

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

In Senate Chamber  
Monday  
April 1, 2024

Senate called to order by President Troy D. Jackson of Aroostook County.

Prayer by Paula Raymond of South End Neighborhood Association in Waterville.

**PAULA RAYMOND:** Dear President Jackson, Senator Jackson, Members of the Senate, good morning. I am privileged, grateful, and humbled that I have the honor of sharing in prayer with each of you as individuals and as a collective body. It brought to mind the book of Matthew 18, verses 19 and 20. Again, I say to you, if two or more agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them. What a powerful message and thought to know that Jesus, our brother, our friend, and our savior, stands right beside each and every one of us in prayer and petition to our heavenly father, his father. And so, we begin our prayer in unison, wanting the same blessing, wanting the same attention, and wanting what is good for the people you serve by your presence here in this Chamber. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, Almighty Father, we come together on this day, April 1st, 2024, to ask for your blessing on the decisions we make as a collective body of individuals who serve the people of the State of Maine in our thoughts, words, and deeds. Keep us mindful that our responsibilities to the citizens of Maine is to create equitable laws and set policies for the government agencies that work for the people of Maine in order to enhance the health and welfare for all. The challenges are many, and at the end of the day, we go home to our loved ones, our neighbors, and our community, to whom we must answer to. Dearest and most giving father, remind us to be humble, courteous, and agreeable to one another today. Even when the needs of our constituents seem to take the backseat of those of others, help us to remember that we work toward unity among us and, at times, I must be the one to concede and even wait my turn, and because I work beside the good people of Maine, I know my turn will come. Dearest and most loving father, as a Maine constituent, I too pray that our senators, each in their own unique way, hear your voice clearly and distinctly. Speak to them of truth, integrity, justice, and equity for all those they come to these halls to serve. Above all, remind them to be kind to one another. Finally, we thank you, good father, for hearing us today as we stand before you in prayer. In the name of Jesus Christ, our lord and savior, our brother, our friend, our prince, and your son. Amen.

National Anthem Performed by the Messalonskee High School Band.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator Harold L. Stewart III of Aroostook County.

Medical Provider of the Day, Allison Guerrette, FNP-C of Madawaska.

Reading of the Journal of Thursday, March 28, 2024.

**PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE**

**Joint Resolution**

The following Joint Resolution:  
H.P. 1469

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, on Resurrection Sunday, also known as Easter Sunday, Jesus rose from the dead, and his death, burial and resurrection paid for the sins of the people and gives all who believe in him eternal life; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular

Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize Christian Holy Week in Maine; and be it further

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

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

**READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

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### COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: S.C. 1063

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

March 28, 2024

The Honorable Troy Jackson  
President of the Senate  
3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

RE: State Workforce Board

Dear President Jackson:

Pursuant to Title 3 M.R.S.A., §154, I am withdrawing my nomination of Benjamin Waxman for appointment to the State Workforce Board at the request of the nominee.

This nomination is currently pending before the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills  
Governor

**READ** and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

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The Following Communication: S.C. 1065

**STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT,  
ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS**

March 29, 2024

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson  
President of the Senate of Maine  
131st Maine State Legislature  
State House  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0003

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business has had under consideration the nomination of Barry T. Woods of Harpswell, for appointment to the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority.

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

YEAS	Senators	2	Curry, C. of Waldo, Guerin, S. of Penobscot
	Representatives	6	Roberts, T. of South Berwick, Collamore, A. of Pittsfield, LaRochelle, R. of Augusta, Sayre, D. of Kennebunk, Walker, M. of Naples, White, B. of Waterville
NAYS		0	
ABSENT		5	Sen. Rafferty, J. of York, Rep. Crockett, E. of Portland, Rep. Lanigan, L. of Sanford, Rep. Ness, C. of Fryeburg, Rep. Smith, K. of Palermo

Eight members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of Barry T. Woods of Harpswell, for appointment to the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Chip Curry  
Senate Chair

S/Tiffany Danielle Roberts  
House Chair

**READ** and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** be overridden?"

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

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 131<sup>st</sup> Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

### ROLL CALL (#636)

YEAS: Senators: None

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, FARRIN, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, KEIM, LAFOUNTAIN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, NANGLE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

EXCUSED: Senators: CHIPMAN, INGWERSEN, PIERCE

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 32 Senators having voted in the negative, with 3 Senators being excused, and none being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of **Barry T. Woods** of Harpswell, for appointment to the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority was **CONFIRMED**.

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 1060

### STATE OF MAINE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

March 27, 2024

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson  
President of the Senate of Maine  
131st Maine State Legislature  
State House  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0003

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs has had under consideration the nomination of Sarah LeClaire, Esquire of Woodland, for reappointment to the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices.

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

YEAS	Senators	2	Hickman, C. of Kennebec, Timberlake, J. of Androscoggin
	Representatives	7	Supica, L. of Bangor, Boyer, D. of Poland, Malon, M. of Biddeford, Montell, K. of Gardiner, Rielly, M. of Westbrook, Rudnicki, S. of Fairfield, Williams, L. of Bar Harbor
NAYS	Senators	0	
	Representatives	1	Hymes, B. of Waldo
ABSENT		3	Sen. Brenner, S. of Cumberland, Rep. Andrews, J. of Paris, Rep. Collings, B. of Portland

Nine members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and one in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of Sarah LeClaire, Esquire of Woodland, for reappointment to the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Craig V. Hickman  
Senate Chair

S/Laura Supica  
House Chair

### READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 131<sup>st</sup> Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#637)**

YEAS: Senators: None

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, FARRIN, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, KEIM, LAFOUNTAIN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, NANGLE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

EXCUSED: Senators: CHIPMAN, INGWERSEN, PIERCE

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 32 Senators having voted in the negative, with 3 Senators being excused, and none being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of **Sarah LeClaire**, Esquire of Woodland, for reappointment to the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices was **CONFIRMED**.

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

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The Following Communication: S.C. 1061

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

March 27, 2024

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson  
President of the Senate of Maine  
131st Maine State Legislature  
State House  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0003

Dear Mr. President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs has had under consideration the nomination of Kelly H. Bickmore of Cape Elizabeth, for appointment to the Gambling Control Board.

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

YEAS	Senators	2	Hickman, C. of Kennebec, Timberlake, J. of Androscoggin
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Representatives	8	Supica, L. of Bangor, Boyer, D. of Poland, Hymes, B. of Waldo, Malon, M. of Biddeford, Montell, K. of Gardiner, Rielly, M. of Westbrook, Rudnicki, S. of Fairfield, Williams, L. of Bar Harbor
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NAYS	0	
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ABSENT	3	Sen. Brenner, S. of Cumberland, Rep. Andrews, J. of Paris, Rep. Collings, B. of Portland
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Ten members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of Kelly H. Bickmore of Cape Elizabeth, for appointment to the Gambling Control Board be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Craig V. Hickman  
Senate ChairS/Laura Supica  
House Chair**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 131<sup>st</sup> Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#638)**

YEAS: Senators: None

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, FARRIN, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, KEIM, LAFOUNTAIN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, NANGLE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

EXCUSED: Senators: CHIPMAN, INGWERSEN, PIERCE

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 32 Senators having voted in the negative, with 3 Senators being excused, and none being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of **Kelly H.**

**Bickmore** of Cape Elizabeth, for appointment to the Gambling Control Board was **CONFIRMED**.

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

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The Following Communication: S.C. 1064

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

March 28, 2024

Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate  
Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House  
131st Legislature  
State House  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

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. 50   | An Act to Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect by Developing a System to Ensure Child and Family Well-being (EMERGENCY) |
| L.D. 1788 | An Act to Establish the Office of the Inspector General of Child Protection  |

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

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

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The Following Communication: S.C. 1062

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

March 27, 2024

Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate  
Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House  
131st Legislature  
State House  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

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

- |           |  |
|-----------|--|
| L.D. 2267 | An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission Regarding Foreign-trained Physicians Living in Maine to Support International Medical Graduates in Securing Employment |
|-----------|--|

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Donna Bailey Senate Chair	S/Rep. Anne C. Perry House Chair
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**READ** and with accompanying papers **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

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The Following Communication: S.C. 1058

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

March 26, 2024

Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate  
Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House  
131st Legislature  
State House  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

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

- |           |   |
|-----------|---|
| L.D. 748  | An Act to Strengthen the Due Process Rights of Persons in Law Enforcement Custody                                       |
| L.D. 1705 | An Act to Give Consumers Control over Sensitive Personal Data by Requiring Consumer Consent Prior to Collection of Data |
| L.D. 1735 | An Act to Safeguard Gender-affirming Health Care  |
| L.D. 1902 | An Act to Protect Personal Health Data  |

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Anne Carney  
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Matt Moonen  
House Chair

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 1059

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

March 25, 2024

Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate  
Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House  
131st Legislature  
State House  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

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. 2260 An Act to Update the Laws Regarding the Sale of Pari-mutuel Pools for Simulcast Races

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.**

**ORDERS**

**Joint Orders**

Expressions of Legislative Sentiment recognizing:

The Cony High School Girls Basketball team, of Augusta, which won the Class A North Championship. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;  
SLS 1740

Sponsored by Senator POULIOT of Kennebec.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta,  
LaROCHELLE of Augusta.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

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

Senator **POULIOT:** Good morning, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I'm thrilled to be joined this morning by a group of very resilient and committed young women from our beloved Cony High School here in Augusta, who helped to elevate their basketball program to heights not reached for quite some time now. Defying expectations, Mr. President, they carried themselves past the top-seeded Lawrence in a tightly contested 54-46 win at the Augusta Civic Center on February 23rd, marking their first regional championship title in slightly over a decade. This is a genuine landmark moment for this special squad to have delivered for the program, one that may very well be a pivot point for them to get over the next hump for a state title in the coming years. Unfortunately, they didn't pull it off against the Lady Dragons from Senator Daughtry's district, but next time might be the charm. I'd like to think, given the fact that they have such tenacity, they make the ship run hard for the years to come, something which Head Coach John Dennett emphasized after their big win. Much of the season, these girls had to scrap their way through a relatively thin roster, routinely being limited to six regular starters, and finishing the season with nine on the bench in total. Coach Dennett cut right to it when he said we battled some adversity throughout the year. These girls just worked and worked themselves. You all have earned a special recognition for the example you've set consistently lifting each other up, not giving an inch when obstacles presented themselves. Please accept my congratulations for everything you've managed to accomplish this season, and of course, I look forward to seeing the momentum hold for you in the future. Thank you for being here today and also thank you to Coach Dennett, Shay Freeman, and Alyssa Dennett for your quality leadership of this team. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator **DAUGHTRY:** Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I just want to rise and congratulate Cony on an incredible season. While I may represent the Dragons, I have to say, having watched a lot of the games, they did an absolutely spectacular job, and I think we need to recognize what an exemplary season this has been for women's basketball in our state. So, big congratulations, and I can't wait to see where this team goes, but hopefully not above the Dragons next season.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

**THE PRESIDENT:** The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the chamber the Cony High School Girl's Basketball Team: Head Coach John Dennett, and Assistant Coach Shay Freeman of the town of Augusta. They are the guests today of the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Pouliot. Would the guests please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate.

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**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**House**

**Ought to Pass As Amended**

The Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** on Bill "An Act to Strengthen Maine's Agriculture, Food System and Forest Products Infrastructure Investment" H.P. 1419 L.D. 2212

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-876)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-876)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-876) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

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The Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Fund the Delivery of Educational Services to Children with Special Needs as Required by State and Federal Law in Special Purpose Private Preschools" (EMERGENCY) H.P. 1344 L.D. 2120

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-863)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-863)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-863) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

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The Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Establish a Grant Program to Increase Postsecondary Educational Opportunities for Students with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder" (EMERGENCY) H.P. 1386 L.D. 2166

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-874)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-874)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-874) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

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The Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act to Reduce the Reporting Requirements for Special Utility Districts and to Require the Maine Public Utility Financing Bank to File a Report with the Legislature" H.P. 1441 L.D. 2248

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-871)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-871)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-871) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

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The Committee on **TAXATION** on Bill "An Act Regarding Taxation" H.P. 492 L.D. 803

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-873)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-873)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-873) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

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The Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** on Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 2: Medical Use of Cannabis Program Rule, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Cannabis Policy (EMERGENCY)  
H.P. 1399 L.D. 2185

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-870)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-870)**.

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

Resolve **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-870) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

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#### Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** on Bill "An Act to Develop a Continuum of Care for Youth Involved in the Justice System and to Develop Alternatives for Juveniles Incarcerated in Long Creek Youth Development Center"  
H.P. 1142 L.D. 1779

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

Signed:

Senator:  
HARRINGTON of York

Representatives:  
SALISBURY of Westbrook  
ARDELL of Monticello  
LAJOIE of Lewiston  
NEWMAN of Belgrade  
NUTTING of Oakland

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-869)**.

Signed:

Senator:  
BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representatives:  
HASENFUS of Readfield  
LOOKNER of Portland  
MATHIESON of Kittery  
MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

Comes from the House with the Minority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-869)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-869)**.

Reports **READ**.

Senator **BEEBE-CENTER** of Knox moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Minority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report.

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

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

Senator **BEEBE-CENTER:** Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I rise in support of the pending motion. As most of you know, I live in Rockland, Maine, one of the communities that recently found itself with a sudden surge in adolescent crime. Rockland's Representative Geiger and I met with our police chief, Tim Carroll, weekly for many months. We spent countless hours figuring out what happened, why it happened, which systems failed, and how we can avoid anything like that again. We all agreed that the systems we had had failed our town and had failed our kids. The current system is not serving the community, and its safety is not -- it's not serving our public safety officers whose hands are effectively tied. Most of all, it's not serving young people. These young people have lived difficult lives, often filled with trauma, abuse, neglect, dysfunction, and poverty. Tim Carroll, our police chief, asked us for exactly the things in this bill. This bill would help prevent what happened in Rockland, it would bring Maine another step closer to identifying and curing root causes of youth delinquency. The bill originated in the work of Dr. Moira O'Neill, New Hampshire's first child advocate. Dr. O'Neill oversaw new state juvenile services in our neighboring state. In its program, when children encounter law enforcement, they can undergo a strengths-based needs assessment before criminal charges are filed. The system this bill would help build emphasized prevention, meeting the child where they are. Youth delinquency often arises from unmet needs, from untreated substance use disorders, and other mental and behavioral illnesses, unprocessed traumas, from poverty and household strife. This bill would help us meet those needs. Interventions in New Hampshire have been as simple as connecting the child with a mentor, a sports program, an afterschool program, or a job. The interventions have also included more intensive services like in-home therapeutic support. Early outcome data from New Hampshire demonstrates -- demonstrate the majority of children are successfully diverted from the correctional system. This bill will help expand the options of poverty, the pandemic, and our workforce crisis have diminished. This bill will help heal rural kids and urban kids alike. Let us do right by our kids and by our communities. I urge you to



follow my light and support the pending motion.

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

Senator **HARRINGTON:** Thank you, Mr. President. I would just rise and say I think the bill is well intentioned, nobody wants to see kids brought to Long Creek, the state's only juvenile correctional facility. I would just add that this bill is \$1.5 million being allocated for something that law enforcement can already do. Law enforcement in Maine already have an enormous amount of discretion on how to handle juvenile cases, and already do. Diverting away from Long Creek is already something that law enforcement seeks to do in every case, so it's a -- I'll just leave it there. Thank you.

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

Senator **CARNEY:** Thank you, President Jackson, Colleagues of the Senate. I rise in support of the pending Ought to Pass as Amended Motion. LD 1779, An Act to Prevent Youth Involvement in the Juvenile Justice System by Establishing a Strength Based Discretionary Juvenile Needs Assessment Program has a long title, but it is quite simple and quite important. It's a diversion bill. We all know the purpose of the juvenile justice system is to provide - and here I'm quoting from the statute - necessary treatment, care, guidance, and discipline to assist that juvenile in becoming a responsible and productive member of society. LD 1779 would help divert Maine youth in crisis away from a system that's been shown to push them deeper into crisis, and towards services that will assess their needs for medical, educational, social, therapeutic, or other services. This bill would also help Maine comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Under the ADA, people with disabilities have a right to live and receive services in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs. This typically means in their homes and communities, instead of in prisons or treatment facilities. In July 2020, the U.S. Department of Justice issued a letter finding that the State of Maine is violating the Americans with Disabilities Act by unnecessarily segregating children with mental health diagnoses or developmental disabilities, or both, in psychiatric hospitals, residential treatment facilities, and at Long Creek Youth Development Center. The Department of Justice found that, quote, Long Creek Youth Development Center, the state's sole juvenile justice facility, currently fills a gap left by Maine's community-based behavioral health system. The Department of Justice findings letter further states that, quote, many children with disabilities in Maine, especially those in rural areas or with more intensive needs, are unable to live at home with their families due to a lack of community based behavioral health services. Absent these services, Maine children with disabilities enter emergency rooms, come into contact with law enforcement, and remain in institutions when many of them could be at home if Maine put in place sufficient community-based services. And just this last week, the New York Times and the Bangor Daily News jointly published an article describing how Aroostook County sends more kids per capita to Long Creek than York and Cumberland Counties do. The article states that, quote, it is difficult to find therapists in Aroostook County, which is one of only two Maine counties without an intensive in-home behavioral health program aimed at keeping youth out of the justice system.

It further notes that many children alleged to have violated the law have substance use disorder but no access to a residential program closer than Portland, and even that program lacks the openings needed to meet the state's needs. Long Creek Youth Development Center is in the Senate District I serve. I know that the Department of Corrections has made significant progress in reducing the state's reliance on Long Creek, bringing the facility's population down from 136 in 2010 to around just 30 today. It is, indeed, the Department's own commitment to, quote, reduce the use of institutional secure confinement by increasing the capacity and use of community-based programs and supports. This bill will advance us toward that goal. LD 1779 as amended will allow Maine to better fulfill the purpose of our juvenile justice system and will ensure that children with disabilities live and receive services in the most integrated setting appropriate to their needs. Colleagues, I urge you to support the pending motion.

**THE PRESIDENT:** The pending question before the Senate is Acceptance of the Minority 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 (#639)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, LAWRENCE, NANGLE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, FARRIN, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, KEIM, LAFOUNTAIN, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, POULIOT, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: INGWERSEN, PIERCE

19 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 14 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **BEEBE-CENTER** of Knox to **ACCEPT** the Minority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-869) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

**Divided Report**

The Majority of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act to Make Necessary Changes to State Law"  
H.P. 288 L.D. 471

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-872)**.

Signed:

Senators:

NANGLE of Cumberland  
BALDACCI of Penobscot  
LYFORD of Penobscot

Representatives:

STOVER of Boothbay  
COPELAND of Saco  
DHALAC of South Portland  
GREENWOOD of Wales  
POMERLEAU of Standish  
RISEMAN of Harrison  
UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

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

Signed:

Representatives:

ABDI of Lewiston  
ADAMS of Lebanon  
SINCLAIR of Bath

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-872)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-872)**.

Reports **READ**.

Senator **NANGLE** of Cumberland moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report.

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

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Mr. President, Fellow Members of the Senate. I will be voting against the pending motion. This relates to the never-ending saga of deciding what to do about our state flag, and we are on path to have a vote this November 2024. This bill would delay the vote until 2026 and form a small commission to advise the Secretary of State on the flag's design. I think it's about time we just made a decision on this, the people of Maine are ready, so I ask for a division. Thank you, Mr. President.

At the request of Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford a Division was had. 20 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators

having voted in the negative, the motion by Senator **NANGLE** of Cumberland to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-872) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

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**Divided Report**

The Majority of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act Regarding Recommendations for Changing Place Names in the State"  
H.P. 1065 L.D. 1667

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-875)**.

Signed:

Senators:

NANGLE of Cumberland  
BALDACCI of Penobscot

Representatives:

STOVER of Boothbay  
ABDI of Lewiston  
COPELAND of Saco  
DHALAC of South Portland  
RISEMAN of Harrison  
SINCLAIR of Bath

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

Signed:

Senator:

LYFORD of Penobscot

Representatives:

ADAMS of Lebanon  
GREENWOOD of Wales  
POMERLEAU of Standish  
UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-875)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-875)**.

Reports **READ**.

Senator **NANGLE** of Cumberland moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report.

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

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

Senator **NANGLE:** Thank you, Mr. President. Just in way of explanation, this is a bill that would establish a small commission to assist cities and towns with changing offensive place names.

**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 (#640)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, LAFOUNTAIN, LAWRENCE, NANGLE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, FARRIN, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, KEIM, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, POULIOT, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: INGWERSEN, PIERCE

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-875) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

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#### Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **TAXATION** on Bill "An Act to Require a Corporation That Files a Tax Return in the State to File a Tax Disclosure Statement"  
H.P. 851 L.D. 1337

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-868)**.

Signed:

Senators:

GROHOSKI of Hancock  
CHIPMAN of Cumberland

Representatives:

PERRY of Bangor  
CARMICHAEL of Greenbush  
CROCKETT of Portland  
HASENFUS of Readfield  
MATLACK of St. George  
RANA of Bangor

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

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

LAVIGNE of Berwick  
LIBBY of Auburn  
QUINT of Hodgdon  
RUDNICKI of Fairfield

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-868)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-868)**.

Reports **READ**.

Senator **GROHOSKI** of Hancock moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report.

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

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

Senator **LIBBY:** Thank you, Mr. President, Men and Women of the Senate. Just briefly, I view this legislation as more attempts to get toward this situation where we'll be looking at proprietary information from corporations. It asks for an awful lot and yet when you look at the fiscal note, it says this cost can be absorbed. Well, you know, what usually happens around here with bad legislation is it either turns into a study or it turns into a report, and this time it turns into a report and it's -- the report's going to cost money, and I don't know why the fiscal note says what it says, but it certainly -- if you look at the details of what is required in the report, it's going to take some time and effort to gather this data. So, I am opposed to this for those reasons. Thank you.

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

Senator **GROHOSKI**: Thank you, Mr. President, Colleagues of the Senate. This bill did certainly start as a very large and broad effort, but at this point, what remains of the bill is a report. The Senator is absolutely correct. However, I do think this report will have value to the Taxation Committee as well as our constituents and advocates that are keeping a close eye on whether or not corporations are paying their fair share of taxes, as we know that Maine people do. I don't think this report is going to take very much effort because it's simply an aggregation of data that is already available to Maine Revenue Services, Bureau of Revenue Services. For example, it asks for the 50 largest for-profit employers in the state how many - just how many, not who they are or where they're located - paid zero state corporate income tax or received a refunded portion of a refundable credit. I think that information could be very helpful because what we don't know sometimes in order to make decisions results in poor decisions. So, if you want to take a quick look, there's just a couple other things, but it's something that data in a database can be aggregated, and the good news is that Maine Revenue Services has upgraded all of its income tax filings and so with a modern system, I think this report actually will be quite simple and it could be useful for our colleagues in the future. Thank you.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

#### ROLL CALL (#641)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, LAFOUNTAIN, NANGLE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: BLACK, FARRIN, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, KEIM, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, POULIOT, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: INGWERSEN, PIERCE

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

On motion by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford, the Senate **RECONSIDERED** whereby it **ACCEPTED** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

#### ROLL CALL (#642)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, LAFOUNTAIN, LAWRENCE, NANGLE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: BLACK, FARRIN, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, KEIM, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, POULIOT, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: INGWERSEN, PIERCE

22 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 11 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **GROHOSKI** of Hancock to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-868) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

#### Senate

#### Ought to Pass As Amended

Senator NANGLE for the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act to Further Clarify the Meaning of 'Private Road' and 'Public Easement' in Certain Provisions of Maine Law" S.P. 982 L.D. 2264

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-622)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-622) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

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Senator HICKMAN for the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Prohibit Receiving Compensation for Assisting a Person to Obtain Veterans' Benefits Except as Permitted Under Federal Law"  
S.P. 976 L.D. 2259

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-619)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-619) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

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**Divided Report**

The Majority of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** on Resolve, to Require the Establishment of a Stakeholder Group to Examine and Improve the Recruitment, Retention and Wellness of Law Enforcement Officers  
S.P. 887 L.D. 2094

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-623)**.

Signed:

Senators:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox  
HARRINGTON of York  
LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook  
ARDELL of Monticello  
LAJOIE of Lewiston  
NEWMAN of Belgrade  
NUTTING of Oakland  
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (S-624)**.

Signed:

Representatives:

LOOKNER of Portland  
MATHIESON of Kittery  
MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **BEEBE-CENTER** of Knox, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-623)** Report **ACCEPTED**.

Resolve **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-623) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-623)**.

Sent down forthwith for concurrence.

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**Divided Report**

The Majority of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Resolve, to Promote Access to Education and Workforce Development by Transferring Ownership of the Hutchinson Center Property in Belfast to the City of Belfast (EMERGENCY)  
S.P. 956 L.D. 2231

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

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York  
LIBBY of Cumberland  
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

BRENNAN of Portland  
BAGSHAW of Windham  
LYMAN of Livermore Falls  
MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth  
MURPHY of Scarborough  
POLEWARCZYK of Wiscasset  
SAMPSON of Alfred  
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-620)**.

Signed:

Representatives:

DODGE of Belfast  
WORTH of Ellsworth

Reports **READ**.

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

On motion by Senator **CURRY** of Waldo, 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 Waldo, Senator Curry.

Senator **CURRY:** Thank you, Mr. President. I oppose the pending motion. Waldo County is a rural district with over 40,000 people spread out over 730 square miles. That's 54 people per mile. Within our 26 communities, we have hundreds, even thousands of people who have invested their time, talent, and treasure into the institutions that are essential for community life. That's our schools, ambulance services, health clinics, assisted living facilities, general stores, fire departments, youth programs, soup kitchens, childcare facilities, churches, and more. Looking back on our history, we recognize that these institutions almost always exist today because of the investment and sacrifices made by people years, even decades prior. We all celebrate our community leaders, and we find them in towns and cities of all sizes. I also recognize that Waldo County is not the most rural area of Maine and do not pretend to know in detail the challenges our most rural communities face. As financial pressures mount, institutions reorganize, technology advances, more and more of our community institutions are forced to join larger networks or organizations. We've needed to join regionalized efforts and centralized support services like finance, HR, and IT, in order to preserve the delivery of rural services. The challenge is that in joining these regional organizations, our cherished community institutions becomes someone else's distant outpost. Far too often, leaders of these statewide institutions or regional systems have a hub-spoke mentality, with the hub becoming the central focus and the spoke too often ignored, starved of resources, and ultimately abandoned. This push for centralization is not new. It's not based on new efficiencies due to technological advances. Those of us from more rural areas understand it simply as the latest expression of power. Statewide institutions far too often confuse empire building with the successful pursuit of their mission for the promotion of the common good for all Maine people. Too frequently, our statewide leaders would prefer we acted like compliant customers, happily accepting these changes while paying for less and less quality service year after year. On behalf of my rural district, I'd like to say to the statewide leaders who now control our essential community institutions, we see what is going on and there is a reason we are angry. When you close our nursing homes and send our elders miles away, we see you. When you choose to save money by dropping rural state patrol, we see you. When your funding formula means that our rural highways will never be properly repaired or our schools adequately funded, we see you. When you rebrand our hospital and disrespect the legacy of giving that built it, we see you. When you close our higher education center and put its future out to bid without ever meaningfully engaging the community that invested millions in it, we see you. And when state government fails to hold these institutions accountable and ensure they serve all Mainers, rural Mainers see us. Essential institutions in rural communities are prized because there are so few. When you lose the general store, the nursing home, the clinic, the elementary school, or ambulance service, there's not another one ten miles down the road. When we lose these institutions, the quality of our lives is lessened. It becomes a harder place to live, a harder place to attract new families, and when we lose too

many of these institutions, bit by bit, we are no longer a community, but instead a crossroads. Maine is a rural state. It defines us, yet far too often, the march of progress makes it harder for us to exist. Progress for rural Maine too often means loss - loss of access to healthcare, education, and economic opportunity. We need to value rural life and rural communities. We must respect the hard-won community institutions and support our rural communities to be the vibrant places with an outstanding quality of life. We all need to do better for our rural communities. I sponsored this legislation because people who live in the Midcoast or are deeply connected to Waldo and Knox Counties invested millions of dollars in the Hutchinson Center. They invested with the intention of increasing access to postsecondary education in the Midcoast. I am saddened that the University of Maine wishes to dispose of this facility. I'm angered that the university has failed to meaningfully engage the people of the Midcoast to determine how we can ensure that this essential community asset is used to increase access to education and workforce development for the people of the Midcoast. Out of a respect for those who have invested their time, talent, and treasure in this facility, I will be voting against the pending motion and ask you to do the same.

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

Senator **RAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. President. I appreciate the opportunity to rise, although I feel I'm in an uncomfortable position in doing so, as this is -- internally, this is kind of an ugly situation within the community of Belfast and -- but the reality is the university does own the property and my responsibility as a legislator, I think I'd be wrong in not speaking to the fact that I don't think the university is in a position to give away property, and this is a property that currently they hold the mortgage on for about \$850,000, as I recall. So, as much as I wish that this was ironed out between the two entities in a better way, I think that we -- I ask for your support in voting Ought Not to Pass at this time. Thank you very much.

**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 (#643)

YEAS: Senators: BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CARNEY, DUSON, FARRIN, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, KEIM, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, NANGLE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, LAFOUNTAIN, LAWRENCE, POULIOT, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

EXCUSED: Senators: INGWERSEN, PIERCE

19 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 14 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **RAFFERTY** of York to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report, **PREVAILED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

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All matters thus acted upon, with the exception of those matters being held, were ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

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### Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** on RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Protect Personal Reproductive Autonomy  
S.P. 339 L.D. 780

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-617)**.

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland  
BAILEY of York

Representatives:

MOONEN of Portland  
KUHN of Falmouth  
LEE of Auburn  
MORIARTY of Cumberland  
SHEEHAN of Biddeford

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

Signed:

Senator:

BRAKEY of Androscoggin

Representatives:

ANDREWS of Paris  
HAGGAN of Hampden  
HENDERSON of Rumford  
POIRIER of Skowhegan

(Representative DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe - of the House - supports the Minority **Ought Not To Pass** Report.)

Reports **READ**.

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

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

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

Senator **CARNEY:** Thank you, Mr. President, Colleagues of the Senate. I rise to speak in favor of the pending motion. The 131st Legislature convened just months after the United States Supreme Court reversed nearly 50 years of legal precedent that safeguarded federal protections for abortion. For decades, decisions surrounding reproductive healthcare were made by women and, if they so chose, in consultation with their families, healthcare providers, and support networks. The Dobbs decision took away a fundamental right for half the population and left it up to the states to protect or eviscerate abortion care. I am proud that in the 131st Legislature, we responded to the loss of federal constitutional rights by passing laws to protect access to abortion and related care. We did this because we know that all Mainers deserve access to essential reproductive healthcare, and we needed to ensure that access to healthcare remains safe and legal. In fact, we should all be proud of the work we've done in the last four years to make sure that Mainers and their families have access to reproductive care, including improved access to birth control, postpartum coverage under private insurance and MaineCare, insurance coverage for fertility treatment, and wider access to the children's health insurance program, which provides prenatal care, infant and childcare, young adult care, and postpartum care to thousands of Mainers. A constitutional amendment will support the strong framework we've built together. Maine's laws are built in science and rooted in the understanding that deeply personal, complex medical decisions should not be made by legislators. But access to legal protected created in statute can be attacked. Attorneys General in anti-abortion states have tried to extend their laws beyond their own borders. And within Maine, we've seen hurtful proposals to impose unnecessary and expensive requirements on people who have miscarriages or abortions. As protective as our current laws are, the truth is that reproductive rights remain vulnerable. Indeed, our counterparts in more than 20 states have opted to ban or severely restrict access to abortion, with some going so far as to impose criminal penalties on providers patients, and their support networks while awarding large sums of money to those who intrude on the privacy of doctor-patient and family relationships. And this is only the start. Lawmakers in other states have proposed restrictions on contraception, and the State Supreme Court in Alabama has imperiled the future of assistive reproduction by ruling that embryos are the legal equivalent of children. Congressional and Presidential candidates are campaigning on dangerous federal abortion bans. Look no further than the letter sent by Attorneys General from states that have banned abortion just a few weeks ago. It is clear that Mainers' basic rights to make personal, private healthcare decisions are in jeopardy. It is both remarkable and extremely concerning that these Attorneys General sought to weigh in not on our existing policies and practices, but instead sought to impede our legislative process and challenge the autonomy of Maine's legislative bodies and our state sovereignty. This should be unacceptable to every single elected leader in this Chamber, and it is for that very reason that the protections of a constitutional amendment are so timely and so necessary. A vote in favor of LD 780 says no to out-of-state Attorneys General who want to impose their laws on Maine women. It says no to out-of-state legislators who want to put themselves between Maine doctors

and Maine patients or force their opinions on Maine families when it comes to private, deeply complex, and personal medical decisions. A vote in favor of LD 780 says yes to Mainers, women and girls, families, and men and boys who face complex and private reproductive medical issues. It says yes, especially, to giving Maine voters the opportunity to express their view on a proposed right to reproductive autonomy. Maine has always been a state that values freedom, autonomy, and individual liberties. LD 780 is about all of those things. Consider what message a no vote would send to the people of Maine. We would be telling them we trust you to elect us to the Senate, but we don't trust you to vote on your own right to reproductive autonomy. As an elected official, I owe my constituents more than that. I will be voting Ought to Pass as Amended, and I urge you to do the same. Thank you.

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

Senator **GUERIN:** Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, and fellow citizens of the State of Maine. Today, I rise to address a matter that strikes to the core of our values and principles - the protection of innocent life. As a representative of this great state, I am deeply concerned about the proposed expansion of abortion in Maine. Every life is precious. It is our duty as legislators to safeguard the most vulnerable amongst us. The expansion of abortion without reasonable restrictions would undermine this fundamentally responsible -- responsibility and disregard the inherent dignity of every human being, regardless of their stage of development. Unborn children are human. They deserve basic human rights. We must recognize that abortion is not merely a medical procedure, it is a decision that carries profound moral and ethical implications. It is a decision that ends a human life, extinguishing the potential and the possibilities of an innocent child. Abortion is also torture for millions of murdered children. In abortion procedures, children are routinely subjected to the worst acts of violence imaginable. A dilation and evacuation, or D&E, abortion is the most common abortion procedure used for the second trimester abortion committed on babies ages 14 weeks through 22 weeks. In a D&E abortion, the abortionist inserts a large suction catheter into the uterus and turns it on, emptying the amniotic fluid. After the amniotic fluid has been removed, the abortionist uses a sulfur clamp, a grasping instrument with sharp teeth, to grasp and pull one by one the living, moving baby's arms and legs, ripping their limbs from the child's body. The abortionist continues to grasp the child's intestines, spine, heart, lungs, and other parts. The most difficult part of the procedure for the abortionist is usually finding and grasping and crushing the baby's head. You see, many abortions are not just killing, a D&E abortion is excruciating, torturous killing of a baby, who feels every second of his or her live dismemberment. Abortion at its core is a contradiction of every human right, for if human rights are not for all, then they are for none. If human rights do not apply to human life in the womb, then they apply to no one. If our youngest child is not considered worthy of these rights, then why do these rights matter to anyone? Or, as Mother Theresa said prophetically, her words echoing long after her passing, in a nation where a mother can kill her own child, what is left for you or for I to kill one another? We must do better. This civilization defining problem can only be addressed by telling the truth and confronting the truth with solutions. The truth is rejecting this

dangerous bill. Furthermore, we cannot ignore the impact of abortion on women and families. Rather than promoting abortion as a solution, we should be investing in support services that empower women facing unplanned pregnancies, providing them with resources and the assistance they need to choose life. These issues transcend our partisan politics. It is about protecting the sanctity of human life and upholding our shared values of compassion and respect. Regardless of where we stand on other issues, we must unite in the defense of the most vulnerable members of our society. Furthermore, I firmly believe that abortion should not be enshrined in our State Constitution. Our Constitution is a sacred document that should reflect our highest ideals and values. The inclusion of abortion would undermine its integrity. Constitutional amendments should be reserved for principles that are fundamental to our democracy and unite us as a society. Abortion is a deeply divisive issue and embedding it in our constitution would only serve to deepen those divisions. Instead, let us engage in open and respectful dialogue, guided by compassion and reason, as we seek to address this complex issue through legislation that respects the sanctity of human life and protects the rights of all individuals. In conclusion, I urge my fellow legislators to reject the expansion of abortion in Maine. Let us instead work towards solutions that promote life, support women in crisis, and uphold the dignity of every human individual. The truth of the value of a human child is written in our souls. We have to struggle to suppress it. It's unnatural to kill a child. It is natural to love and protect a child. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator **KEIM:** Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Just this legislative session, some in this Chamber passed LD 1619 and we still don't have any idea the full effect of that radical legislation. Abortion in Maine is now allowed without any real restriction up to the moment of live birth, and this is an incredibly divisive issue - with good reason. In addition to the immeasurable value of every child, unborn or born, we still have not authentically considered the basic respect for the rights of the unborn and at which day in their lives they deserve the protection of law, whether it is the day before they are born or the day after. Or if at some point prior to birth they also deserve the right to live. But this bill's language proposes so much more than abortion by using the phrase reproductive autonomy. According to the American Academy of Medical Ethics, reproductive autonomy is open ended, without any ethical restraints. In an attempt to cement a position of late-term abortions up to the moment of birth that is outside the mainstream and a position that majority of Mainers don't agree with, this proposal uses a legal term that has not yet been defined and there are real concerns at what this term could be argued to mean. What unintended issues may arise when this comes to be challenged in courts? My interpretation of this is that the reproductive freedom sought in the constitutional amendment would apply to men as well. Does that mean that a man can deny child support payments if they chose not to have the baby but a woman does? This threatens to upset our entire child support system. Does this mean that we will not be able to enact sensible protections for women in any medical procedures that have to do with reproduction? What impact would this have on reasonable restrictions that safeguard economically vulnerable young women who look to support themselves by selling their



wombs or their eggs? Amending the State Constitution to enshrine a right to abortion in the guise of reproductive rights may impede the State from enacting future commonsense protections for women and pre-born children. We cannot handcuff ourselves this way. There should be no provision in any constitution anywhere that limits or ends life, and this is not a sensible response to a woman's right to abortion, that legal consideration is already law. This would be opening Maine's Constitution up to unknown and potentially damaging law, and I believe that in this Body, we need to vote Ought Not to Pass. Thank you.

**THE PRESIDENT:** The Chair recognizes the Senator from Sagadahoc, Senator Vitelli.

Senator **VITELLI:** Thank you, Mr. President, Women and Men of the Senate. I rise as the proud sponsor of LD 780, a resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of Maine to protect reproductive autonomy, and I urge your support. The ability to determine our reproductive health is a fundamental human right and it deserves the same level of protection as other constitutionally protected rights. The ability to control one's reproductive health is vital to being an equal member of our society and our economy. This includes the decisions of when, where -- whether and how to start a family. For 50 years, most of my lifetime, many believed that we had a guaranteed right to reproductive liberty. Maine's statutes in place today continue to protect access to reproductive healthcare. However, the 2022 Supreme Court decision that reversed *Roe v. Wade* served as a stark reminder that laws can change. LD 780, if approved by voters, would enshrine the right of individuals to access reproductive healthcare, including access to abortion, also birth control and fertility care in our constitution. The language of the title of the proposed referendum, reproductive autonomy, is simple, and I believe straightforward. Yet there have been questions about what this amendment really means. First, reproductive can be understood to cover the basic biology of human reproduction, meaning anything related to the menstrual cycle, conception, or the avoidance thereof, pregnancy, and birth. On the one hand, you see, there is sperm, and on the other, an egg. When these two join, they form what is called a zygote. When and if a zygote successfully implants in a uterus, it is called an embryo. If all goes well, the embryo develops into a fetus, taking nourishment from the womb. Again, if all goes well, over the course of roughly nine months, the fetus is delivered, and the child is born. Autonomy refers to the ability of an individual to decide what happens to their own body, including what medical treatment to pursue. Reproductive autonomy ensures that the person who produces the sperm or the egg and the individual who hosts the embryo in her womb is able to decide when and if and how to engage in reproduction. For instance, there are times when a person may decide to delay reproduction and thus seek birth control. In other instances, an individual may wish to prevent any future reproduction or may have other health reasons for avoiding reproduction, so a vasectomy or a hysterectomy may be in order. In yet other instances, an individual may need medical assistance in their desire to reproduce and IVF or other procedures may be called for. There are times, tragically, when a pregnancy may result from rape or incest or may threaten the health of the mother. In such circumstances, most of us understand the decision to terminate a pregnancy. There are other conditions, however, where the weighty decision to terminate the pregnancy would be considered by the individual

with the womb to be in the best interest of that person, her family, or her future ability to bear a child. These medical decisions are highly personal and individual. These are all decisions a person, an autonomous being, makes and has the right to make with the support and care of loved ones and trusted medical providers. I have been pregnant twice in my life, and gratefully gave birth to two healthy sons who are now grown. But my own experience, and from witnessing many friends and family members experience of successful and some not successful pregnancies, I can say unequivocally that there is nothing else like it. As a friend of mine who is a doctor put it, pregnancy may be natural, but it is not normal. By which she meant that a pregnant person's body undergoes major biological changes. Some are clearly visible, but many are not. The reality of one's body giving of itself to form another body is felt in a myriad of ways. And while every pregnancy is different, it is in itself an experience unique among all others. Women and Men of the Senate, reproduction is serious business, and it is those who are engaged in reproduction, the sperm holder, the egg producer, or the individual with the womb, that should be making the decisions about the healthcare they need if and when and how they engage in reproduction. Not me, not you, or any other elected politician. For the good of each and every one of us, we need to get politics out of reproductive care and reproductive care out of politics. This proposed amendment, if approved by voters, would ensure just that - reproductive autonomy. I ask that you support this basic human right and send this measure out to the voters. Thank you.

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

Senator **BRAKEY:** Thank you, Mr. President. Listening to the debate back and forth, and speaking as a member of the Judiciary Committee where this bill was referred out of, there's just a few points I wanted to make briefly. First, it's been mentioned the legislation last year in response to the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* that puts our State Statutes to where they are today on the matter of abortion, and I just want to note for the record that state law as changed by LD 1619 last year goes far beyond the *Roe v. Wade* standard, authorizing the killing of pre-born, post-viability babies in the third trimester for any reason. Any reason. And frankly, I am uncomfortable codifying that into our State Constitution. On the larger principle of bodily autonomy and reproductive freedom, you know, hey, adults should be free to make their own decisions in their own lives with their own bodies as long as they're not violating the rights of any other individual. I believe very much in that principle. But I suppose, as we've seen in discourse and debate in this body, there's a disagreement about when an individual is an individual. I personally think post-viability, I think it's pretty hard to argue that a human being who has brain activity, can feel pain, and can be born alive and survive and thrive in the world outside of their mother's womb, I think it's inarguable that at that point we're talking about a human being that has some basic human rights that need to be respected. And I would note in that respect, going through the Declaration of Rights in our Maine Constitution as I look through a lot of the other sections that are in there, I believe this would be the only item in our Declaration of Rights that authorizes the right of one person to violate the rights of another human being. So, in that regard, it would be very out of step with our Declaration of Rights. And then, I do also want to say

something that hasn't come up in debate and discourse on the floor today but did in the policy committee, the Judiciary Committee, you know, why not just vote this out and send it to the ballot and let the people decide, I will note that there have been many proposals for constitutional amendments that have come forward through various policy committees, through this Body, where on the other side, for example, we supported -- the Republican caucus in the Judiciary Committee last year a proposal on parental rights in education. The argument that that should be able to go out to voters wasn't an argument that held weight, you know, as is -- as is fair, right? We have to -- it goes to the Legislature for a specific purpose, so that we can exercise some judgment on behalf of our constituents first before we send things out to vote. So, those are the points I wanted to make. I'll be voting against the Majority Ought to Pass Report.

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

Senator **BRENNER:** Mr. President and Colleagues of the Senate, I rise in full support of LD 780. One of the opposition's most convincing arguments engages in counterfactuals. That is the story of what didn't happen. They will introduce their son or daughter who stands there in their beloved glory because their mother chose not abort a fetus when she found herself surprised and engulfed in emotion, pregnant. It's a strong story, the counterfactual. No human being should ever be considered a mistake, a lapse in judgment, a life that should not have been. So, what I want to bring before you is my own counterfactual story, which is a story which -- of something that could have been but didn't. So, I've shared personal stories with this Body before, stories that have forced me to dig deep into my meager reserve of courage, but today, I'm going to get real and I'm going to ask for your grace. I'm going to speak, as always, for the men and the women who are not privileged to hold this seat and to speak. And I want to tell you a story. In the early 2000s, when I was a nurse midwife, I owned a practice with two other women. And we had a backup physician practice that would come in and support us when we had obstetrical emergencies or when we had consultations that we needed to make, and one of the exchanges for that service was, as the midwives, we would cover for them at certain times. So, one Saturday morning, I am called in to visit with a patient who is in the hospital for hypertension and she's close to term but it's important for her to come in and have a nonstress test, which is where you put the monitor onto the baby, and you check mom's blood pressure and a couple other clinical symptoms to determine fetal wellbeing as well as maternal wellbeing. So, this was the time when we had paper charts, so I had a paper record in my hand. I've done the basic cursory work of figuring out who this person is, what she's here for at the hospital, and what things I'm going to think about when I go into the room. So, I want into the room, the nurse has already put her on the monitor, and all my focus is, of course, always on mom. I look at the monitor, I see that we've got nice fetal wellbeing, we have a good heart rate, no contractions. I peek at mom's blood pressure readings for the last couple blood pressures that she's had, and everything looks good. And then I turn to the dad, and he looks familiar, he looks really familiar. And so, I start going through the chart because in the chart there's demographic information, and the demographic information, you can find out things like spouse name, so that's what I'm looking for, searching through, and there it is. It's exactly who I thought it was. And so,

this is not about me in this situation, this is about this couple, and so he says to me do we know each other? And I said oh, I think we went to a concert once. And I finished the visit with the couple, send them on their way, and I walk out of the room and I sit down in the kitchen on the unit where we could collect ourselves and have lunch, get a snack, that kind of thing. And it all comes flooding back to me. This is a person that I dated. We met working in a summer program, it was a summer experience for me, in Washington DC, and it was a -- like a meals on wheels program for homebound AIDS patients. So, we would cook in the morning and then all afternoon, we would travel around the DC area, delivering these meals. And we connected on multiple levels, and we fell in love and we got pregnant and chose to have an abortion. Fast-forward a couple years later, after that situation in the hospital, I get a pink slip on my desk and the pink slip is how we would communicate messages, phone messages, back and forth. And it's from him and it takes me a few days to call because I had to gather my thoughts. And he says my wife and I are pregnant and rather than go back to the physician practice, we would like for you to be our midwife. I was honored. And I called him and was suspicious about what was going to come from the call, and this was the best thing I could've ever imagined. And I said well, there's one question I have, which is does your wife know about our history? And he said oh, yes, she knows quite well, she was my college sweetheart. What I want you to know about this story is that when I saw this bill on the calendar, I had all these remarks about reproductive autonomy, healthcare, but I wanted to tell you a story about how abortion affects men and women and families and outcomes. So, I called him on Friday, and I said this bill's on the calendar, what do you think if I tell our story? And at first, he was very supportive and I said just think about it for the weekend because it's our story, you should have buy-in, and I want you to feel good about it. And so, Sunday morning, I got a call from him, and he said I have had a wild 36 hours thinking about this, and I called my children, who are 19 and 21, because I wanted them to know, and I am proud to have you tell our story. So, for me, this is a story about what might've been, a path not taken. Today, I don't have a son or a daughter that's 33 years old, and neither does he. How would life have been different for me and for Jeremy? You see, a counterfactual story is supposed to conjure up regret, remorsefulness, repentance. People will judge me for my actions and my beliefs, but my higher power, Mr. President, that I believe in, chooses love and acceptance instead because life is complicated, it's full of hard decisions, and I don't believe that my life -- I'm not going to live it in a state of regret. I don't accept the judgment of people whether they judge me from the pulpit or from the seat of government, Mr. President. This bill before you is not about judgment, but you think it is from how partisans act, but what we are called here today is not to judge but to decide who gets to make a choice. Reproductive healthcare should not be legislated. It is a woman's right to choose for herself. I admit these are not easy decisions. Life is complicated and messy, but it is a woman's choice, and I will add that in my personal story, I was not alone, I had friends who did not judge me, and critically, I had the support of a man, who is also part of the story. He is kind and still is. Men's lives are also deeply affected by these hard decisions and he, just as much as me, wants to preserve and protect and enshrine reproductive autonomy. I am here with just your average abortion story. I'm your average girl who had a pretty average early love affair with an average guy and my average birth control failed. My decision to have an abortion was

clear but agonizing. In how many ways would our lives be different if Jeremy and I had decided to carry the pregnancy to term? No one here can say. But I hate to imagine what my life would be now if I had not had the right to choose. This might -- despite how much I believe in these rights, I also believe it is important that the people of Maine weigh in at the ballot box. We do a great deal of talking about what we believe our constituents want in this building, we argue that the people of Maine would or would not support this or that policy, but with 780, we don't have to argue. We don't have to pontificate. We actually, I believe, Mr. President, have an obligation, not just an opportunity, to let the people of Maine tell us directly what it is that they want. Reproductive healthcare is essential healthcare. Reproductive autonomy is about the right of patients to have control of their personal choices that they make about reproduction. Contraceptive methods are highly effective at preventing unintended pregnancies, but no method and no user is perfect, and now all of you, as well as all of Maine is aware that Jeremy and I certainly weren't perfect at using our birth control. 54% of all abortion patients report having used birth control. Protecting reproductive autonomy is essential for the public health and welfare of our state. As an elected leader, I know my constituents and all Mainers deserve a chance to make their voices heard on this issue. Thank you for your time, and I urge your support on the pending motion.

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

Senator **DAUGHTRY:** Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I rise to speak in favor of the pending motion. At its core, this amendment is about ensuring that the decision of when and how to start a family rests with the individual and not with politicians. And I want to highlight one part of reproductive health that this constitutional amendment would protect and one that is currently in jeopardy at the national level. Right now, the Supreme Court is considering a case that would limit access to mifepristone, a commonly used medication in reproductive care. Mifepristone is safe, effective, and legal. It is used in medication abortions but additionally it is a crucial medication in the treatment of miscarriages. Sadly, roughly 25% of pregnancies end in miscarriage, according to the National Library of Medicine. That means that tragically for many Mainers, one in four pregnancies end in a miscarriage. And this risk increases the older a woman gets when she gets pregnant. The rate could be even higher than reported. Mifepristone is part of a two-drug regime that can safely treat miscarriage without being invasive. The non-medication alternative, a D&C, is not only invasive but puts a woman's health at risk and can cause scarring that can make it impossible to get pregnant in the future. Women in states where this medication-based care has been banned or restricted have reported being denied safe treatments and there are heart wrenching stories of couples having to go through the dangerous process of having a miscarriage play out in a method that could rob them of their chance to ever get pregnant or have a family. Today, we've heard the debate focus on abortion. Research shows that in 2020, one in five pregnancies ended in abortion. That means the reality for as much as we discuss it here, the reality is that a pregnancy is much more likely to end in a miscarriage than abortion. I guarantee that all of us has watched a family member, a beloved friend, or a loved one have to go through the gut-wrenching and heartbreaking process of

losing a pregnancy. While we debate abortion, why are we also putting women at risk when they are trying to start a family and potentially rob them of the ability to reach that dream? Access to fundamental healthcare services should not be subject to the whims of judges or politicians or the Supreme Court. It's frankly infuriating and terrifying to see attacks on crucial medications in our bodies continue, and I think women like the Good Senator from Sagadahoc County and the women and men whose shoulders we stand on who got us this reproductive freedom and justice that we are now having to take back and fight for again. Mifepristone has been legal and safe to use for two decades. Without access to it, many women will unnecessarily suffer and have their lives placed at risk while potentially losing their ability to have children in the future. Our courts and elected leaders, ourselves included, should not be ignoring sound science in order to push their own political beliefs on our bodies. Limiting access to safe legal abortion will endanger countless lives. History has shown us this time and time again. It's also shown us that these type of limitations disproportionately affect people who are already disadvantaged including low-income patients and those suffering from domestic abuse. And in a rural state where people already have to drive further than the national average to seek care, it puts Mainers at risk, especially if we think about what we want to see in our state with equal opportunities, we need to put this out to the voters. After all, people with money and power will still be able to get wherever care they want or need. I'm grateful that in Maine we're able to hold the line against rollbacks of abortion care and attacks on our bodies, but my heart aches for patients who live in states where this isn't the case. That's why I stand in strong support of the Maine Reproductive Rights Amendment. Access to healthcare, including reproductive care and treatment of miscarriages is a human right. As elected leaders, we need to do all we can to protect Mainers' access to reproductive healthcare, which includes fertility treatment, access to birth care, and compassionate abortion care. To protect the rights of Mainers now and for generations to come, we must enshrine this essential right in our Constitution. And most importantly, I think it's only fair that we should ask all of Maine if they also want to enshrine this in our Constitution. We need to make sure that these kinds of private, personal, medical decisions stay between a patient and their trusted health provider, and not up to all of us. I urge my fellow lawmakers to not just focus on abortion when you cast this vote today. Think about all the aspects that go with reproductive health, and remember, as other colleagues have said, it's not just about women, it's about families, it's about individuals, and it's about Mainers. Please follow my light.

**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 (#644)**

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, LAFOUNTAIN, LAWRENCE, NANGLE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, FARRIN, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, KEIM, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, POULIOT, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: INGWERSEN, PIERCE

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

Resolution **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-617) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Sent down forthwith for concurrence.

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**Divided Report**

The Majority of the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** on Bill "An Act to Improve Labor Conditions for Maine Workers" S.P. 180 L.D. 373

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-618)**.

Signed:

Senators:  
TIPPING of Penobscot  
DAUGHTRY of Cumberland

Representatives:  
ROEDER of Bangor  
GEIGER of Rockland  
GERE of Kennebunkport  
MALON of Biddeford  
RUSSELL of Verona Island

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

Signed:

Senator:  
POULIOT of Kennebec

Representatives:  
BRADSTREET of Vassalboro  
DRINKWATER of Milford  
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

Reports **READ**.

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

On further motion by same Senator, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending the motion by same Senator to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report.

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**Divided Report**

The Majority of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act to Prohibit State Contracts with Companies Owned or Operated by the Government of the People's Republic of China" S.P. 374 L.D. 877

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-621)**.

Signed:

Senators:  
NANGLE of Cumberland  
LYFORD of Penobscot

Representatives:  
STOVER of Boothbay  
GREENWOOD of Wales  
POMERLEAU of Standish  
RISEMAN of Harrison  
UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

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

Signed:

Representatives:  
COPELAND of Saco  
SINCLAIR of Bath

Reports **READ**.

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

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**Divided Report**

The Majority of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act Regarding Open Primary Elections and Ranked-choice Voting"  
S.P. 795 L.D. 1959

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

Signed:

Senators:

HICKMAN of Kennebec  
BRENNER of Cumberland  
TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin

Representatives:

SUPICA of Bangor  
COLLINGS of Portland  
HYMES of Waldo  
MALON of Biddeford  
MONTELL of Gardiner  
RIELLY of Westbrook  
RUDNICKI of Fairfield  
WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-695)**.

Signed:

Representatives:

ANDREWS of Paris  
BOYER of Poland

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **HICKMAN** of Kennebec, the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **ACCEPTED**

Sent down for concurrence.

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**ENACTORS**

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

**Emergency Measure**

An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Adjustments for Sudden and Severe Disruption of Municipal Valuation  
S.P. 828 L.D. 2006  
(C "A" S-606)

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

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**Emergency Measure**

An Act Regarding the Property Tax Exemption, Business Equipment Tax Exemption and Business Equipment Tax Reimbursement for Facilities Storing Spent Nuclear Fuel and Radioactive Waste  
S.P. 855 L.D. 2027  
(C "A" S-602)

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 24 Members of the Senate, with 9 Senators having voted in the negative, and 24 being more than two-thirds of the entire elected Membership of the Senate, was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** and having been signed by the President, was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

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**Emergency Measure**

An Act to Set a Debt Limit for the Anson and Madison Water District  
S.P. 964 L.D. 2242  
(C "A" S-598)

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 33 Members of the Senate, with no Senators having voted in the negative, and 33 being more than two-thirds of the entire elected Membership of the Senate, was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** and having been signed by the President, was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

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**Emergency Measure**

An Act to Clarify Permissible Election and Lobbying Expenditures by Consumer-owned Utilities and the Casco Bay Island Transit District  
S.P. 972 L.D. 2254  
(C "A" S-610)

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 33 Members of the Senate, with no Senators having voted in the negative, and 33 being more than two-thirds of the entire elected Membership of the Senate, was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** and having been signed by the President, was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

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**Emergency Measure**

An Act to Reconvene a Driver Education Working Group to Evaluate Hardships to Underserved Populations and Low-income Families  
H.P. 1467 L.D. 2281

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 33 Members of the Senate, with no Senators having voted in the negative, and 33 being more than two-thirds of the entire elected Membership of the Senate, was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** and having been signed by the President, was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

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**Emergency Resolve**

Resolve, to Establish a Pilot Project to Alleviate the Staffing Crisis in the Child Protective Services System  
S.P. 890 L.D. 2097  
(C "A" S-609)

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

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**Emergency Resolve**

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 101: Maine Unified Special Education Regulation Birth to Age Twenty-Two, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education  
H.P. 1395 L.D. 2180  
(C "A" H-858)

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

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**Emergency Resolve**

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 132: Learning Results: Parameters for Essential Instruction, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education  
H.P. 1397 L.D. 2182  
(C "A" H-857)

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 33 Members of the Senate, with no Senators having voted in the negative, and 33 being more than two-thirds of the entire elected Membership of the Senate, was **FINALLY PASSED** and having been signed by the President, was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

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**Acts**

An Act to Limit Retroactive Application of Land Use Ordinances to Pending Permit Applications That Propose Housing  
S.P. 331 L.D. 772  
(C "A" S-600)

An Act to Strengthen Freedom of Speech Protections by Enacting the Uniform Public Expression Protection Act  
S.P. 367 L.D. 870  
(C "A" S-604)

An Act Regarding the Placement of Certain Defendants Found Incompetent to Stand Trial  
H.P. 1308 L.D. 2046  
(S "A" S-597 to C "A" H-817)

An Act Regarding Drug Awareness Instruction in Secondary Schools  
S.P. 882 L.D. 2089  
(C "A" S-607)

An Act to Strengthen Shoreland Zoning Enforcement  
S.P. 894 L.D. 2101  
(C "A" S-611)

An Act to Support Municipalities by Repealing the Law Limiting the Municipal Property Tax Levy  
S.P. 895 L.D. 2102  
(C "A" S-560)

An Act to Amend the Charter of the Wiscasset Water District  
S.P. 897 L.D. 2104  
(C "A" S-599)

An Act Establishing Concurrent Jurisdiction with the Federal Courts in Certain Juvenile Matters  
S.P. 923 L.D. 2171  
(S "A" S-603 to C "A" S-549)

An Act to Establish a Minimum Value Threshold for the Class C Crime of Theft by a Repeat Offender  
H.P. 1442 L.D. 2246  
(C "A" H-846)

An Act to Require Public Safety Answering Point and Dispatch Center Cost Reporting and to Direct the Formation of a Staffing and Recruiting Stakeholder Group  
S.P. 993 L.D. 2278

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

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An Act to Amend the Pupil Counts Used for Determination of School Administrative Unit Operating Costs  
H.P. 497 L.D. 808  
(C "A" H-860)

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

An Act Regarding Unobligated Balances from Amounts Appropriated for General Purpose Aid for Local Schools and to Require Annual Reports on School Demographics  
H.P. 897 L.D. 1402  
(C "A" H-859)

An Act to Update the Laws Governing Education in the Unorganized Territory  
H.P. 1304 L.D. 2042  
(C "A" H-861)

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

An Act to Modernize and Consolidate Certain Court Facilities  
S.P. 883 L.D. 2090  
(C "A" S-605)

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

An Act to Provide Funding to the Maine School of Science and Mathematics  
S.P. 914 L.D. 2118  
(C "A" S-608)

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

An Act to Provide Financial Support for Shelters for Unhoused Individuals and Establish a Stakeholder Group to Develop a 10-year Plan to Address the Root Causes of Homelessness  
H.P. 1360 L.D. 2136  
(C "A" H-862)

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

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### Resolve

Resolve, Directing the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to Recommend Proposals to Support the Development of Attainable Housing  
S.P. 920 L.D. 2169  
(C "A" S-601)

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

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Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

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### 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 (3/26/24) matter:

HOUSE REPORTS - from the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act to Establish the Wabanaki Veterans Memorial"  
H.P. 1430 L.D. 2228

**Majority - Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-848)** (10 members)

**Minority - Ought Not to Pass** (3 members)

Tabled - March 26, 2024 by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc

#### Pending - **ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT**

(In House, Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-848).**)

(In Senate, March 26, 2024, Reports **READ**.)

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-848) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (3/26/24) matter:

HOUSE REPORTS - from the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Bill "An Act to Enhance Electric Utility Performance-based Ratemaking" (EMERGENCY) H.P. 1391 L.D. 2172

**Report "A" - Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-852)** (6 members)

**Report "B" - Ought Not to Pass** (6 members)

Tabled - March 28, 2024 by Senator **LAWRENCE** of York

Pending - motion by same Senator to **ACCEPT** Report "A" **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED**, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**

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

(In Senate, March 26, 2024, Reports **READ**.)

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#645)**

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, LAFOUNTAIN, LAWRENCE

NAYS: Senators: BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, FARRIN, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, KEIM, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, NANGLE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

EXCUSED: Senators: INGWERSEN, PIERCE

3 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 30 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **LAWRENCE** of York to **ACCEPT** Report "A" **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED**, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**, **FAILED**.

Report "B" **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

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**RECESSED** until the sound of the bell.

After Recess the Senate was called to order by the President.

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

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**Senate**

**Ought to Pass As Amended**

Senator BALDACCI for the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Improve Family Team Meetings in Child Welfare Cases to Ensure Better Outcomes for Children by Providing Adequate Funding" S.P. 354 L.D. 857

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-632)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-632) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

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Senator BALDACCI for the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Amend MaineCare Rules Governing Certain Types of Behavioral and Mental Health Services and to Form a Stakeholder Group to Study Methods for Improving Those Services S.P. 965 L.D. 2243

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-631)**.

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

Resolve **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-631) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Sent down for concurrence.



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

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

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

### Senate

#### Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Equalize Funding for the Maine Maritime Academy"  
S.P. 885 L.D. 2092

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-626)**.

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York  
LIBBY of Cumberland  
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham  
DODGE of Belfast  
LYMAN of Livermore Falls  
MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth  
MURPHY of Scarborough  
POLEWARCZYK of Wiscasset  
SAMPSON of Alfred  
SARGENT of York  
WORTH of Ellsworth

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (S-627)**.

Signed:

Representative:

BRENNAN of Portland

Reports **READ**.

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

Senator **GROHOSKI:** Thank you, Mr. President. I just wanted to take a moment to remark on this very important bill. This bill is about Maine Maritime Academy, which is a distinguished institution that has been a pillar of Downeast Maine for many years. It is renowned for providing high quality education and training to its students, many of whom go on to work in the

maritime industry and related fields. MMA's importance to my region may only be overshadowed by its importance to our entire state, which faces workforce shortages across several important sectors that MMA graduates are qualified to fill. MMA's unique relationships with the maritime sector and notoriety in that global community should and could be better utilized by our state to compete for the economic innovations that will define the rest of the 21st century. However, we as a state do not fully take advantage of Maine Maritime Academy and appear to even undervalue it relative to our other higher education systems in Maine. MMA's total state appropriation funds approximately 25% of its total operating costs. For the University of Maine System, that percent is 43, and for the Maine Community College System, it is 49%. This bill proposes to increase the funding that Maine Maritime receives by 5% each year until it reaches parity with the lower of its two peer state higher education systems. The nation's five other state maritime academies, which MMA directly competes with, receive between 40 and 51% of their base operations from their host states. Even MMA's closest competitor, Massachusetts Maritime Academy, has 40% of its operations publicly funded. And I will remind you that MMA in the State of Maine receives just 25% from our state. That fact helps to explain why Massachusetts Maritime Academy has been steadily recruiting Maine students to leave home. While Maine Maritime Academy has worked hard over the last few years to increase its enrollment and prevent tuition increases, we lose students to Mass Maritime and other competitors who offer more competitive tuition packages. This is a great loss to our state and to our students. These youth, who would otherwise participate in maritime careers as Maine residents and Maine taxpayers, are missing out on an incredible opportunity to develop their skills and careers here at home. MMA has been ranked by Georgetown University as, quote, the highest return on investment for low-income students among all public four-year institutions, end-quote. And according to the Department of Education, the median annual earnings of MMA graduates far exceed those of students who attend our other public higher education institutions. In essence, MMA gives the state its greatest pound for pound return on investment, but we are not growing this return when we underfund our state maritime academy. We need to better invest in this valuable asset. I hope you'll agree that it is time to create funding parity among Maine's three systems of higher education. While small rural and oft overlooked by its larger higher ed peers, MMA is very mighty. It is time to fully realize its potential as an engine of economic opportunity and a powerful workforce development tool for the State of Maine. So, I am pleased to support the pending motion, and I hope you all will as well.

On motion by Senator **RAFFERTY** of York, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-626)** Report **ACCEPTED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-626) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

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**Divided Report**

The Majority of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** on Bill "An Act to Support Farming in Maine by Extending the Deadline for Manufacturers of Products Containing Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances to Report on Those Products"  
S.P. 796 L.D. 1960

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

Signed:

Senators:  
BRENNER of Cumberland  
CARNEY of Cumberland

Representatives:  
GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach  
BELL of Yarmouth  
BRIDGEO of Augusta  
DOUDERA of Camden  
HOBBS of Wells  
O'NEIL of Saco

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-629)**.

Signed:

Senator:  
LYFORD of Penobscot

Representatives:  
CAMPBELL of Orrington  
SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico  
SOBOLESKI of Phillips  
WOODSOME of Waterboro

Reports **READ**.

Senator **BRENNER** of Cumberland moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report.

On motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **ACCEPTANCE** of the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report.

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**Divided Report**

The Majority of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Provide for Licensing of and Tax Collection from Remote Retail Sellers of Pipe Tobacco and Premium Cigars"  
S.P. 785 L.D. 1923

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

Signed:

Senator:  
INGWERSEN of York

Representatives:  
MEYER of Eliot  
CRAVEN of Lewiston  
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth  
MADIGAN of Waterville  
SHAGOURY of Hallowell  
ZAGER of Portland

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-630)**.

Signed:

Senators:  
BALDACCI of Penobscot  
MOORE of Washington

Representatives:  
FREDERICKS of Sanford  
GRIFFIN of Levant  
JAVNER of Chester  
LEMELIN of Chelsea

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot, the Minority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **ACCEPTED**

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-630) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

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**Divided Report**

The Majority of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Amend the State's Election Laws"  
S.P. 153 L.D. 332

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-628)**.

Signed:

Senators:  
HICKMAN of Kennebec  
BRENNER of Cumberland

Representatives:

SUPICA of Bangor  
COLLINGS of Portland  
MALON of Biddeford  
MONTELL of Gardiner  
RIELLY of Westbrook  
WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor

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

Signed:

Senator:

TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin

Representatives:

BOYER of Poland  
HYMES of Waldo  
RUDNICKI of Fairfield

Reports **READ**.

Senator **HICKMAN** of Kennebec moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#646)**

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, LAFOUNTAIN, LAWRENCE, NANGLE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, FARRIN, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, KEIM, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, POULIOT, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: INGWERSEN, PIERCE

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-628) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Sent down forthwith for concurrence.

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

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**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**House**

**Ought to Pass As Amended**

The Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Health and Human Services" H.P. 197 L.D. 299

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-885)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-885)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-885) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

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The Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Resolve, to Reestablish the Task Force on Accessibility to Appropriate Communication Methods for Deaf and Hard-of-hearing Patients (EMERGENCY) H.P. 1446 L.D. 2255

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-886)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-886)**.

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

Resolve **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-886) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

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The Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act to Eliminate Inactive Boards and Commissions" H.P. 1440 L.D. 2241

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-879).**

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-879).**

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-879) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

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The Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Establish Common Carrier Reporting for the Direct Shipment of Wine" H.P. 1372 L.D. 2148

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-884).**

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-884).**

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-884) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

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The Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Clarify Licensing Criteria and Criminal History Record Check and Notification Requirements for Adult Use Cannabis Establishments" H.P. 1379 L.D. 2155

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-878).**

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-878).**

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-878) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

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

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## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

### House

#### Ought to Pass Pursuant to Resolve

The Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** on Bill "An Act to Implement Recommendations in the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife's Report on Wake Boats" H.P. 1472 L.D. 2284

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass**, pursuant to Resolve 2023, chapter 33, section 3.

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.

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

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

Senator **NANGLE:** I rise today to acknowledge International Transgender Day of Visibility, observed every year on March 31st. This day was founded in 2009 by Rachel Crandall Crocker who saw a need to celebrate the lives and contributions and resilience of transgender individuals rather than only mourning their loss as we do on Transgender Day of Remembrance. International Transgender Day of Visibility is a day to acknowledge their lives and achievements as individuals across our country. A few notable historical examples of transgender individuals who have significantly impacted our lives but are - and this is by no means an exhaustive list - born in 1843, Albert Cashier enlisted in the Union Army at the age of 19, heeding President Lincoln's call. He served in the 95th Illinois Infantry and fought in over 40 battles until his honorable discharge in 1865. Dr. Alan Hart, a radiologist who pioneered the use of x-rays to detect tuberculosis and is credited with saving countless lives.

We still use x-rays today as the gold standard for detection this day. Lynn Conway is an American computer scientist who worked for IBM in the late 1960s and invented a new way of handling data in computers, making them faster and more reliable. Most modern computer processors still use this data handling method today. And Sophie Wilson is the co-inventor of the ARM processor, a computer chip currently used in millions of devices around the world including some that we have on our desks. Also, smoke alarms, MRIs, and pretty much anything that beeps. In fact, every modern cellphone, regardless of brand, carries an ARM processor. So, in the spirit of this day, we recognize not just the historical struggles but also the progress made against discrimination and the path that lies ahead. It is a day to recommit ourselves to building a world where every person can live openly and authentically without fear. It is a day to celebrate the achievements and contributions of transgender individuals to our communities, our culture, and our country. Together, we can ensure that the visibility of transgender people not only illuminates the challenges they face, but also highlights the spirit, diversity, and strength of the transgender community. Trans rights are human rights, and you are seen, you are heard, and you are loved. Thank you.

On motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, **ADJOURNED**, until Tuesday, April 2, 2024 at 10:00 in the morning.