like the wrong year to be starting a new program like this. I think the other programs in education, my understanding is they're on the line and programs that we've funded in the past. So, this particular program, I like the idea behind it, just that it would be, I think, fiscally irresponsible for us to go ahead and support this at this time. Thank you so much.

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

Senator **RAFFERTY:** Thank you, Madam President. So, I rise in support of the bill and mostly what it's targeted at is requiring the University of Maine System to award waivers of tuition, the fees and eligibility for students at any of the university systems and campuses. It does not include transfer students or students who are returning to finish their degree, but these are students that are enrolled full-time at any of the campuses. They must be -- complete their FAFSA and be Pell eligible. I think it's -- given what we are up against in terms of our future needs, I ask that you support this legislation. Thank you.

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

Senator **TIPPING:** Thank you, Madam President. I just wanted to clarify this is not starting a new program, it's expanding one that's already working very well at many of our campuses. It would make sure that the last gap of tuition for Pell Grant students, which are students that have qualified for these federal grants provided to either low-income students or those who have had a parent die in law enforcement or in the armed forces in the line of duty are able to access a little bit of help to get to college. Often, they're left with some final costs that prevent them from actually attending or attaining a degree. This would fill that gap and make sure that we make sure those students can get their degree, stay in Maine, and support our state. Thank you.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#145)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: CARNEY, STEWART

20 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused the motion by Senator **RAFFERTY** of York to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, **PREVAILED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-60) **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 **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Allow Chiropractors to Be Designated as School Health Advisors"

S.P. 352 L.D. 828

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

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
LIBBY of Cumberland
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-74)**.

Signed:

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham
HAGGAN of Hampden
LYMAN of Livermore Falls

Reports **READ**.

Senator **RAFFERTY** of York moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report.

On motion by Senator **BALDACC**i of Penobscot, 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 Penobscot, Senator Baldacci.

Senator **BALDACC**i: Thank you, Madam President. I rise in opposition to the Ought Not to Pass Report because chiropractors are able to do this service. Nurse practitioners, physician's assistants, in addition to doctors are allowed. The issue is that many school districts actively prohibit chiropractors. Many chiropractors are involved in their communities like everyone else, they offer these services sometimes free to the school districts,

but many school districts are actively preventing them from providing this service.

I think that that -- chiropractors do excellent work, they provide good healthcare, there's no reason to be discriminating against our chiropractors. So, they want to help participate and help support our schools, and I think we should allow that. Thank you.

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

Senator **RAFFERTY**: Thank you, Madam President. I hope this doesn't prevent us from having dinner later, but I would like to say that essentially what this does, and I think a lot of people look at it on the surface is can chiropractors provide school physicals, sports physicals, but there's more to it. Essentially, what this is asking for is that the -- they be considered for health advisors to districts. So, each year, school boards must appoint or recognize a group or person as their health advisor, which may perform other medical and health-related duties assigned by the board. But essentially, the health advisor shall advise the administrative unit on school health issues, policies and practices, and may also perform any other health-related function assigned by the board, the diagnosis of students that are referred by teachers to the office, protection against the outbreak of contagious diseases in schools, advise and serve medical consultant to the school nurse, examine school employees and property if the school health advisor believes it is necessary to protect the health of students. Where we got hung up and spent much of our time centered around the physicals in terms of protocol, particularly as it relates to concussions and return to play. Those are areas that we spent a lot of time with. We got a lot of testimony and I will say that a number of folks spoke in opposition particularly with the piece in terms of return to play and the concussion protocols overall. Against, we heard from Maine Principals' Association, Maine School Superintendents Association, Maine School Board Association, Maine Medical Association, Maine Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics were against, Maine Nurse Practitioner Association spoke -- was in opposition, and Maine Osteopathic Association, all were in opposition to the bill, and that's why I would ask that you support the Ought Not to Pass motion. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Acceptance of the Majority Ought Not to Pass report. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#146)

YEAS: Senators: CURRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, MARTIN, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TALBOT ROSS, TEPLER, TIPPING, PRESIDENT DAUGHTRY

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BERNARD, BICKFORD, BLACK, BRADSTREET, BRENNER, CARNEY, CYRWAY, FARRIN, GUERIN, HAGGAN, HARRINGTON, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: STEWART

16 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 18 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused the motion by Senator **RAFFERTY** of York to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report, **FAILED**.

The Minority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-74) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Elections"
S.P. 773 L.D. 1977

Presented by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec.
Submitted by the Secretary of State pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

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.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Bill "An Act to Address the Use of Electricity by Data Centers"

S.P. 402 L.D. 912

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-67)**.

Signed:

Senators:
LAWRENCE of York
GROHOSKI of Hancock
HARRINGTON of York

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

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

Signed:

Representative:
PAUL of Winterport

Reports **READ**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-67) **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 **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** on Bill "An Act to Prohibit Geoengineering, Including the Use of Cloud Seeding, Weather Modification, Excessive Radio Waves and Microwave Radiation" S.P. 345 L.D. 825

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" (S-66)**.

Signed:

Senator:

MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

Reports **READ**.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Require Health Insurance Carriers to Provide Coverage for Blood Testing for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances" S.P. 265 L.D. 582

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-63)**.

Signed:

Senators:

BAILEY of York
BALDACCI of Penobscot

Representatives:

GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach
ARFORD of Brunswick
BOYER of Cape Elizabeth
CIMINO of Bridgton
CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham
FLYNN of Albion
FOLEY of Wells
MASTRACCIO of Sanford

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

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

MORRIS of Turner
OLSEN of Raymond

Reports **READ**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-63) **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 **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Exempt Nonprofit Agricultural Membership Organizations from Insurance Requirements"

S.P. 381 L.D. 893

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

Signed:

Senators:

BAILEY of York
BALDACCI of Penobscot

Representatives:

MATHIESON of Kittery
ARFORD of Brunswick
BOYER of Cape Elizabeth
CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham
MASTRACCIO of Sanford

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-59)**.

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

CIMINO of Bridgton
FLYNN of Albion
FOLEY of Wells
MORRIS of Turner
OLSEN of Raymond

Reports **READ**.

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

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act to Create a History Education and Learning Mobile Unit Within the Maine State Archives"
S.P. 287 L.D. 674

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

Signed:

Senator:

MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook
ADAMS of Lebanon
COPELAND of Saco
FARRIN of Jefferson
GREENWOOD of Wales
MATLACK of St. George
POMERLEAU of Standish
ROLLINS of Augusta
TUELL of East Machias
UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-73)**.

Signed:

Senator:

BALDACCI of Penobscot

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot, the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **ACCEPTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act to Protect Taxpayers by Requiring Referenda on Significant Municipal Debt"
S.P. 430 L.D. 1013

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-72)**.

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot
MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

ADAMS of Lebanon
GREENWOOD of Wales
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:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representatives:

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

Reports **READ**.

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

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

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

Senator **BALDACCI**: Thank you, Madam President. Just briefly, I want to just talk about what the bill is and obviously everybody can make their own decisions, but it would limit any borrowing by a town, any municipality, of \$10 million or more, would simply require a referendum of the voters. The reason that the amendment was put in to have it on the general election day in November was to get the maximum potential voters to come out and to express their desires.

I would just share with you from a personal experience in Bangor, we had two major issues. One was \$9 million for the Bangor Public Library, and the other was \$55 million for the Cross Insurance Center. Both of those went to public referendum because in Bangor, if it's \$2 million or more, it has to be voted on by the public. But through those campaigns, you get buy-in and education of the public and really helps strengthen both of those efforts. They both passed by 70% or more in the city of Bangor and those were significant bond issues. But I think that that is kind of what I'm hoping for in this type of thing, that it will actually encourage public participation and public knowledge and education of what's going on. Thank you.

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

Senator **NANGLE**: Thank you, Madam President. I also rise to support this bill. The sponsor is a good friend of mine and I just think that a lot of times some municipalities use a town meeting form of government to enact large-scale borrowing where town meetings typically don't have the turnout that general elections do. The town isn't required to run a specific election in order to have these votes, it would be done on the normal election day that we all participate in in November. Thank you.

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

Senator **TEPLER**: Thank you, Madam Chair. Permission to pose a question through the Chair?

THE PRESIDENT: The Member may proceed.

Senator **TEPLER**: Yes, Madam President, thank you. I would ask how the referenda in November lines up with most towns' town meetings and fiscal years. I just -- I have some concerns about that and don't quite understand how this bill would work with those deadlines. Thank you.

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

Senator **BALDACCI**: Thank you. I'll just briefly state that the budget doesn't -- the bonds don't have to be along with the budget in terms of the bonding could happen at different times. You have to budget for the bond issue. So they can be planned out ahead of time and done in November, but in terms of the budget, they wouldn't be -- because they get voted on in November, you wouldn't be budgeting them until the next year - presumably - but it doesn't necessarily have to line up exactly because what's happening in the budget is that you're allocating a certain amount for debt, for interest on debt, and not necessarily needing to approve the bonding as part of the budget.

But that's just -- you know, every town is different, and so I

would just answer that based on my personal experience.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#147)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BENNETT, BERNARD, BICKFORD, BRADSTREET, CYRWAY, FARRIN, GUERIN, HAGGAN, HARRINGTON, LIBBY, MARTIN, MOORE, NANGLE, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, PRESIDENT DAUGHTRY

NAYS: Senators: BEEBE-CENTER, BLACK, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAWRENCE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TALBOT ROSS, TEPLER

EXCUSED: Senators: STEWART

18 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 16 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused the motion by Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, **PREVAILED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-72) **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 **TAXATION** on Bill "An Act to Increase the Total Amount of Credits Authorized Under the Maine Seed Capital Tax Credit Program"

S.P. 52 L.D. 125

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

Signed:

Senators:
GROHOSKI of Hancock
TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:

CLOUTIER of Lewiston
FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor
LAVIGNE of Berwick
QUINT of Hodgdon
RUDNICKI of Fairfield
WHITE of Ellsworth

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-75)**.

Signed:

Senator:

BICKFORD of Androscoggin

Representatives:

CROCKETT of Portland
MATLACK of St. George
SAYRE of Kennebunk
SWALLOW of Houlton

Reports **READ**.

Senator **GROHOSKI** of Hancock moved to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report.

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

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

Senator **BICKFORD**: Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, DECD issued a strategic plan for the years 2020 through 2029. In that strategic plan, they reference seed capital as an important piece. In 2023, they issued \$6 million in credit to \$56 million in investment in the State of Maine. Seventy-two companies benefited from this program in 2023. They added \$116 million in payroll. Some of the companies that have benefited from seed capital are BluShift Aerospace in Brunswick, MedRhythms in Portland, Vertical Harvest in Westbrook, TimberHP in Madison, Tanbark Molded Fiber in Saco, Quoddy Shoe in Lewiston.

Maine competes with other states for these investment dollars. If we want that investment dollar to come to Maine, we need to have a carrot out there for them to look towards. If you go to a hardware store and they have a \$200 rebate on a lawn tractor, they don't ask you where you live, they could care less. You're bringing money into their top line. That's all they care about. All Maine should care about is bringing that investment into Maine. It doesn't matter if they're from North Carolina, Michigan, Massachusetts; they are investing money in this state. It's very important.

Maine can't afford to be on an island by itself and not compete with these other states. It'd be very easy for these investors to spend their money in Massachusetts and New York because that's where most of the money goes. We need to get it in Maine. We need investment from away for us to survive and prosper.

Madam President, I hope you'll follow my light and vote against the pending motion. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair now recognizes the Senator from Hancock, Senator Grohoski.

Senator **GROHOSKI**: Thank you, Madam President. We heard a lot of great things about this tax credit from the Senator from Androscoggin as well as a number of companies that have indeed benefitted from this tax credit. I would like the Chamber to understand that this is not the only tax credit that's available to new businesses and small businesses under \$5 million. There are others and, in fact, a lot of the names that the Senator from Androscoggin listed are -- have been listed in our committee as availing themselves of other tax credits. This tax credit, while it may be somewhat effective, could definitely be improved, as OPEGA identified in a 2021 report. This is compared to other tax credits for the same businesses that they have found to be incredibly more effective than members of the committee that are opposing this bill support.

So, I just want folks to know this legislation, if you vote for the Majority Ought Not to Pass Report, is not removing this tax credit. What it's doing is disallowing an expansion of the tax credit in 2027. I think most of those of us that voted in the Majority Report of Ought Not to Pass felt that there would be plenty of opportunity between this vote and next year for FAME to propose legislation that addressed OPEGA's concerns that we could consider and then vote on in the second session, which is still, as you know, well before 2027.

So, we have an opportunity to reject this bill at this time, go back to the drawing board with new legislation that addresses underlying issues with this program so that it can be more effective use of Maine taxpayer dollars, and then we can consider it next year. Thank you.

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

Senator **BICKFORD**: Thank you, Madam President. I just want to add that while it seems like this is an increase, this is actually a decrease. We're going from \$15 million available to \$10 million. It was scheduled to go down to \$5 million in 2027 and this is just a compromise. It's a modest increase back halfway to the -- I mean to the 15 million that we had previously put in in 2020.

Thank you, Madam Speaker -- President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair now recognizes the Senator from Hancock, Senator Grohoski.

Senator **GROHOSKI**: Thank you very much. And the Good Senator from Androscoggin is correct. But one of the things we heard in testimony was that it's important for businesses to know what is coming ahead and we're not changing what they expect to have happen. It's been in the statute that this would decrease to \$5 million in 2027 for a number of years.

So, by voting Ought Not to Pass, you're not changing the playing field or the expectations of businesses. We also learned that over the past couple years the average tax credits that have been certified by FAME are \$6.3 million, so we felt that 10 million was providing a lot more headroom than was really needed as demonstrated by all the applications. I personally think it would be appropriate to have it be \$5 million and have it be competitive,

rather than first one in, you get the money. I think that would really make sure that this was best benefitting Maine taxpayers and I hope that FAME will consider that when they come back with future legislation.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Acceptance of the Majority Ought Not to Pass report. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#148)

YEAS: Senators: BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, CARNEY, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, HAGGAN, HARRINGTON, INGWERSEN, LAWRENCE, NANGLE, RENY, ROTUNDO, TEPLER, TIPPING

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BERNARD, BICKFORD, BLACK, BRADSTREET, BRENNER, CURRY, CYRWAY, DUSON, FARRIN, HICKMAN, LIBBY, MARTIN, MOORE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, TALBOT ROSS, TIMBERLAKE, PRESIDENT DAUGHTRY

EXCUSED: Senators: STEWART

14 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 20 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused the motion by Senator **GROHOSKI** of Hancock to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report, **FAILED**.

The Minority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-75) was **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford **OBJECTED** to **SUSPENSION OF THE RULES** for the purpose of giving this Bill it's **SECOND READING**.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **TAXATION** on Bill "An Act to Increase the Maximum Amount of the Historic Property Rehabilitation Tax Credit That May be Taken in a Year" S.P. 82 L.D. 146

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-76)**.

Signed:

Senators:
GROHOSKI of Hancock
BICKFORD of Androscoggin
TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:
CLOUTIER of Lewiston
CROCKETT of Portland
FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor
MATLACK of St. George
SAYRE of Kennebunk

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

Signed:

Representatives:
LAVIGNE of Berwick
QUINT of Hodgdon
RUDNICKI of Fairfield
SWALLOW of Houlton
WHITE of Ellsworth

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **GROHOSKI** of Hancock, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **ACCEPTED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-76) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Sent down forthwith for concurrence.

ENACTORS

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

Emergency Measure

An Act to Fund Rural Patrol Services in Washington County
S.P. 194 L.D. 461
(C "A" S-32)

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

Emergency Measure

An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Rural Counties by Providing State Police Patrol and Policing Services

H.P. 306 L.D. 477
(C "A" H-80)

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

Emergency Measure

An Act to Increase Community Support for Families in Maine

H.P. 690 L.D. 1061
(C "A" H-78)

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

Acts

An Act to Provide Limited Immunity to Maine Human Rights Commission Mediators

S.P. 77 L.D. 141

An Act to Enhance Protections Regarding Invasive Aquatic Plant and Animal Infestations in Inland Waters of the State

H.P. 104 L.D. 171
(C "A" H-79)

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
(C "A" S-33)

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

H.P. 788 L.D. 1183

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

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

An Act to Provide Funding to Area Agencies on Aging for Community-based Services and Programs to Support Older Adults

H.P. 521 L.D. 814
(C "A" H-77)

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

Resolve

Resolve, to Rename the Twin Rivers Fire Academy in Fairfield the Duane Bickford Fire Training Facility

S.P. 45 L.D. 28
(C "A" S-31)

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

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

House Papers

Resolve, Directing the Department of Corrections to Convene a Working Group to Examine the Establishment of a Program to Award Earned Time Credit for Educational Achievement to Persons Who Are Incarcerated

H.P. 1322 L.D. 1979

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

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

Bill "An Act to Improve Access to Community Solar Programs in the State"

H.P. 1310 L.D. 1966

Resolve, to Establish the Maine Home Energy Navigator and Coaching Pilot Program

H.P. 1311 L.D. 1967

Bill "An Act to Eliminate the ConnectMaine Authority by Repealing the Advanced Technology Infrastructure Act"

H.P. 1319 L.D. 1975

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

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

Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study Oversight and Funding Structures for Recovery Residences and Resident Protections (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 1317 L.D. 1973

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

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

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Consent for HIV Testing and Disclosure of Related Medical Information for Insurance Purposes"

H.P. 1314 L.D. 1970

Comes 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 Protect Workers in This State by Clarifying the Relationship of State and Local Law Enforcement Agencies with Federal Immigration Authorities"

H.P. 1315 L.D. 1971

Bill "An Act to Affirm Parental Rights"

H.P. 1318 L.D. 1974

Bill "An Act Regarding Government Liability Related to Sexual Acts Toward Minors"

H.P. 1321 L.D. 1978

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

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

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Legislative Reimbursement"

H.P. 1312 L.D. 1968

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

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

**Pursuant to Statute
Department of Environmental Protection**

Report of the **Department of Environmental Protection**, pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 8072 and approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council asks leave to report that the accompanying Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 379: Compensation for Impacts to High-Value Agricultural Land from Solar Energy Development, a Late-filed Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Environmental Protection (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 1320 L.D. 1976

Be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Comes from the House, Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, and the Resolve **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

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

On motion by Senator **TEPLER** of Sagadahoc, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218, in concurrence.

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

House Papers

Bill "An Act to Enhance Transparency and Value in Substantial Health Care Transactions by Changing the Review and Approval Process for Those Transactions"

H.P. 1316 L.D. 1972

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

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

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

Bill "An Act to Amend the Maine Revised Unclaimed Property Act"
H.P. 1313 L.D. 1969

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

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

On motion by Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** and ordered printed, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Sent down for concurrence.

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Report of the Chair - Pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2

The Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** on Bill "An Act to Enable the Maine Pilotage Commission to Oversee Pilots Operating in Portland Harbor"

H.P. 1245 L.D. 1874

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

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

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

On motion by Senator **TEPLER** of Sagadahoc, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION**, in concurrence.

The Committee on **TAXATION** on Bill "An Act to Create Equity in Maine's Highway Funding by Imposing a Road Use Fee for Electric Vehicles"

H.P. 1246 L.D. 1875

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

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

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

On motion by Senator **GROHOSKI** of Hancock, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION**, in concurrence.

Change of Committee

The Committee on **TAXATION** on Bill "An Act to Support Small Businesses by Providing a Refundable Tax Credit to Certain Businesses to Offset Credit and Debit Card Transaction Fees"
H.P. 988 L.D. 1504

Reported that the same be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**, in concurrence.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Unfinished Business

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

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (4/1/25) matter:

Bill "An Act to Require State Divestment from Perpetrators of International Human Rights Violations"
H.P. 905 L.D. 1383

Tabled - April 1, 2025 by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland

Pending - **REFERENCE**

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

(In House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** and ordered printed.)

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

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (5/7/25) matter:

Joint Order to Amend Joint Rule 308

S.P. 726

Tabled - May 7, 2025 by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland

Pending - **FURTHER CONSIDERATION**

(In Senate, April 30, 2025, **REFERRED** to the Joint Select Committee on **JOINT RULES** and ordered printed.)

(In House, Joint Order **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.)

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

Sent down for concurrence.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (5/7/25) matter:

SENATE COMMUNICATION - SENATOR BENNETT - hereby resign my seat on the Joint Select Committee on Joint Rules
S.C. 346

Tabled - May 7, 2025 by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland

Pending – **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (5/7/25) matter:

SENATE COMMUNICATION - SENATE PRESIDENT - accepts Senator Bennett's resignation from the Joint Select Committee on Joint Rules
S.C. 347

Tabled - May 7, 2025 by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland

Pending – **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (5/7/25) matter:

Bill "An Act Regarding Home Heating Fuel Assistance"
S.P. 760 L.D. 1952

Tabled - May 7, 2025 by Senator **NANGLE** of Cumberland

Pending - **REFERENCE**

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

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

Sent down for concurrence.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (5/7/25) matter:

Bill "An Act to Prohibit the Sale of Potentially Intoxicating Hemp Products to a Person Under 21 Years of Age" (EMERGENCY)
H.P. 1281 L.D. 1920

Tabled - May 7, 2025 by Senator **TALBOT ROSS** of Cumberland

Pending - **REFERENCE**

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

(In House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.)

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

Sent down for concurrence.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (5/7/25) matter:

Bill "An Act to Modify Taxes Applying to Adult Use Cannabis, Hemp and Hemp Products"
H.P. 1301 L.D. 1942

Tabled - May 7, 2025 by Senator **GROHOSKI** of Hancock

Pending - **REFERENCE**

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

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

On motion by Senator **GROHOSKI** of Hancock, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Off Record Remarks

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

On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland, **ADJOURNED** until Tuesday, May 14, 2025 at 10:00 in the morning, in memory and lasting tribute of Mark Stuart Kierstead, of Waterville.