

# STATE OF MAINE

In House \_\_\_\_\_

**WHEREAS**, House Rule 501 states that "Business may not be transacted in the House after the hour of 9:00 p.m." and House Rule 523 states that "A rule or order of the House may not be dispensed with unless two thirds of the members present consent to the dispensation"; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 20, 2025, Speaker Ryan Fecteau transacted business in the House after the hour of 9:00 p.m. after having been asked by numerous members of the House to stop transacting business in the House after the hour of 9:00 p.m. and to comply with House Rule 501; and

**WHEREAS**, Speaker Fecteau failed to receive the consent of two thirds of the members present as required by House Rule 523 to dispense with House Rule 501; and

**WHEREAS**, it is incumbent upon the Speaker of the House to call for a two thirds vote to continue to transact any business in the House any time business is to be transacted after 9:00 p.m. It is incumbent upon and the duty and responsibility of the Presiding Officer of the House to follow the rules of the House. It is a dereliction of duty and breach of procedure for the Presiding Officer of the House to conduct business after 9:00 p.m. in violation of House Rule 501 without a two thirds vote of the members of the House present to do so; and

**WHEREAS**, the failure to adhere to House Rules 501 and 523 creates procedural irregularities, undermines legislative integrity and compromises the legitimacy and fairness of House proceedings; and

**WHEREAS**, this violation contradicts the principles of fairness, transparency and adherence to established legislative rules, as is expected from all members of this body; and

**WHEREAS**, the House of Representatives must hold its members accountable for upholding the rules and procedures that govern the legislative process; and

**WHEREAS**, the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part Third, Section 4 empowers the House of Representatives to discipline a member for misconduct; now, therefore, be it

**ORDERED**, that Speaker Fecteau is hereby censured for violating House Rules 501 and 523 by failing to call for a two thirds vote before continuing proceedings in the House after 9:00 p.m. after being requested by members of the House to do so; and be it further

**ORDERED**, that Speaker Fecteau shall publicly apologize to the House and that the Speaker or Speaker pro tempore shall ensure that all members of the House are reminded of the necessity of adherence to procedural rules to maintain the integrity of House proceedings and operations; and be it further

**ORDERED**, that this order must be entered on the journal of the House of Representatives.

**SPONSORED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

(Representative RUDNICKI, S.)

**TOWN:** Fairfield