

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
SENATE ADVANCED JOURNAL AND CALENDAR**

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

SUPPLEMENT NO. 3

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Joint Resolutions

(1-1) The following Joint Resolution:

H.P. 1087

JOINT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING ALL MAINE YOUTH OUTDOORS

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts have tremendously strained the mental health and well-being of Maine's youth and our education system, and, in response, schools have overcome challenges related to training, curriculum, space, funding, gear access, transportation and more in order to use exploring and learning outdoors to face these unprecedented physical, social and emotional challenges; and

WHEREAS, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Maine youth were spending less time outdoors exploring, discovering and building connections to Maine's natural resources; and

WHEREAS, it is documented that learning in an outdoor setting improves academic performance, increases motivation to learn and engage and increases student connection to natural resources and the community; and

WHEREAS, outdoor learning and leadership development open career opportunities in Maine's heritage natural resource, outdoor recreation and tourism industries; and

WHEREAS, the future decisions affecting the quality, quantity and use of the State's natural resources will lie in the hands of today's youth, who must understand natural systems and the interrelationships between natural and human-built systems in order to make informed decisions and take actions that will maintain a high quality of life; and

WHEREAS, when the benefits of outdoor experiences are made available to all youth, stronger connections and healthier communities are built and all citizens benefit; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirtieth Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to commend Maine teachers, administrators and school districts for their innovation in using outdoor settings to increase safety for youth and staff and to meet youth physical and mental health needs; and be it further

RESOLVED: That we support opportunities for all Maine youth to enjoy time outdoors to explore and to learn about and build connections to our State's natural resources, which will provide for health and well-being and will build stronger, healthier communities through upholding Maine's deep history of connection to the outdoors.

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

(1-2) The following Joint Resolution:

H.P. 1211

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE STRUGGLE OF MAINE RESIDENTS
WITH HOUSING COSTS AND THE INADEQUACY OF HOUSING STOCK**

WHEREAS, the writers of the Constitution of Maine articulated the natural rights of all Maine people as including rights of pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness as well as acquiring, possessing and protecting property; and

WHEREAS, the median home price in the State has increased by 55% in the last decade due to short supply and high demand; and

WHEREAS, for 5 consecutive years, a majority of Maine households have been unable to afford the median home sale price; and

WHEREAS, for 20 consecutive years, a majority of Maine renter households have been unable to afford the median rent for a 2-bedroom apartment; and

WHEREAS, over 30,000 citizens of the State are on waiting lists to gain access to 14,000 affordable housing units in the State and only 250 new units are created each year; and

WHEREAS, 26,000 households in the State are on the Centralized Housing Choice Voucher waiting list and the wait times for those subsidies can last for years; and

WHEREAS, nearly one out of 5 homes in the State are considered vacant according to the United States Census Bureau, the highest percentage of vacant homes of any state in the United States; and

WHEREAS, hospitals are unable to discharge patients due to a lack of supportive and affordable housing placements, causing far greater expense than the cost of providing such housing; and

WHEREAS, prisons and jails are unable to discharge people into supportive, affordable housing, contributing to recidivism and causing far greater hardship and expense than the cost of providing such housing; and

WHEREAS, businesses throughout the State are experiencing difficulty recruiting and retaining workers due to the high cost and lack of available housing; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Economic Recovery Committee recommends the development of robust housing policies and programs that enable Maine people to live and raise their families near their work; and

WHEREAS, this shortage of affordable housing exists in every part of the State and has a direct impact on the health and welfare of Maine people; and

WHEREAS, our ability to build a strong, prosperous State that provides opportunity for every resident is threatened by our residents' lack of access to affordable housing; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirtieth Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, on behalf of the people we represent, recognize that the majority of Maine households are struggling to afford housing costs, that the current supply and condition of the State's housing stock are inadequate to meet the basic needs of the State's citizens and that action must be taken to address these issues.

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

(1-3) The following Joint Resolution:

H.P. 1215

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL 2021 AS ORGAN DONATION MONTH

WHEREAS, there are more than 108,000 Americans, with more than 6,000 in New England, who are currently waiting for a life-saving organ transplant; and

WHEREAS, there are over one million life-enhancing tissue transplants each year that are made possible by the generous donation of corneas, bone, skin or other tissue; and

WHEREAS, we can all help save up to 8 people's lives and benefit up to 50 recipients by signing up to become an organ and tissue donor by enrolling in the Maine Organ Donor Registry when we apply for, or renew, our driver's licenses or by registering online at the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles website; and

WHEREAS, 99% of all people in Maine who register to become a donor do so at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles; last year, Maine met the national goal of signing up 50% of our driving population to register as donors and we are dedicated to increasing that percentage and making it fast and easy to sign up to save a life through our Bureau of Motor Vehicles; and

WHEREAS, Maine surgeons, physicians, nurses and other health care professionals provide life-saving organ transplant services to the people of the State; and

WHEREAS, this observance pays tribute to organ and tissue donors and their families whose decision to donate life enables others to receive life-saving organs and tissues for transplant; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the members of the One Hundred and Thirtieth Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize April 2021 as Organ Donation Month and encourage all citizens of the State to register as an organ and tissue donor on their driver's licenses, identification cards or REAL ID cards.

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