

ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
18th Legislative Day  
Tuesday, March 7, 2017

The House met according to adjournment and was called to order by the Speaker.

Prayer by Colonel Andrew Gibson, Senior Army Chaplain, Maine Army National Guard, Augusta.

Colors presented by The Maine National Guard Joint Honor Guard.

National Anthem by Technical Sergeant Joel Crowley, Windham.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Doctor of the day, Kenneth Christian, M.D., Holden.

The Journal of Thursday, March 2, 2017 was read and approved.

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**SENATE PAPERS**

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 247)

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MARCH 5-11, 2017 AS  
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS AWARENESS WEEK**

WHEREAS, multiple sclerosis, or MS, is a neurological disease of the central nervous system affecting 2,300,000 people worldwide; and

WHEREAS, the Greater New England Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society reports that more than 3,000 people are living with MS in the State and that the disease generally strikes people in the prime of life, between 20 and 50 years of age, and the cause and course of the often debilitating symptoms of MS remain unknown and no cure currently exists; and

WHEREAS, the National Multiple Sclerosis Society has been committed for more than 70 years to a world free of MS, heightening public knowledge about and insight into the disease; and

WHEREAS, since 1946 the National Multiple Sclerosis Society has been a driving force of MS research, relentlessly pursuing prevention, treatments and a cure, and has invested more than \$900,000,000 in groundbreaking research; and

WHEREAS, funds raised through the National Multiple Sclerosis Society provide \$42,100,000 in funding for 380 research projects at the best medical centers, universities and other institutions throughout the United States and abroad, leading to many breakthroughs in the treatment of MS; and

WHEREAS, stopping MS in its tracks, restoring what has been lost and ending MS forever is the mission of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and one that all Americans and citizens of the State should support; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-eighth Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, take this occasion to recognize the importance of finding the cause and cure of MS, to express our appreciation for the dedication that the Greater New England Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society has shown toward creating a world free of MS and to declare March 5-11, 2017 as Multiple Sclerosis Awareness Week in the State; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Greater New England Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Came from the Senate, **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

**READ.**

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from South Portland, Representative Reckitt.

Representative **RECKITT**: I thank you for your time. Twenty-four years ago, when I was 48 years old, I was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and most of you in this chamber have no idea that I have this disease. Many people in my life do not know. But I know, because every day I wish I could get through 24 hours and not remember I had it. And so I thank you for the sentiment that you expressed today on behalf of the Multiple Sclerosis Society and Awareness Campaigns. They were so crucial to me when I first got diagnosed and had not one clue. And I think I didn't cry non-stop because they sent me videos, and books, and talked with me, and I decided I was going to make my life as normal as it could be. And as you can see, I've managed to do that relatively well over the years. I'm one of the lucky ones, I have relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis so I don't get worse and worse and worse, like some of my relatives, in fact, have, and some you may know, have died, including one of my primary care doctors, of the disease. So I thank you today for this expression and I appreciate the willingness that those of you who have known or don't know that I have this affliction, to understand that sometime I'm a little unbalanced, not from my political views, but from my stability, which is normally the way you seem to see this disease manifested in me, is that sometimes I don't walk as well as I might. Sometimes I have a cane, sometimes I don't, because you never know from one minute to the next, what this disease is going to do. So I appreciate your tolerance of my quirks in that regard, the other quirks you'll have to just deal with as they are. And I really appreciate the fact that this piece was put forward by the other body and I'm appreciative of your personal support of my life and my service and I thank you very much. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from York, Representative Hymanson.

Representative **HYMANSON**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. As a treating neurologist for 30 years, I've had the pleasure of treating many people with multiple sclerosis and I wanted to make some comments about the disorder. Insurance companies, oftentimes, don't pay for the medications that physicians really want to treat their patients with because they've negotiated costs down for certain medications and, oftentimes, not other ones that are not the same ones that physicians would want to treat. So keep that in mind. Multiple sclerosis is a pre-existing illness with a potential for considerable life-time costs. It waxes and wanes, people are able bodied one day and not able bodied the next day. It leaves them vulnerable in the current health care insurance conversations, where people with pre-existing illnesses may have poor options. Research into mechanisms and many medications have really changed the way that multiple sclerosis is treated. Over my lifetime, in medicine, we've gone from no medications and some steroids to about ten medications now. Most of them are about eighty-three to ninety thousand dollars a year. So there is a lot of hope. And MS has become a treatable, life-long, disorder, I'm happy to say. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Subsequently, the Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED** in concurrence.

At this point, a message came from the Senate borne by Senator MASON, of Androscoggin, of that Body, proposing a Joint Convention of both branches of the Legislature to be held in the Hall of the House at 10:45 in the morning for the purpose of extending to Brigadier General Douglas A. Farnham, Commissioner of the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, and The Adjutant General of the Maine National Guard, an invitation to attend the Joint Convention and to make such communication as pleases him.

Thereupon the House voted to concur in the proposal for a Joint Convention to be held at 10:45 in the morning and the Speaker appointed Representative HERBIG of Belfast to convey this message to the Senate.

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**SENATE PAPERS**

Bill "An Act To Change the Name of Captain Ambrose Bear Stream"

(S.P. 89) (L.D. 303)

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

Came from the Senate, with the Bill and accompanying papers **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

Bill and accompanying papers **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED** in concurrence.

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Bill "An Act To Provide Tax Fairness and To Lower Medical Expenses for Patients under the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act"

(S.P. 251) (L.D. 806)

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

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Joint Select Committee on **MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION IMPLEMENTATION** and ordered printed.

**REFERRED** to the Joint Select Committee on **MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION IMPLEMENTATION** in concurrence.

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**Non-Concurrent Matter**

Bill "An Act To Fund and Enhance the Maine Diversion Alert Program" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 182) (L.D. 249)

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** in the House on January 31, 2017.

Came from the Senate **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

On motion of Representative GOLDEN of Lewiston, **TABLED** pending **FURTHER CONSIDERATION** and later today assigned.

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**COMMUNICATIONS**

The Following Communication: (H.C. 84)

**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, VETERANS  
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
33 STATE HOUSE STATION**

**CAMP KEYES, AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0033**

February 3, 2017

Honorable Sara Gideon  
Speaker of the House

2 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Gideon:

As the Commissioner of the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management and the Adjutant General of the Maine National Guard, I accept your invitation to address the Joint Session of the 128th Maine Legislature on Tuesday, March 7, 2017 at 11:00 a.m.

Sincerely,

S/Brigadier General Douglas A. Farnham  
Commissioner and Adjutant General

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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The Following Communication: (H.C. 85)

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

March 7, 2017

Honorable Sara Gideon

Speaker of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Gideon:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the following Joint Standing Committees have voted unanimously to report the following bills out "Ought Not to Pass:"

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

L.D. 425

An Act To Extend Fall Fishing Opportunities

Insurance and Financial Services

L.D. 145

An Act To Protect Consumers from Closure of Inactive Bank Accounts

Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development

L.D. 13

An Act To Require Certain Licensing Boards To Report Cases of Sexual Abuse of a Patient or Client by a Licensee to a Law Enforcement Agency or the Department of Health and Human Services

Veterans and Legal Affairs

L.D. 496

An Act To Update Maine's Veterans' Benefits Eligibility Requirements

L.D. 510

An Act To Create Fairness in Gaming License Fees for Small Nonprofit Organizations

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of House

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

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The Following Communication: (H.C. 86)

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

March 7, 2017

Honorable Sara Gideon

Speaker of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Gideon:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the Committee on Health and Human Services has approved the request by the sponsor,

Representative Sherman of Hodgdon, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw":  
L.D. 690 An Act To Provide Additional Funding for Persons with Disabilities

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the Committee on Insurance and Financial Services has approved the request by the sponsor, Representative Campbell of Orrington, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw":

L.D. 609 An Act To Prohibit Insurance Carriers That Are Not Health Insurance Carriers from Operating as Managed Care Organizations

Sincerely,  
S/Robert B. Hunt  
Clerk of the House

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

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The Following Communication: (H.C. 87)  
**MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

February 27, 2017  
Honorable Sara Gideon  
Speaker of the House  
2 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333  
Dear Speaker Gideon:

I am notifying you that, pursuant to 12 MRSA §683-A, I have forwarded to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry the following nomination made to the Maine Land Use Planning Commission by the Aroostook County Commissioners on February 27, 2017:

Durward L. Humphrey of Benedicta  
The County asks that this nomination be considered to fill the four-year term that begins on March 14, 2017 which is scheduled to be filled by Aroostook County.

Pursuant to 12 MRSA §683-A, this appointment is subject to confirmation by the Maine Senate after review by the committee having jurisdiction over conservation matters.

Sincerely,  
S/Grant T. Pennoyer  
Executive Director

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

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The Following Communication: (S.C. 177)  
**MAINE SENATE  
128TH LEGISLATURE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

March 2, 2017  
Honorable Sara Gideon  
Speaker of the House  
2 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333  
Dear Speaker Gideon:

In accordance with 3 MRSA §158 and Joint Rule 506 of the 128th Maine Legislature, please be advised that the Senate today confirmed the following nominations:

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, William W. McFarland of South China for reappointment to the State Harness Racing Commission;

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Judiciary, Arnold S. Clark, Esq. of Calais for reappointment to the Maine Human Rights Commission;

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development

- David J. Daigler of Portland for appointment to the Finance Authority of Maine  
Timothy P. Nightingale of Rockport
- for appointment to the Finance Authority of Maine  
Christopher A. Pierce of Cumberland Foreside
- for reappointment to the Finance Authority of Maine  
the Honorable Douglas K. Damon of Bangor
- for reappointment to the Loring Development Authority of Maine  
Daniel R. LaPointe of Van Buren
- for reappointment to the Loring Development Authority of Maine  
John Moncure, Esq. of Harpswell
- for reappointment to the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority  
John G. Peters of Harpswell
- for reappointment to the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority;

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on State and Local Government, Daniel V. Deveau of Augusta for reappointment as the Maine-Canada Trade Ombudsman.

Best Regards,  
S/Heather J.R. Priest  
Secretary of the Senate

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

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Subsequently, Representative HERBIG of Belfast reported that she had delivered the message with which she was charged.

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**PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE**

Bill "An Act To Restructure Harness Racing within the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 583) (L.D. 834)

Sponsored by Representative MAREAN of Hollis.

Bill "An Act To Promote Small Diversified Farms and Small Food Producers"

(H.P. 584) (L.D. 835)

Sponsored by Representative CHAPMAN of Brooksville.

Bill "An Act To Extend the Germination Testing Period for Cool-weather Lawn and Turf Seed from 9 to 15 Months"

(H.P. 605) (L.D. 856)

Sponsored by Representative LYFORD of Eddington.

Cosponsored by Representatives: CAMPBELL of Orrington, HIGGINS of Dover-Foxcroft, STANLEY of Medway, STEARNS of Guilford.

Bill "An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Slaughter and Inspection of Livestock"

(H.P. 606) (L.D. 857)

Sponsored by Representative WHITE of Washburn.

Cosponsored by Senator SAVIELLO of Franklin and Representatives: DUNPHY of Old Town, FAY of Raymond, HANINGTON of Lincoln, MARTIN of Sinclair, McELWEE of

Caribou, ORDDWAY of Standish, PIERCE of Dresden, Senator: DAVIS of Piscataquis.

Bill "An Act To Strengthen the Law Regarding Dangerous Dogs"

(H.P. 607) (L.D. 858)

Sponsored by Representative NADEAU of Winslow.

Cosponsored by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec and Representatives: AUSTIN of Skowhegan, BROOKS of Lewiston, DOORE of Augusta, GUERIN of Glenburn, HARVELL of Farmington, HICKMAN of Winthrop, LONGSTAFF of Waterville.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Build Maine's Workforce Development Capacity by Modernizing and Improving the Facilities and Infrastructure of Maine's Public Universities"

(H.P. 585) (L.D. 836)

Sponsored by Representative JORGENSEN of Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator DILL of Penobscot and Representatives: HARVELL of Farmington, HUBBELL of Bar Harbor, MARTIN of Eagle Lake, PIERCE of Falmouth, STEWART of Presque Isle, Senators: BREEN of Cumberland, MAKER of Washington, SAVIELLO of Franklin.

Bill "An Act To Provide Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Operations of State Government" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 586) (L.D. 837)

Sponsored by Representative JORGENSEN of Portland.

Bill "An Act Requiring Investments by the Maine Public Employees Retirement System To Be Well-diversified"

(H.P. 635) (L.D. 907)

Sponsored by Representative STEWART of Presque Isle.

Cosponsored by Senator KATZ of Kennebec and Representatives: FREDETTE of Newport, LOCKMAN of Amherst, SEAVEY of Kennebunkport, SIROCKI of Scarborough, TIMBERLAKE of Turner, WINSOR of Norway, Senator: HAMPER of Oxford.

Resolve, To Require a Review of the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Plan

(H.P. 645) (L.D. 917)

Sponsored by Representative WINSOR of Norway.

Cosponsored by Senator HAMPER of Oxford.

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

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act To Prevent Sexual Abuse by Members of the Clergy"

(H.P. 587) (L.D. 838)

Sponsored by Representative GROHMAN of Biddeford.

Cosponsored by Senator VOLK of Cumberland and Senator: CHENETTE of York.

Resolve, To Address Substance Use and Addiction in County Jails

(H.P. 588) (L.D. 839)

Sponsored by Representative MONAGHAN of Cape Elizabeth.

Cosponsored by Senator DION of Cumberland and Representatives: GRANT of Gardiner, HAMANN of South Portland, HARVELL of Farmington, JORGENSEN of Portland, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, McCREIGHT of Harpswell, SHEATS of Auburn, Senator: KATZ of Kennebec.

Bill "An Act To Ensure Thorough Investigation into Allegations of Sexual Assault"

(H.P. 608) (L.D. 859)

Sponsored by Representative BATES of Westbrook.

Cosponsored by Senator DIAMOND of Cumberland and Representatives: COREY of Windham, GATTINE of Westbrook, O'NEIL of Saco, TALBOT ROSS of Portland, WHITE of Washburn.

Bill "An Act To Provide Wage Parity for Certain State Law Enforcement Personnel"

(H.P. 610) (L.D. 861)

Sponsored by Representative NADEAU of Winslow.

Cosponsored by Senator MAKER of Washington and Representatives: DOORE of Augusta, FREY of Bangor, HICKMAN of Winthrop, WARREN of Hallowell, Senators: CYRWAY of Kennebec, DIAMOND of Cumberland, DILL of Penobscot.

Bill "An Act Establishing the Crime of Child Abuse in the Maine Criminal Code"

(H.P. 636) (L.D. 908)

Sponsored by Representative STEWART of Presque Isle.

Cosponsored by Senator MAKER of Washington and Representatives: ESPLING of New Gloucester, GERRISH of Lebanon, GUERIN of Glenburn, SIROCKI of Scarborough, Senators: KEIM of Oxford, ROSEN of Hancock, VOLK of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act Regarding Maine's Criminal Code"

(H.P. 646) (L.D. 918)

Sponsored by Representative WARREN of Hallowell.

Cosponsored by Senator DIAMOND of Cumberland and Representatives: GROHMAN of Biddeford, LONGSTAFF of Waterville, NADEAU of Winslow, RECKITT of South Portland, TALBOT ROSS of Portland.

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

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act To Expand Educational Opportunities for Students in the Unorganized Territories"

(H.P. 589) (L.D. 840)

Sponsored by Representative TUELL of East Machias.

Cosponsored by Representatives: ALLEY of Beals, GERRISH of Lebanon, HANINGTON of Lincoln, HUBBELL of Bar Harbor, SAMPSON of Alfred, STEARNS of Guilford, STEWART of Presque Isle, Senator: WOODSOME of York.

Bill "An Act To Provide Stability in MaineCare Payments for Educational Programming"

(H.P. 590) (L.D. 841)

Sponsored by Representative MELARAGNO of Auburn.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BICKFORD of Auburn, FULLER of Lewiston, HANDY of Lewiston, LAWRENCE of South Berwick, POULIOT of Augusta, SHEATS of Auburn, STEARNS of Guilford, Senator: LIBBY of Androscoggin.

Resolve, To Establish a Pilot Program To Install Video Cameras in School Buses

(H.P. 611) (L.D. 862)

Sponsored by Representative GILLWAY of Searsport.

Cosponsored by President THIBODEAU of Waldo and Representatives: HERBIG of Belfast, KINNEY of Knox.

Bill "An Act To Create a Standard Kindergarten Entry Assessment"

(H.P. 612) (L.D. 863)

Sponsored by Representative POULIOT of Augusta.

Cosponsored by Senator MILLETT of Cumberland and Representatives: DAUGHTRY of Brunswick, FARNSWORTH of Portland, PIERCE of Falmouth, Senators: LANGLEY of Hancock, MAKER of Washington.

Bill "An Act To Provide for a Statewide Contract for School Teachers"

(H.P. 613) (L.D. 864)

Sponsored by Representative POULIOT of Augusta.

Cosponsored by Representative TIMBERLAKE of Turner, Senator LANGLEY of Hancock and Representatives: DAUGHTRY of Brunswick, FARNSWORTH of Portland, MARTIN of Eagle Lake, SAMPSON of Alfred, STEWART of Presque Isle, Senator: MAKER of Washington.

Resolve, Directing the Department of Education To Determine the Effectiveness and Success of Charter Schools

(H.P. 614) (L.D. 865)

Sponsored by Representative FULLER of Lewiston.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BABBIDGE of Kennebunk, FAY of Raymond, HANDY of Lewiston, KORNFIELD of Bangor, RILEY of Jay.

Bill "An Act To Provide Additional Funds to Schools That Offer Residential Options"

(H.P. 615) (L.D. 866)

Sponsored by Representative POULIOT of Augusta.

Cosponsored by Senator MILLETT of Cumberland and Representatives: DAUGHTRY of Brunswick, FARNSWORTH of Portland, PIERCE of Falmouth, SAMPSON of Alfred, STEWART of Presque Isle.

Bill "An Act To Establish the Summer Success Program Fund"

(H.P. 647) (L.D. 919)

Sponsored by Representative PIERCE of Falmouth.

Cosponsored by Senator BREEN of Cumberland and Representatives: JORGENSEN of Portland, McLEAN of Gorham, MOONEN of Portland, POULIOT of Augusta, SYLVESTER of Portland, TALBOT ROSS of Portland, TIPPING of Orono, Senator: MAKER of Washington.

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

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act To Mitigate the Spread of Invasive Milfoil in Wilson Stream"

(H.P. 616) (L.D. 867)

Sponsored by Representative ACKLEY of Monmouth.

Cosponsored by Senator BELLOWES of Kennebec and Representatives: FAY of Raymond, HICKMAN of Winthrop, SHEATS of Auburn.

Bill "An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Determination of a Wind Energy Development's Effect on the Scenic Character of Maine's Special Places"

(H.P. 629) (L.D. 901)

Sponsored by Representative WINSOR of Norway.

Cosponsored by Representative WADSWORTH of Hiram, Senator SAVIELLO of Franklin and Representatives:

CAMPBELL of Orrington, DUCHESNE of Hudson, HARLOW of Portland.

Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** suggested and ordered printed.

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

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Resolve, To Support Home Health Services

(H.P. 591) (L.D. 842)

Sponsored by Representative JORGENSEN of Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator LIBBY of Androscoggin and Representatives: DENNO of Cumberland, FOLEY of Wells, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, Senators: KATZ of Kennebec, WOODSOME of York.

Resolve, To Increase Access to Evidence-based Psychosocial Treatment for Children in the MaineCare Program

(H.P. 630) (L.D. 902)

Sponsored by Representative MALABY of Hancock.

Cosponsored by Representatives: GATTINE of Westbrook, HANINGTON of Lincoln, HAWKE of Boothbay Harbor, MADIGAN of Waterville, PARKER of South Berwick, PERRY of Calais.

Bill "An Act To Stimulate the Maine Economy and Alleviate Child Poverty by Indexing Certain Benefits to Inflation"

(H.P. 637) (L.D. 909)

Sponsored by Representative MELARAGNO of Auburn.

Cosponsored by Representatives: COLLINGS of Portland, COOPER of Yarmouth, GATTINE of Westbrook, HAMANN of South Portland, HARLOW of Portland, LAWRENCE of South Berwick, MOONEN of Portland.

Bill "An Act To Encourage Living Kidney Donation in Maine"

(H.P. 638) (L.D. 910)

Sponsored by Representative VACHON of Scarborough.

Cosponsored by Senator VOLK of Cumberland and Representatives: CHACE of Durham, DENNO of Cumberland, HYMANSON of York, JORGENSEN of Portland, MALABY of Hancock, NADEAU of Winslow, PERRY of Calais, SEAVEY of Kennebunkport.

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

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act To Adjust the Formula for Calculating the Allocation of Moose Permits for Hunting Lodges"

(H.P. 592) (L.D. 843)

Sponsored by Representative STANLEY of Medway.

Cosponsored by Representatives: CAMPBELL of Orrington, COLLINGS of Portland, HANINGTON of Lincoln, HARLOW of Portland, LYFORD of Eddington.

Bill "An Act To Make Excessive Boat Noise a Public Nuisance"

(H.P. 593) (L.D. 844)

Sponsored by Representative FAY of Raymond.

Cosponsored by Representatives: ACKLEY of Monmouth, BRYANT of Windham, HARLOW of Portland, SHEATS of Auburn, Senators: GRATWICK of Penobscot, SAVIELLO of Franklin.

Bill "An Act Regarding Game That Is Confiscated in Connection with an Alleged Violation of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Laws"

(H.P. 617) (L.D. 868)

Sponsored by Representative THERIAULT of China.

Cosponsored by Representatives: ESPLING of New Gloucester, HANLEY of Pittston, HARLOW of Portland, HILLIARD of Belgrade, MASON of Lisbon, REED of Carmel, Senator: CYRWAY of Kennebec.

Bill "An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Tagging of Harvested Animals To Reflect the Closure of Tagging Stations Due to Holidays and Other Legitimate Reasons"

(H.P. 618) (L.D. 869)

Sponsored by Representative WHITE of Washburn.

Cosponsored by Representatives: DILLINGHAM of Oxford, DUCHESNE of Hudson, HANINGTON of Lincoln, HARLOW of Portland, MARTIN of Sinclair, PIERCE of Dresden, Senators: CUSHING of Penobscot, MASON of Androscoggin.

Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** suggested and ordered printed.

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act To Protect Life Insurance Beneficiaries"

(H.P. 619) (L.D. 870)

Sponsored by Representative TERRY of Gorham.

Cosponsored by Representatives: AUSTIN of Skowhegan, CASAS of Rockport.

Bill "An Act Regarding Credit Card Interest Rates"

(H.P. 648) (L.D. 920)

Sponsored by Representative ESPLING of New Gloucester.

Cosponsored by Representatives: HARVELL of Farmington, STETKIS of Canaan.

Committee on **INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** suggested and ordered printed.

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act To Clarify That Petitions for Certiorari to the Supreme Court of the United States Are Included within the Definition of Indigent Legal Services"

(H.P. 594) (L.D. 845)

Sponsored by Representative MOONEN of Portland.

Submitted by the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Bill "An Act To Enact the Revised Uniform Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act"

(H.P. 595) (L.D. 846)

Sponsored by Representative CARDONE of Bangor.

Cosponsored by Senator HILL of York.

Bill "An Act To Hold Refugee Resettlement Agencies Accountable to Maine People"

(H.P. 596) (L.D. 847)

Sponsored by Representative LOCKMAN of Amherst.

Cosponsored by Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis and Representatives: BRADSTREET of Vassalboro, CEBRA of Naples, GERRISH of Lebanon, HARRINGTON of Sanford, SIROCKI of Scarborough, TURNER of Burlington, VACHON of Scarborough, Senator: WHITEMORE of Somerset.

Bill "An Act To Establish a Statewide Electronic Warrant System"

(H.P. 609) (L.D. 860)

Sponsored by Representative GERRISH of Lebanon.

Cosponsored by Senator ROSEN of Hancock and Representatives: COREY of Windham, FOLEY of Wells, HERRICK of Paris, MAREAN of Hollis, PICKETT of Dixfield, RECKITT of South Portland.

Bill "An Act To Require Disclosures Relating to the Sale of Residential Real Property Accessible Only by a Private Way"

(H.P. 620) (L.D. 871)

Sponsored by Representative FAY of Raymond.

Cosponsored by Senator BELLOWS of Kennebec and Representatives: COLLINGS of Portland, FULLER of Lewiston, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, RILEY of Jay.

Bill "An Act To Protect Rights and Privileges Granted under the United States Constitution and the Constitution of Maine"

(H.P. 631) (L.D. 903)

Sponsored by Representative SAMPSON of Alfred.

Cosponsored by Senator WOODSOME of York and Representatives: CHACE of Durham, FOLEY of Wells, GERRISH of Lebanon, LOCKMAN of Amherst, PRESCOTT of Waterboro, SUTTON of Warren, TUELL of East Machias, TURNER of Burlington.

Bill "An Act To Remove Time and Acreage Limits for Placing Land in Trust Status under the Maine Indian Claims Settlement"

(H.P. 649) (L.D. 921)

Sponsored by Representative DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe.

Cosponsored by Senator MAKER of Washington.

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

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act To Support Law Enforcement Officers and First Responders Diagnosed with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder"

(H.P. 597) (L.D. 848)

Sponsored by Representative GOLDEN of Lewiston.

Cosponsored by Senator VOLK of Cumberland and Representatives: SYLVESTER of Portland, WARREN of Hallowell, Senators: BELLOWS of Kennebec, LIBBY of Androscoggin.

Bill "An Act To Establish Requirements Related to the Practice of Dry Needling"

(H.P. 621) (L.D. 872)

Sponsored by Representative FECTEAU of Biddeford.

Cosponsored by Senator LANGLEY of Hancock and Representatives: BATES of Westbrook, BROOKS of Lewiston, COLLINGS of Portland, GOLDEN of Lewiston, SIROCKI of Scarborough, Senators: CARSON of Cumberland, JACKSON of Aroostook.

Bill "An Act To Adopt Tiny House Standards in the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code"

(H.P. 622) (L.D. 873)

Sponsored by Representative BERRY of Bowdoinham.

Cosponsored by Senator WOODSOME of York and Representatives: AUSTIN of Gray, FECTEAU of Biddeford, JORGENSEN of Portland, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, SANBORN of Portland, TALBOT ROSS of Portland, VACHON of Scarborough, Senator: VOLK of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act To Clarify the Scope of Practice of Certain Licensed Professionals Regarding Conversion Therapy"

(H.P. 640) (L.D. 912)

Sponsored by Representative FECTEAU of Biddeford.

Cosponsored by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin and Representatives: CHACE of Durham, GINZLER of Bridgton, MOONEN of Portland, STEWART of Presque Isle, WARD of Dedham, Senators: KATZ of Kennebec, MAKER of Washington, SAVIELLO of Franklin.

Bill "An Act Regarding Workers' Compensation Insurance Rates for Small Businesses"

(H.P. 641) (L.D. 913)

Sponsored by Representative GINZLER of Bridgton.

Cosponsored by Senator HAMPER of Oxford and Representatives: HYMANSON of York, KINNEY of Knox, PARKER of South Berwick, SEAVEY of Kennebunkport, TUELL of East Machias, TURNER of Burlington, VACHON of Scarborough, WINSOR of Norway.

Committee on **LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** suggested and ordered printed.

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act To Prohibit Certain Gifts to Health Care Practitioners"

(H.P. 639) (L.D. 911)

Sponsored by Representative HAMANN of South Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator CHIPMAN of Cumberland, Senator GRATWICK of Penobscot and Representatives: GATTINE of Westbrook, HEAD of Bethel, HICKMAN of Winthrop, MALABY of Hancock, PARKER of South Berwick, PERRY of Calais, SANDERSON of Chelsea, Senator: SAVIELLO of Franklin.

Committee on **LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** suggested.

On motion of Representative FECTEAU of Biddeford, **TABLED** pending **REFERENCE** and later today assigned.

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Bill "An Act Directing the Commissioner of Marine Resources To Investigate the Conditions of Sheepscot Pond Related to a Management Plan for Anadromous Fish Species"

(H.P. 650) (L.D. 922)

Sponsored by Representative PIERCE of Dresden.

Cosponsored by Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc and Representatives: ALLEY of Beals, DEVIN of Newcastle, HAWKE of Boothbay Harbor, KUMIEGA of Deer Isle, SIMMONS of Waldoboro, SUTTON of Warren, TUCKER of Brunswick, TUELL of East Machias.

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

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act To Allow the State To Maintain Interest-bearing Accounts of Privately Donated Funds for the Upkeep of Property Managed by the State"

(H.P. 598) (L.D. 849)

Sponsored by Representative FREY of Bangor.

Bill "An Act To Prohibit a Person from Providing False Testimony to a Committee of the Legislature"

(H.P. 599) (L.D. 850)

Sponsored by Representative SIROCKI of Scarborough.

Cosponsored by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin and Representatives: DILLINGHAM of Oxford, GINZLER of

Bridgton, MALABY of Hancock, O'CONNOR of Berwick, TIMBERLAKE of Turner, TURNER of Burlington, Senators: SAVIELLO of Franklin, WOODSOME of York.

Resolve, To Increase Pedestrian Crosswalk Safety

(H.P. 625) (L.D. 876)

Sponsored by Representative FULLER of Lewiston.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BABBIDGE of Kennebunk, FAY of Raymond, HANDY of Lewiston, SHEATS of Auburn.

Bill "An Act To Establish Indigenous People's Day"

(H.P. 642) (L.D. 914)

Sponsored by Representative HAMANN of South Portland.

Cosponsored by Representative BAILEY of Saco and Representatives: BLUME of York, CHAPMAN of Brooksville, HICKMAN of Winthrop, RYKERSON of Kittery, WARREN of Hallowell, Senators: JACKSON of Aroostook, SAVIELLO of Franklin.

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

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act To Repeal and Subject to Referendum in 2018 the Fund To Advance Public Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education and the 3 Percent Income Tax Surcharge" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 600) (L.D. 851)

Sponsored by Representative SIROCKI of Scarborough.

Cosponsored by Senator LANGLEY of Hancock and Representatives: AUSTIN of Gray, GUERIN of Glenburn, HILLIARD of Belgrade, MALABY of Hancock, O'CONNOR of Berwick, PICKETT of Dixfield, TURNER of Burlington, Senator: DOW of Lincoln.

Bill "An Act To Expand the Authority of Municipalities To Implement a Property Tax Deferral Program"

(H.P. 623) (L.D. 874)

Sponsored by Representative DENNO of Cumberland.

Cosponsored by Senator BREEN of Cumberland and Representatives: BAILEY of Saco, CARDONE of Bangor, HANDY of Lewiston, TUELL of East Machias, VACHON of Scarborough.

Bill "An Act To Reduce Property Taxes"

(H.P. 624) (L.D. 875)

Sponsored by Representative CEBRA of Naples.

Cosponsored by Representatives: HANINGTON of Lincoln, HARVELL of Farmington, O'CONNOR of Berwick, STETKIS of Canaan, WARD of Dedham.

Bill "An Act To Require the County Commissioners To Adjust the Assessed Value of a Municipality When They Grant an Abatement Request"

(H.P. 632) (L.D. 904)

Sponsored by Representative JOHANSEN of Monticello.

Cosponsored by Senator CARPENTER of Aroostook and Representatives: BICKFORD of Auburn, HANINGTON of Lincoln, HANLEY of Pittston, STETKIS of Canaan, TUELL of East Machias.

Bill "An Act To Lower Property Taxes"

(H.P. 643) (L.D. 915)

Sponsored by Representative HYMANSON of York.

Cosponsored by Senator WOODSOME of York and Representatives: ALLEY of Beals, HOGAN of Old Orchard Beach, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, SKOLFIELD of Weld.

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

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **TAXATION** and ordered printed.  
Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act To Allow Learner's Permits To Be Issued by Driver Education Schools"

(H.P. 626) (L.D. 877)

Sponsored by Representative SCHNECK of Bangor.  
Cosponsored by Senator CARPENTER of Aroostook and Representatives: DUNPHY of Old Town, FARRIN of Norridgewock, HANINGTON of Lincoln, MARTIN of Sinclair, McCREA of Fort Fairfield, STANLEY of Medway, TUELL of East Machias, TURNER of Burlington.

Bill "An Act To Allow Municipalities To Permit the Operation of Golf Carts on Municipally Owned Streets"

(H.P. 627) (L.D. 878)

Sponsored by Representative DENNO of Cumberland.  
Cosponsored by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin and Representative: CHACE of Durham, Senator: BREEN of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act To Authorize the Construction of a Maine Turnpike Connector to Gorham"

(H.P. 633) (L.D. 905)

Sponsored by Representative McLEAN of Gorham.  
Cosponsored by Senator VOLK of Cumberland and Representatives: BATTLE of South Portland, GATTINE of Westbrook, SIROCKI of Scarborough, TERRY of Gorham, VACHON of Scarborough, Senator: COLLINS of York.

Bill "An Act To Establish an Enhanced Driver's License for Qualified Maine Residents To Facilitate Travel across Certain International Borders"

(H.P. 651) (L.D. 923)

Sponsored by Representative McCREIGHT of Harpswell.  
Cosponsored by Senator JACKSON of Aroostook and Representatives: ACKLEY of Monmouth, ALLEY of Beals, GUERIN of Glenburn, MARTIN of Eagle Lake, McCREA of Fort Fairfield, PERRY of Calais, SHERMAN of Hodgdon, STEWART of Presque Isle, Senator: CARPENTER of Aroostook.

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

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act To Make Changes to the Maine Liquor Liability Act"

(H.P. 601) (L.D. 852)

Sponsored by Representative MONAGHAN of Cape Elizabeth.

Bill "An Act To Allow Beano at Campgrounds"

(H.P. 602) (L.D. 853)

Sponsored by Representative LUCHINI of Ellsworth.  
Cosponsored by Senator COLLINS of York and Representatives: ALLEY of Beals, FARRIN of Norridgewock, Senators: LANGLEY of Hancock, MASON of Androscoggin.

Bill "An Act To Allow Any Person To Purchase Voter Registration Lists"

(H.P. 628) (L.D. 879)

Sponsored by Representative CASÁS of Rockport. (BY REQUEST)

Bill "An Act Regarding the Collection of Signatures for a Direct Initiative"

(H.P. 634) (L.D. 906)

Sponsored by Representative TIMBERLAKE of Turner.  
Cosponsored by Senator KATZ of Kennebec and Representatives: SEAVEY of Kennebunkport, SIROCKI of Scarborough, STROM of Pittsfield, TURNER of Burlington, WINSOR of Norway, Senators: HAMPER of Oxford, LANGLEY of Hancock, MASON of Androscoggin.

Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** suggested and ordered printed.

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act To Correct Errors and Inconsistencies in the Marijuana Legalization Act as Approved by the Voters"

(H.P. 603) (L.D. 854)

Sponsored by Representative HAMANN of South Portland.  
Cosponsored by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin and Representatives: HICKMAN of Winthrop, MONAGHAN of Cape Elizabeth.

Bill "An Act To Protect Children from Edible Cannabis Products"

(H.P. 604) (L.D. 855)

Sponsored by Representative HAMANN of South Portland.

Joint Select Committee on **MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION IMPLEMENTATION** suggested and ordered printed.

**REFERRED** to the Joint Select Committee on **MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION IMPLEMENTATION** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

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By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

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#### ORDERS

On motion of Representative CASÁS of Rockport, the following Joint Order: (H.P. 644)

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation shall conduct a study to determine the placement of vehicle charging stations on Maine's highways. In conducting the study, the committee shall invite interested parties, including, but not limited to, the Commissioner of Transportation, or the commissioner's designee, and the Executive Director of the Maine Turnpike Authority, or the executive director's designee. The committee, with input from interested parties, shall determine the placement and structure of vehicle charging stations and the cost of installing and maintaining vehicle charging stations. The committee shall report out legislation based on the study to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature implementing the committee's recommendations.

#### READ.

On motion of Representative HERBIG of Belfast, **TABLED** pending **PASSAGE** and later today assigned.

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**SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR**

In accordance with House Rule 519 and Joint Rule 213, the following item:

**Recognizing:**

Nancy Crowell, of Scarborough, who has been named Great Person of the Year by the *Scarborough Leader*. Ms. Crowell has served as library director of the Scarborough Public Library for 40 years and has been a visible and important presence in the community. We extend to Ms. Crowell our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 116)

Presented by Representative VACHON of Scarborough. Cosponsored by Senator VOLK of Cumberland, Senator MILLETT of Cumberland, Representative McLEAN of Gorham, Representative SIROCKI of Scarborough.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative VACHON of Scarborough, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

**READ.**

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Scarborough, Representative Vachon.

Representative **VACHON**: Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I am honored to pay tribute to Nancy Crowell, Director of Scarborough Public Library. For 40 years, Nancy has served the community of Scarborough and was recently honored for being 2016's Great Person of the Year. Growing up, libraries were big scary places for me. I could never navigate those big old card catalogues and librarians were intimidatingly intelligent to me. That's my way of saying I was terrified of them. In contrast, at a very young age, Nancy was right at home in the library. Back in 2003, I was planning a fundraiser for a local nonprofit. Various people told me that I should really run the idea past Nancy Crowell, the town librarian. I remember walking in to see her in her tiny office, with piles stacked high to the ceiling, all over the place. I sat down and told her I was brainstorming an idea and said, "Stop me when I've driven you crazy." She didn't stop me that day and she never has. In fact, the more involved I got in my community, I came to discover that Nancy was always there. She's everywhere. In fact, if you need help with anything, if you have any ideas and people you need to talk to, you need to talk to Nancy. I thought this was true only to Scarborough. But a few years ago, while selling health insurance, I found myself up in Carrabassett Library. So impressed with the library, I struck up a conversation with the library director and told her that I was from Scarborough and she said, "Oh, Nancy Crowell? She's my mentor." Why was I not surprised? Libraries have come a long way over the years and from books and card catalogues to e-books and the Internet. At first, one may think that libraries are no longer relevant. However, the visionary librarians like Nancy Crowell, libraries have evolved to become information hubs for the whole community. It is for that reason I rise both to congratulate Nancy and to thank her.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Portland, Representative Jorgensen.

Representative **JORGENSEN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I just wanted to rise and add my voice to the accolades going out to Nancy Crowell. Her reputation extends well beyond the borders of Scarborough in her leadership in the community of libraries. I had the pleasure of working with Ms. Crowell during my 12 years at the Maine Humanities Council and never was there anybody more reliable in terms of being able to provide a great public program and just convey the excitement of learning to the general public. So, I hadn't known she was being honored today but I'm thrilled that she is,

and I just wanted to offer my congratulations as well. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Subsequently, this Expression of Legislative Sentiment was **PASSED** and sent for concurrence.

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At this point, the Senate came and a Joint Convention was formed.

**In Convention**

The President of the Senate, the Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau in the Chair.

The Convention was called to order by the Chair.

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On motion by Senator MASON from Androscoggin, it was ORDERED, that a Committee be appointed to wait upon Brigadier General Douglas A. Farnham, Adjutant General of the Maine National Guard and Commissioner for the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, to inform him that the two branches of the Legislature are in Convention assembled, ready to receive such communications as please him.

The Order was READ and PASSED.

The Chair appointed the following:

The Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Mason  
The Senator from York, Senator Collins  
The Senator from Aroostook, Senator Carpenter  
The Representative from Ellsworth, Representative Luchini  
The Representative from Waterville, Representative Longstaff  
The Representative from Bangor, Representative Schneck  
The Representative from Cape Elizabeth, Representative Monaghan  
The Representative from Winthrop, Representative Hickman  
The Representative from Norridgewock, Representative Farrin  
The Representative from Oxford, Representative Dillingham  
The Representative from Lincoln, Representative Hanington  
The Representative from Washburn, Representative White  
The Representative from Rockport, Representative Casás

Subsequently, Senator MASON from Androscoggin, for the Committee, reported that the Adjutant General of the Maine National Guard would attend forthwith.

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The Chair welcomed to the Convention Brigadier General Douglas A. Farnham, Adjutant General of the Maine National Guard.

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The Chair recognized in the House Gallery the members of the Army and Air National Guard and the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management.

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The Chair requested the Adjutant General of the Maine National Guard, Brigadier General Douglas A. Farnham, to please step forward and address the Joint Convention.

Adjutant General **FARNHAM**: Thank you. As I was preparing my remarks, I was thinking about the feedback I got from last year and the most common thing I heard was that it was nice and short, so I'm not quite sure what it said about the content. But, President Thibodeau, Speaker Gideon, Members of the 128<sup>th</sup> Legislature, and distinguished guests, thank you for this invitation. It is an honor to address this assembled Joint Session. Fellow airmen, soldiers and department

civilians, thank you for your hard work and commitment to the country and our state. You are the basis for my remarks, and as I said last year, the reason I'm given this opportunity is due to the respect that this Legislature has for the work that you do every day.

Today I will discuss the Bureau of Veteran Services, the Maine Emergency Management Agency, the Maine Military Authority, and the Maine National Guard. Many of you have had the opportunity to work with Adria Horn, the Director of Bureau of Veteran Services. As a combat veteran herself, serving as an active duty soldier and now a reservist, she understands the issues, advocates for our veterans, and has a vision for the proper role of the Bureau. Implementing her vision, and many of the recommendations from last year's Commission to strengthen and align the services provided to Maine veterans, are a group of dedicated state employees. They assisted thousands of veterans and filed nearly 2,000 claims on their behalf with the VA, including the difficult cases, obtaining disability benefits totaling twenty five million dollars. For permanent and totally disabled Maine veterans, two hundred and seventy-seven of their dependents went to school on the Veteran Dependent Education Waiver at the University of Maine Systems' schools. During this year's State of the State, Governor LePage specifically mentioned Adria for her work with Mr. Richard Sukeforth, who had been evicted with his wife from their home. I recently heard Adria tell her version of the story and I wanted to share it with you. As a former National Guardsman and Marine, Mr. Sukeforth had been living on a low fixed income of social security alone. Like too many Maine veterans, he had never applied for benefits because, like too many more veterans, he didn't think he was eligible. Mr. Sukeforth's neighbor wrote to the Governor's Office asking for assistance. A member of the Bureau staff, Jaime Robichaud, initiated a claim. After she read of Mr. Sukeforth's eviction, she contacted the VA's homeless coordinator, Michael Ouellette, to alert him of the now "homeless" distinction at which point Bob Rapulus, Amanda Harquail, and Peggy Haskell used their expertise to finalize the claim that ended up bringing Mr. Sukeforth from nothing to a 60 percent service connected and \$1,200 a month. Behind every veteran, sometimes beginning with a caring neighbor, there's a team of people working on their claim, their health care, their employment, and, gratefully in Maine, their advocacy. Another one of those advocates is here with us today to be recognized for his outstanding service to Maine's veterans. Retired U.S. Navy Commander and Vietnam Veteran, David Patch, has devoted his entire retirement to the selfless service on behalf of our veterans. He has spent countless hours supporting those with disabilities regain confidence with adaptive sports and he travels across the state to hundreds of events, and bedsides, recognizing terminally ill veterans for their service. David Patch is a thoughtful contributor and persistent believer in all things veteran services. Commander Patch, and the BVS and VA teams that are here today, please stand to be recognized.

Thank you all for everything you do for the veterans of Maine. With over 130,000 veterans, Maine has the third highest population of veterans in the country per capita. Mainers are proud of our military contributions and proud of the veterans and service members. We are also proud of our cemetery system. With the help of a non-profit association dedicated to each cemetery, federal inspections have exceeded national averages and our veterans' cemeteries are a fitting, honorable, and lasting tribute to our veterans and their dependents. With support and successes comes challenges in

all forms. Like Mr. Sukeforth, who did not consider himself eligible for VA services, there are an estimated 25,000 veterans in Maine who are eligible for veteran benefits and simply do not know, or they do not think it applies to them, and as a result they walk away from the benefits that could support them and their families. If this strikes a chord with you personally, or describes someone you know, I urge you to contact the Bureau of Veteran Services and start the conversation, or ask on someone's behalf, just as Mr. Sukeforth's neighbor did.

Mr. Bruce Fitzgerald continues to lead the Maine Emergency Management Agency. We are very fortunate to have him as he is recognized regionally and nationally as an expert. He also has a great team that ensures the state is focused on mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery in disaster situations. This year, major projects included a significant update of the State Homeland Security Strategy and a complete overhaul of the State Emergency Operations Plan. The Homeland Security Strategy has a new focus areas of cyber security and homegrown violent extremism. Both of these plans are coordinated with many agencies at multiple levels of government. The key component of the Homeland Security Strategy was the kickoff of the See Something, Say Something Campaign with the Governor and law enforcement officials from across the state. We all need to be diligent about reporting things that just don't look right. If you see something, say something. Citizens in our local communities can play an important role in preventing terrorism and keeping our communities safe and ultimately protecting our nation. Of course, suspicious activity does not include factors such as race, ethnicity, gender, religion, and national origin, but your constituents in their local community are best suited for recognizing what doesn't look right or is out of place. If you see something, say something. I hope that you have noticed the Maine Prepares Public Awareness Campaign that has been developed to include more visibility on television and radio, as well as daily social media presence on Facebook and Twitter. This outreach provides critical information to our citizens to assist with emergency preparedness planning before, during, and after an event. You know, over this year I've become a big fan of Twitter and I anxiously -- Nicki told me to take this out but I didn't, I didn't. Each day I anxiously await the Tweet that could change the day's news cycle. Of course, that Tweet is from MEMA giving Mainers good advice on preparedness and resiliency. MEMA's challenges include high turnover of program staff and Federal Homeland Security grants that have been flat funded for several years. This continues to put pressure on funding MEMA operations and staff at the current levels. While I'm talking emergency management, I want to mention resiliency. Now, more than ever, it is important for us to take steps to be resilient, not only as a nation, but as individuals. We can do this by preparing ourselves, and our families, for emergencies by creating emergency plans, knowing the risk in our communities, and preparing an emergency kit with the necessary supplies, including food, water, medication to survive without outside help for at least three days. Know how to communicate with your family when the cell phone service fails, or where you can meet if you get separated. Resiliency is the key to mitigation and recovery from disasters. No one can foresee all the risks, whether it's a natural weather related disaster, a terrorist attack, or a cyber event, resilient individuals and communities will recover quicker. When you are looking for content to communicate to your constituents, please put in a plug for the See Something, Say Something Campaign and for resiliency.

The Maine Military Authority has been in existence since 1997 when the facilities of the former Loring Airforce Base were chosen by the National Guard Bureau to refurbish military Humvees. In 2000, the Authority was established by the Maine Legislature in Statute to diversify operations with broad contracting authority. MMA has refurbished over 16,000 military vehicles with revenues exceeding six hundred million dollars, while funding millions of dollars in building and equipment improvements at Loring, contributions to the State general fund, and tuition assistance to the National Guard. MMA has never been subsidized with the Maine taxpayer before this year's Supplemental Budget request. MMA has been a positive for both the taxpayer and the Aroostook County economy. In 2010, in anticipation of the end of the Humvee programs, MMA leadership looked to pivot the business model from the military contract toward commercial contracts competing on the open market. At the time, I think everyone involved recognized not only the importance of MMA to the county economy but also the promise of what the facilities and talented workforce could become. A contract with Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority, MBTA, was envisioned to highlight the MMA workforce and the facilities at Limestone, and act as a bridge to further economic development. This contract was to refurbish a very complicated dual mode articulated bus. The losses mounted early but leadership and the workforce were determined to make it work and believe they could gain efficiencies with each bus. For various reasons, the learning curve was never as favorable as they had hoped and it became clear that the project was significantly underbid. We've been able to renegotiate with MBTA to limit the downside of the current contract and position for the future. Although the process has been much slower than anticipated, we are close to completing the deal with MBTA which will allow us to restart the program. If this business model is to be successful, we need to be competitive in our bidding and maintain appropriate production controls. During this period of negotiation with MBTA, we have not only focused on the pricing, but we've been looking for ways to reduce our own indirect costs and finding more efficient procurement practices. If we are going to complete the MBTA contract, compete in the future, provide Aroostook County jobs and produce quality product, we need to be smart and lean. But we also need the working capital and financial flexibility that the Maine Military Reserve Fund established in the FY17 Supplemental Budget, so thank you. Our goal in the Department is for MMA facilities and workforce to be a model that will provide options for future development opportunities in Aroostook County, while working with the Loring Development Authority and the Department of Economic and Community Development for as long as the Legislature chooses to allow MMA to exist.

Let's turn to the Maine National Guard. We live in an age of uncertainty and we are a nation at war. The National Guard is more important than ever to active duty military leadership and the nation. I'll take just a minute to describe the current environment. Just a few years ago, congressionally-directed commissions were formed to identify efficiency gaps between the active guard and reserve components, and to become stronger partners with the Army and Air Force. Today, both active Air Force and Army leadership embrace the Total Force concept and there are several reasons. First, both active services are too small for all the threats and responsibilities. The world is a complicated and uncertain place right now. Threats to our interest from China, Russia, Iran, North Korea, and of course violent extremism spread our forces thin.

Simply, they need the Guard. They also see what governors and Guard leadership have known for years, the Guard is needed in our homeland. Our capabilities and responsibilities are critical to domestic response. Throughout the United States, the National Guard responds regularly to flooding, forest fires, or lately, unfortunately, civil unrest. If our country is attacked, whether conventionally, by terrorist, or cyber, you can be certain you'll see the National Guard responding. Additionally, the Guard has become the face of the military in most communities. The relationship between civilians and the military is critical to any nation and we are very fortunate. The military, in general, consistently gets very high ratings by the American public for trust and confidence. That's very important but it's not guaranteed. Today, half of our active duty uniform military live in just a handful of states. While 77 percent of Americans over the age of 60 have an immediate family member who has served, only a third of the twenty somethings can say the same. That is why we must have high expectations for our airmen and soldiers in the Guard to work tirelessly to represent the profession of arms as faithful stewards. For the large majority, it is that type of individual that wants to meet the high standards, who makes the choice to serve, and it's another reason that I take every opportunity to thank them for making that choice.

The Maine National Guard is comprised of over 3,200 Air and Army National Guard men and women, serving in facilities across the State from Caribou to South Portland, from Calais to Norway with the joint force headquarters here, in Augusta. While we rely on the citizen soldier and airmen model, we do have over 900 full-time members and a federal payroll of over \$130 million contributing to the Maine economy. The Maine Air National Guard is 1,150 airmen strong and commanded by Brigadier General Gerry Bolduc with Brigadier General Scott Young, Assistant Adjutant General, and State Command Chief, Chief Master Sergeant Kelly Hoffses. The Airmen of the 265<sup>th</sup> Combat Communications Squadron and the 243<sup>rd</sup> Electronic Installation Squadron in South Portland provide the State with unique capabilities for cyber operations, network infrastructure, and communications support. They are also an important part of the Total Force. Ten airmen from the 243<sup>rd</sup> recently returned from a seven-month deployment to southwest Asia where they were part of a team that completed 16 communication installation projects in nine different locations in the region. The 265<sup>th</sup> is scheduled later this year to mobilize 40 airmen to AFRICA COMMAND to assist U.S. allies in the fight against terrorism. They will be establishing and maintaining communication networks at various locations in that region.

Located at Bangor International Airport, the 101<sup>st</sup> Air Refueling Wing is the largest organization in the Maine Air National Guard with 900 Airmen and 10 KC-135 Air-refueling Aircraft. Led by Wing Commander, Colonel Frank Roy and Wing Command Chief, Chief Master Sergeant Dan Moore, the Wing continues to deploy more Airmen and aircraft than ever before. Each year gets busier as there is an insatiable appetite for air refueling across the globe. Last year we deployed 345 personnel to ten overseas locations, that's a third of our force. Security Forces Airmen secured a coalition airfield on an extended deployment. Flying hours last year were the highest ever recorded, over 5,300 hours. Our crews flew more than 460 combat sorties in theater. This would not happen without our maintainers and support Airmen who deploy right along with the aircrews.

A robust operational mission also continues right in Bangor. The Wing processed ten million gallons of jet fuel last year. With a contingency aircraft support operations provided

by both the Wing and the city, they serviced 1,100 transient aircraft, keeping Bangor a key contributor to the global mobility capabilities of our Airforce. It is a team effort at the Wing. All Guard units are busy deploying, but no other is as busy supporting the war effort right at home.

Approximately 2,000 soldiers make up the Maine Army National Guard, commanded by Brigadier General Tim Corbett, with Director of Joint Staff, and newest Army National Guard General Officer, Brigadier General Dwayne Drummond, Command Sergeant Major Scott Doyon as the Senior Enlisted leader, and Chief Warrant Officer 5, Daryl Stevens, the Command Chief Warrant Officer. The Maine Army Guard is comprised of three major commands, Joint Force Headquarters and the 52<sup>nd</sup> Troop Command, both located in Augusta, and the 120<sup>th</sup> Regional Support Group located in Bangor. Our soldiers serve and train at ten sites and 35 facilities across the State.

The 133<sup>rd</sup> Engineer Battalion completed seven community projects in August of 2016 as part of the Department of Defense program known as Innovative Readiness Training. This program provides our soldiers with real world training in their specialty and it also benefits the community. Four of the projects were at Boy Scout camps in Acton, Belgrade, Sabattus, and Edington. These projects included significant upgrades to buildings, building an emergency shelter, installing hard wired smoke and CO2 detectors, and rebuilding parking and drainage. They also completed two trail projects in Sanford and Caribou and a parking lot at the YMCA in Auburn.

The Maine National Guard Counter Drug Task Force was staffed by ten National Guard service members. They support drug related law enforcement agencies, including seven Maine Drug Enforcement Agency offices, one Federal High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area office, and the Maine Information and Analysis Center. These Guardsmen provided case and criminal analysis support. We provided direct support for 160 cases by conducting background investigations, database inquiries, mobile device forensics, and producing intelligence reports. Our service members were proud to contribute to the seizure of heroin, cocaine, marijuana, pharmaceuticals, vehicles, weapons, and cash. But, most importantly, they know that they're a force multiplier in law enforcement efforts to reduce the tremendous harm that heroin and other drugs are causing in every corner of the state.

Budget reductions have significantly affected the Department of Defense in recent years. Maine Army Guard has seen reductions as the total Army and Army National Guard is reduced in size. However, our optimism that the Army had seen a low point seems to be the case. Forecasts for the next couple of years anticipate increases in the size of the Army. Changes in the size and full-time manning of the Maine Army Guard will depend on recruiting and our force structure changes. We will continue to focus on a force structure that matches the needs of the state and provides the Governor with key capabilities during disasters and emergencies, while retaining relevancy with our federal mission. With relevancy, the Army National Guard expects new deployments in the future. Our primary focus is on readiness so that our soldiers are postured for success when they are called upon.

As many of you know, the Maine National Guard has a partnership with the Country of Montenegro. During the past year we conducted 18 events with our Montenegrin counterparts focused on logistics, cyber security, human resources, environmental and emergency management.

Montenegro's membership in NATO is in the process of ratification. The U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee has recommended ratification and this recommendation has been sent to the full Senate for a vote. In December, I led a small contingent to Montenegro to celebrate the tenth anniversary of our partnership. It was very rewarding to celebrate their success. Maine Soldiers and Airmen share a sense of accomplishment on an international level and we will celebrate their full NATO membership.

When I talk about the Army and Air Guard, I prefer to talk about both in the context of three themes. First, we are good at what we do. Maine Airmen and Soldiers have a proud heritage and continue to develop their legacy that will guide future generations. The Maine Army National Guard won a 2016 EPA award for technology innovations at the new Bangor Aviation Readiness Center. The 243<sup>rd</sup> Engineering Installation Squadron was an Air Force Outstanding Unit Award winner. The Maine Army National Guard ID Card Site at Camp Keyes competed against 1,600 sites worldwide and was selected as Site of the Year for superior performance and innovative practices. In a perfect example of what we've come to expect from Maine Airmen and Soldiers when they deploy, Tech Sergeant Evan McDaniel deployed to Al Udeid Airbase, in Qatar, where he integrated with an active duty financial management office, inherited a three-month backlog in claims and unpaid entitlements. Within 40 days his work was so impressive it garnered him with Dessert Chief's Award for superior performance and he was one of only five Airmen on base selected to be coined by the Command Sergeant Major of the U.S. Central Command. Nothing exemplifies this theme more than events this past Christmas Day. The Maine Army National Guard Aviation community is located in Bangor. Our aviation officers and soldiers have deployed in support of their federal mission around the globe for virtually every named operation since 1990 but they also have a mission at home. On Christmas Day, at 13:18 local time, that's 1:18 for those that are non-military, and for the Navy veterans in the room it was just after lunch. I took it easy on the Marines today, that's not normal. The Air Force Rescue Coordination Center notified the Maine Army Guard of a possible helicopter rescue mission at Acadia National Park. A 27-year old male had fallen 30 feet while climbing the Precipice Trail. Major Nate Arnold, and his team, accepted the mission, traveled from home, completed mission planning and preflight of the UH60 Alert Helicopter and launched all within an hour and 37 minutes from that initial notification. Within 20 minutes they had located the victim, and rescuers from the MDI Search and Rescue, on a wooded ledge. Winds were gusting to 30 knots and due to the steep terrain, the helicopter had to establish a stable hover with the rotor system just 30 feet from the cliff face. The rescue hoist operator skillfully directed the pilots directly over the victim and inserted the flight paramedic into the clump of birch trees adjacent to the rescue party. Rotor watch challenged the hoist operator and flight medic who was operating a tag line attached to the liter. Both the hoist cable and tag line blew around and became entangled in trees. After extricating the lines, the victim was successfully hoisted into the aircraft. This process took 21 minutes. And after a 20-minute flight, the helicopter landed at Eastern Maine Medical Center and he did survive. That's your National Guard.

There is no place that I would rather be than the Maine National Guard. It used to be the Maine Air National Guard. I apologize guys. I don't slip very often anymore. Hooa! Does that make up for it? I apologize. There's no place I'd rather be than the Maine National Guard. The future is bright. In the era

of tight budgets, the Guard is a value for America. We have missions that matter, missions that are relevant to the defense of our country. A state mission of helping our neighbors and communities in the event of an emergency or disaster, and we have a state that values military service. Recruiting and retention will continue to be very important to our future. A big reason that that future is bright is the passing of the tuition assistance bill last year. On behalf of the current and future Maine Guardsmen, I want to again thank the Administration, the Legislature, the University of Maine System, Community College System, and Maine Maritime Academy for getting this done. During this fall semester, 143 guard members took advantage of the program. Despite many headwinds in the recruiting front, we saw the first uptick in a couple of years in the recruiting numbers. This program greatly assists the members of the Maine Guard accomplish personal and professional education goals. Without this program, we would not be competitive in recruiting or retention in our region. Thanks to this program, the future is bright.

Every time I speak to Airmen and Soldiers, I thank them for their service. I mention deployments a lot. They come with being a Nation at war. They can be tough on Airmen and Soldiers, but they can also be the highlight of a career. While deployed, you can 100 percent focus on that mission that matters. The stories that you bring home are told and retold for the rest of your life. But it is really tough on our families, friends, employers and co-workers who support us, and they have been amazing and they also deserve our thanks. Our service members have made a choice to serve, but many citizens don't make that choice, or can't. As I told you last year, 70 percent of 17 to 24-year-olds are ineligible for military service due to education, police record, drug use, physical standards, or obesity. Kids are making poor choices that negatively affect their opportunities in life. So now we've legalized marijuana, just to complicate those choices. Marijuana use complicates enlisting in the military, can affect the ability to get security clearances, and cannot be used by military members. As we move forward I'm concerned that it will become even more difficult for many to make good choices. I will leave it at that, as I know you recognize the complications of legalizing a drug in a state that is illegal at the federal level and will address it in a thoughtful and deliberate way.

We need to not only appeal to young adults who are eligible to serve, but also increase the number that are eligible. We need to do more about childhood obesity and fitness and give kids the incentives not to make bad choices with drugs, crime or leaving school. Today's recruits joined a force that has been operationally engaged for 26 years. They swear an oath to ideas set forth in a document, the Constitution, ideas so meaningful they're willing to deploy from family, suffer wounds or injury, lose limbs, or sacrifice their life to defend. Thank them for their service.

I also want to thank you. Service to our fellow citizens comes in many forms. You may not agree on everything; someday it doesn't appear you agree on anything, but I do know that you all agree on the importance of service. And on behalf of the Airmen, Soldiers, and our entire department, thank you for your service to the great State of Maine.

I appreciate the opportunity to give you an update on the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management. Please help tell our story. We are still a nation at war. Deployments will continue for the foreseeable future, soldiers, airmen, their families, employers, and co-workers will still need support from friends, neighbors, and communities.

Preparedness and personal resiliency will make the difference in recovery from disaster or emergency. And help a veteran claim the benefits that they've earned, refer them to the Bureau of Veteran Services.

In summary, we have a Department of State and Federal employees, Soldiers and Airmen that is full of remarkable people who represent the best of our great state. These professionals work diligently to support our citizens each day and every day from disaster preparedness to military benefits, from refurbishment contracts to mobilizations around the globe. I am honored to serve beside them. Always ready, always there. Thank you, again, for the honor to speak to you today.

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The CHAIR: On behalf of the entire convention, Doug, we certainly want to thank you. We all know that our nation is truly blessed because of the efforts of our American military forces, both active, reserve, and our veterans. So on behalf of the Legislature, thank you for your service.

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The Adjutant General withdrew amid the applause of the Convention, the audience rising.

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The purpose for which the Convention was assembled having been accomplished, the Chair declared the same dissolved.

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The Senate then retired to its Chamber amid the applause of the House, the audience rising.

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(After the Joint Convention)

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The House was called to order by the Speaker.

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The following items were taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

The following matters, in the consideration of which the House was engaged at the time of adjournment Thursday, March 2, 2017, had preference in the Orders of the Day and continued with such preference until disposed of as provided by House Rule 502.

Bill "An Act To Allow Slot Machines or a Casino in York County"

(I.B. 1) (L.D. 719)

TABLED - February 28, 2017 (Till Later Today) by Representative HERBIG of Belfast.

PENDING - REFERENCE.

Subsequently, the Bill was REFERRED to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Prohibit Female Genital Mutilation"  
(H.P. 525) (L.D. 745)  
(Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**  
suggested)  
TABLED - March 2, 2017 (Till Later Today) by Representative  
WARREN of Hallowell.  
PENDING - **REFERENCE**.

Subsequently, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee  
on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**, ordered  
printed and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted  
upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEE**  
**Divided Report**

Majority Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL**  
**GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act  
To Remove the Legislative Council from the Capitol Area  
Development Approval Process"

(H.P. 26) (L.D. 25)

Signed:  
Senator:

DESCHAMBAULT of York

Representatives:

MARTIN of Sinclair  
BEEBE-CENTER of Rockland  
BRYANT of Windham  
HOGAN of Old Orchard Beach  
MADIGAN of Rumford  
SPEAR of South Thomaston

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to**  
**Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:  
Senator:

DAVIS of Piscataquis

Representatives:

GRIGNON of Athens  
HARRINGTON of Sanford  
ORDWAY of Standish  
PICKETT of Dixfield

**READ.**

Representative MARTIN of Sinclair moved that the House  
**ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the  
Representative from Sinclair, Representative Martin.

Representative **MARTIN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker.  
Madam Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, LD  
25, "An Act To Remove the Legislative Council from the  
Capitol Area Development Approval Process," does exactly  
what the title of the bill suggests. Currently, Section 304, in  
Title V of the Maine Revised Statutes, requires that new  
construction projects in the Capitol Area must receive approval  
of the Legislative Council. LD 25 repeals this requirement and  
this section. The majority of the State and Local Committee  
believe that it's still in the best interest, best public's interest, to  
continue to have legislative oversight and approval of  
Legislative Council for construction projects within the so-  
called Capitol Area. Checks and balances in government is

always good government. Therefore, I urge you to support the  
pending motion and vote yes, and follow my light, and clearly  
vote yes. Thank you. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the  
Representative from New Gloucester, Representative Espling.

Representative **ESPLING**: Thank you, Madam Speaker.  
Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I was a sponsor of this  
bill. This bill simply removes Legislative Council approval from  
construction projects within the Capital Area. Currently, in  
addition to town permitting and other local approvals, the  
project may need in the municipality, a project within this  
Capitol Area must have approval by the Legislative Council,  
the Bureau of General Services, and the Capitol Planning  
Commission. I have a list of projects that I also provided to the  
committee that were projects within the Capitol Area, that were  
permitted to go forward without approval of the Legislative  
Council. All of these projects were, with the exception of one,  
went forward and were totally completed without approval of  
the Legislative Council at any point. Lack of Legislative  
Council approval on various projects spans many years. It's  
not one Legislature nor one administration at fault here. It's  
just been happening over a period of time. So I ask, why do  
we need continued Legislative Council approval on these  
plans? Why does that have to be part of the process? Clearly,  
we already have multiple levels of scrutiny on these projects,  
both within the municipality and the Capitol Planning  
Commission. So why do we continue with the added layer of  
Legislative Council approval when for roughly 30 known  
projects, no approval has been given? We don't need this  
extra layer of scrutiny. And I would also add that maintaining  
this approval as part of this process just politicizes the process  
that should not be political. So I ask you to vote against this  
motion. If there's been no roll call asked for, I ask for a roll call.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on the  
motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a  
desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the  
Representative from Sinclair, Representative Martin.

Representative **MARTIN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker.  
The good Representative from New Gloucester,  
Representative Espling, suggests that 30 some odd projects  
were not approved by the Legislative Council. If you read very  
closely, Section 304, Title V, from the current requirement, the  
current requirement calls for new construction projects, not  
improvements. The 30 projects that Representative Espling  
suggests were not approved, for the most part, were  
renovations. One exception was the construction of the  
Riverview Psychiatric Center, which was completed in the year  
2003 or 2004, I believe. This did not need Legislative Council  
approval because, ultimately, the entire Legislature at that time  
approved the project. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the  
Representative from Dixfield, Representative Pickett.

Representative **PICKETT**: Thank you, Madam Speaker.  
Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I rise in opposition to the  
pending motion. What this bill sought to do is remove an  
unnecessary step from the Capitol Area development approval  
process. Unnecessary, simply because we already have a  
Capitol Planning Commission who approves these projects.  
By adding the Legislative Council to the list just adds an extra  
step that allows this process to become political. We don't  
need to look far to find an example of how easily this process  
can get politicized through the Legislative Council. In fact, we  
don't need to look any further than what we witnessed just a

few months ago with the Step-Down Facility that was initially supposed to be built here in Augusta on the campus of the Riverview Psychiatric Center. That was a project that was approved by the Capitol Planning Commission and the Augusta Municipal Officials. They all signed off on it. But once this process got political, it became a hot mess. By now, we have all heard about the list of 30 projects that were built in the Capitol Development Area without the approval of the Legislative Council. But prior to this recent dustup, I bet none of us were even aware of this list or the fact that these projects were done without the approval of the Legislative Council until the process became unnecessarily politicized. Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I urge you to join me in opposing this motion. Let's be proactive, and let's avoid these types of messes in the future. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Chelsea, Representative Sanderson.

Representative SANDERSON: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Men and Women of the House, I also urge you to vote against the pending motion. You've already heard about the 30 projects, you've already heard about the institutions that this has to go before and receive approval for already, but what you haven't heard about is what actually happened with this one, and how we can stop this going into the future. This did become a political football. The questions before the Legislative Council were not to build or build the project that were asked from the Council itself, it was about programmatic issues, who-was-going-to-run-it issues. And that wasn't the question before the Council. The Council is for, can we build or can't we build? Unfortunately, as the good Representative from Dixfield said, it turned into a hot mess. It became a micromanagement of the department of the things that the department wanted to do, of the things the department needs to do. And I'm not sure why that happened because, ultimately, what this boils down to, what this project boiled down to, was making sure some individuals got into a facility to receive the proper level of care so we can get Riverview recertified with the federal government. These individuals do not need a hospital level of care. And what I really don't understand is we have the approval from NAMI for this project. We have the approval from Judge Wathen, who is the Court Master and oversees the Consent Decree. They all believe that this is what we needed to do, yet still there was a reluctance on the part of members of the Legislative Council to let this thing go forward, as it should have. Now it is going to be built someplace else. And what does that mean ultimately? That means, ultimately, that this project is probably going to open, be built and be open, four to six months later than it originally would have. It's delaying care, proper care, proper level of care for four to six months for individuals. It's delaying the recertification of the hospital. If we take the Legislative Council out of this, what we will end up doing is we will end up making sure that this goes before the non-partisan commissions that it already passed and will leave the partisan people out of it. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Scarborough, Representative Sirocki.

Representative SIROCKI: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I too rise in opposition to the pending motion. I feel that it is most unfortunate when capital improvement projects, especially ones that serve vulnerable populations, seem to get caught up in partisan feuding. This commonsense bill will help those who are considering approving and implementing capital improvement projects a way to step to back onto the path that

avoids hyper partisanship. Approval by Legislative Council, which is a partisan entity, should not be necessary for the consideration of capital projects that involve state-owned property as long as the Bureau of General Services and the Capitol Planning Commission have vetted and approved the projects. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Ought Not to Pass Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

**ROLL CALL NO. 14**

YEA - Ackley, Alley, Austin B, Babbidge, Bailey, Bates, Battle, Beebe-Center, Berry, Blume, Brooks, Bryant, Cardone, Chapman, Collings, Cooper, Daughtry, DeChant, Denno, Devin, Doore, Duchesne, Dunphy, Farnsworth, Fay, Fecteau, Fuller, Gattine, Golden, Grant, Grohman, Hamann, Handy, Harlow, Herbig, Hickman, Hogan, Hubbell, Hymanson, Jorgensen, Kornfield, Kumiega, Lawrence, Longstaff, Luchini, Madigan C, Madigan J, Martin J, Martin R, Mastraccio, McCrea, McCreight, McLean, Melaragno, Monaghan, Moonen, Nadeau, O'Neil, Parker, Perry, Pierce T, Reckitt, Riley, Rykerson, Sanborn, Schneck, Sheats, Spear, Stanley, Sylvester, Tepler, Terry, Tipping, Tucker, Warren, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Austin S, Bickford, Black, Bradstreet, Casas, Cebra, Chace, Corey, Craig, Dillingham, Espling, Farrin, Foley, Fredette, Gerrish, Gillway, Ginzler, Grignon, Guerin, Haggan, Hanington, Hanley, Harrington, Harvell, Hawke, Head, Higgins, Hilliard, Johansen, Kinney J, Kinney M, Lockman, Lyford, Malaby, Marean, Mason, McElwee, Ordway, Parry, Perkins, Picchiotti, Pickett, Pierce J, Pouliot, Prescott, Reed, Sampson, Sanderson, Seavey, Sherman, Simmons, Sirocki, Skolfield, Stetkis, Stewart, Strom, Sutton, Theriault, Timberlake, Tuell, Turner, Vachon, Wadsworth, Wallace, Ward, White, Winsor, Wood.

ABSENT - Campbell, Frey, Herrick, O'Connor, Stearns, Talbot Ross.

Yes, 77; No, 68; Absent, 6; Excused, 0.

77 having voted in the affirmative and 68 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

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**CONSENT CALENDAR  
First Day**

In accordance with House Rule 519, the following items appeared on the Consent Calendar for the First Day:

(H.P. 92) (L.D. 124) Bill "An Act To Make Changes to the Potato Marketing Improvement Fund" Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 127) (L.D. 171) Bill "An Act To Add the Air Medal as an Option for a Special Commemorative Decal on Special Veterans Registration Plates" Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 163) (L.D. 207) Resolve, To Designate a Bridge in East Machias as the Norman E. Bagley Memorial Bridge Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass**

There being no objections, the above items were ordered to appear on the Consent Calendar tomorrow under the listing of Second Day.

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**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**Second Day**

In accordance with House Rule 519, the following items appeared on the Consent Calendar for the Second Day:

(H.P. 5) (L.D. 3) Bill "An Act To Grant Plantations the Power To Control Consumer Fireworks" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 119) (L.D. 161) Bill "An Act To Remove the Treasurer of State from the Maine Vaccine Board"

No objections having been noted at the end of the Second Legislative Day, the House Papers were **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** and sent for concurrence.

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(H.P. 246) (L.D. 332) Bill "An Act Regarding Service of Criminal Process on Electronic Communication Service Providers and Remote Computing Service Providers" (EMERGENCY)

On motion of Representative FREDETTE of Newport, was **REMOVED** from the Second Day Consent Calendar.

The Unanimous Committee Report was **READ**.

On further motion of the same Representative, **TABLED** pending **ACCEPTANCE** of the Committee Report and later today assigned.

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The following item was taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

**SENATE PAPERS**

Bill "An Act To Require a Veterinarian to be Present at an Agricultural Fair"

(S.P. 274) (L.D. 828)

Bill "An Act To Improve and Protect Maine Organic Milk Producers"

(S.P. 295) (L.D. 893)

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

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** in concurrence.

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Bill "An Act To Carry Out the Will of the People of the State of Maine by Ensuring the Issuance of Bonds To Support the Independence of Maine's Seniors" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 278) (L.D. 832)

Bill "An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Encourage Efficient Biomass Thermal and Power Projects in Maine"

(S.P. 299) (L.D. 897)

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

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** in concurrence.

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Bill "An Act To Strengthen Protections against Civil Asset Forfeiture"

(S.P. 288) (L.D. 888)

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

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Support the Professional Development of Principals in Maine Schools"

(S.P. 291) (L.D. 891)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** in concurrence.

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Bill "An Act To Increase Wastewater Management Responsibility by Licensing Certain Municipal Sewage Collection Systems"

(S.P. 281) (L.D. 881)

Bill "An Act To Increase Funding for the Youth Conservation Corps"

(S.P. 296) (L.D. 894)

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

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** in concurrence.

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Bill "An Act To Require That Maine Welfare Benefits Be Used in Maine"

(S.P. 286) (L.D. 886)

Bill "An Act To Reduce Youth Cancer Risk"

(S.P. 289) (L.D. 889)

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

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** in concurrence.

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Bill "An Act Regarding Insurance Coverage of Certain Dental Services"

(S.P. 302) (L.D. 900)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** and ordered printed.

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** in concurrence.

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Bill "An Act To Promote Retention and Recruitment of Judicial Marshals and Sergeants" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 298) (L.D. 896)

Bill "An Act To Modify the Term and Withholding Limitations for Spousal Support"

(S.P. 303) (L.D. 916)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed.

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** in concurrence.



Bill "An Act To Base the Minimum Wage on a New England State Average and To Restore the Tip Credit"

(S.P. 277) (L.D. 831)

Bill "An Act To Exempt Small Bottlers from the Bottling Plant Requirements" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 284) (L.D. 884)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** and ordered printed.

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** in concurrence.

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Bill "An Act To Authorize Portions of the City of Caribou to Secede and Form the Town of Lyndon"

(S.P. 276) (L.D. 830)

Bill "An Act Prohibiting Public Entities from Contracting with and Investing in Companies That Boycott the State of Israel"

(S.P. 282) (L.D. 882)

Bill "An Act To Include a Representative of the Aroostook Band of Micmacs in the House of Representatives"

(S.P. 290) (L.D. 890)

Bill "An Act To Help Maine Manufacturing"

(S.P. 297) (L.D. 895)

Resolve, To Establish the Commission To Study the Salaries of the Governor, Legislators and Executive and Legislative Staff

(S.P. 301) (L.D. 899)

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

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** in concurrence.

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Bill "An Act To Increase the Income Tax Surcharge Threshold Imposed on Households"

(S.P. 275) (L.D. 829)

Bill "An Act To Update References to the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986 Contained in the Maine Revised Statutes" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 285) (L.D. 885)

Bill "An Act To Provide Relief to Maine Property Tax Payers"

(S.P. 287) (L.D. 887)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TAXATION** and ordered printed.

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **TAXATION** in concurrence.

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Bill "An Act To Repeal the Laws Governing Truck Camper Registration"

(S.P. 273) (L.D. 827)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** and ordered printed.

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** in concurrence.

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Bill "An Act To Streamline the Gaming Permit Process for Veterans' Organizations"

(S.P. 279) (L.D. 833)

Bill "An Act To Establish a Minimum Payment for Signatures Gathered by Maine Citizens for Referendums"

(S.P. 283) (L.D. 883)

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

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** in concurrence.

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By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

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On motion of Representative MELARAGNO of Auburn, the House adjourned at 12:01 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Thursday, March 9, 2017, in honor and lasting tribute to Bob Walker, of Norway.