

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
7th Legislative Day
Tuesday, February 11, 2025

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

Prayer by Pastor Mark Rockwood, Berean Baptist Church, Brunswick.

National Anthem by Honorable John "Jack" E. Ducharme III, Madison.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Medical Provider of the Day, Dr. Robert Rousseau, PA-C, EM-CAQ, Sidney.

The Journal of Tuesday, February 4, 2025 was read and approved.

Under suspension of the rules, members were allowed to remove their jackets.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Skowhegan, Representative Poirier, who wishes to address the House on the record.

Representative **POIRIER**: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, it's my honor to stand before you today to recognize this extraordinary group of students from Skowhegan Area High School.

These students exemplify hard work, dedication and perseverance. After an undefeated season, the nine-member Skowhegan speech team competed in the State's annual debate competition and won the Maine State Speech and Debate Championship. They also took home the Maine Principals' Association's Sportsmanship Award. So, I want to congratulate each of them. Most of the team is with us today, they're a very talented group of individuals. Mya Atwood, William Cyr, Grace Dunton, Gabrielle Goding, Charlotte Hautala, Savea Lafaialli, Khloe Smith, Leia Snowman and Charlie Staples, and their coaches who dedicate their time, expertise and support to the entire team, their long-time coaches Maura Smith and Tim Wheeler. So, congratulations Skowhegan Speech Team on your well-deserved Championship win.

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 183)

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 2025 AS
BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

WHEREAS, Maine's Black history and the story of Maine's role in the global economy of enslavement have been largely effaced from our narratives and from our collective consciousness; and

WHEREAS, from the earliest arrivals of people from Europe and Africa in the Americas, Africans and African Americans have been part of the story of this land, and researchers have identified over 2,000 people of color who lived in what is now called the State of Maine prior to the year 1800; and

WHEREAS, Africans who were brought involuntarily to these shores suffered generations of enslavement, and their descendants faced the injustices of lynch mobs, segregation and the denial of basic fundamental rights; and

WHEREAS, people living in Maine engaged in the slave trade for at least 113 years, with the earliest known slaving voyage departing from Maine's shores taking place in 1749 and the last known slaving voyage on a Maine-built vessel taking place in 1862; and

WHEREAS, a total of 70 Maine-built vessels are known to have transported enslaved people, representing only the tip of the iceberg, and slaving vessels were constructed in at least 26 Maine towns; and

WHEREAS, Maine merchants were deeply entangled in the global economy of enslavement, as were the banks that handled their accounts and the insurance firms that secured their investments, and at a time when Havana, Cuba was the hub of the illicit slave trade, that city was Portland's number one trading partner; and

WHEREAS, it was not only Maine's coastal towns that were complicit in the global economy of enslavement through shipbuilding and merchant trading activities, but its inland regions as well: crops and livestock were routinely shipped in the "coastwise" trade to provision the sugar plantations of the West Indies, along with salted fish and even ice from this region; and

WHEREAS, great quantities of Maine timber were processed into barrel staves and shipped throughout the 18th and 19th centuries to the West Indies, where enslaved Africans were forced to fashion them into barrels; they then filled these barrels with the sugar and molasses that were shipped back to Portland and distilled into rum, which was used as currency in purchasing more captive Africans; and

WHEREAS, African Americans in all walks of life have shown resilience despite suffering under slavery and injustice and have made significant contributions throughout the history of the State and across the United States; and

WHEREAS, from the Revolutionary War through the abolitionist movement, to marches from Selma to Montgomery and across America today, and in this State, African Americans have remained devoted to the proposition that all of us are created equal, even when their own rights were denied; and

WHEREAS, the month of February is officially celebrated as Black History Month, which dates back to 1926 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson set aside a special period of time in February to recognize the heritage and achievements of African Americans; and

WHEREAS, Black History Month was officially observed for the first time in 1976 when President Gerald Ford issued a message recognizing Black History Month; and

WHEREAS, in 1986 Congress passed a Public Law designating February as "National Black History Month"; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize the significance of Black History Month as an important time to honor the contributions of African Americans in the nation's history and encourage all people in the State to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the State and the nation.

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

READ.

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

Representative **DHALAC**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in celebration of Black History Month. This tradition of celebration presents us with an opportunity to honor the contributions that Black Americans and Black Mainers have

made to our great State and country despite enduring systemic racism that has made every barrier taller and every accomplishment more significant.

Black history teaches the value of diversity and the importance of all cultures in enriching society. It challenges narrow exclusionary narratives that provide us a broader and more accurate portrayal of the nation's history and that helps to create more inclusive society. Black Americans have played a pivotal role in shaping the culture, economy and history of this nation; from inventors like George Washington Carver, businesswoman and philanthropist and social activist Madam C.J. Walker, to civil rights leaders such as Martin Luther King, Jr., John Lewis, Malcom X, Medgar Evers, and others like Langston Hughes, Billie Holiday, the Harlem Renaissance and poets like Maya Angelou and Audre Lorde. And sports legends like Jackie Robinson, Jesse Owens, Arthur Ashe and Muhammad Ali. And political figures like first Black Congresswoman Shirley Chisolm, President Obama, Vice President Kamala Harris and in the military, the Tuskegee Airmen who faced discrimination and segregation throughout their service fighting in World War II.

Understanding Black history allows us to appreciate their significant contributions across the fields. The history of slavery, segregation and systemic racism is a painful part of American history that cannot be ignored. By learning about the experience of Black Americans, we must understand the strength and the resilience that led to the important movements like the civil rights movement and how those struggles continue to impact society today. This history calls attention to the importance of justice, equity and human rights. Some of the ancestors of Maine's Black community were enslaved during Maine's 113-year long engagement with the slave trade. The injustices people suffered due to this period are tragic and unthinkable, but we must continue to talk about our State's past in order to continue building a Maine we are all proud of. I'm very proud of the Black people in Maine who have risen in the face of injustice. They have paved the way for me and for my colleagues here in the Legislature, in leadership positions across the State. They also have inspired a generation of new Americans like me, where we feel empowered to tell our stories and pursue opportunities to make our voices heard. Honoring Black History Month gives us a chance to celebrate the incredible history of Black people in Maine, but it also gives us a chance to reflect on the ways our State still needs to grow to better support our community despite the challenges we still face today.

Educating people about the realities of Black history helps to dismantle the stereotypes and misinformation that have persisted for centuries. It also fosters empathy and understanding, helping people to see humanity in others regardless of their race and their background. Learning about the remarkable figures' achievements and legacies of Black Americans can inspire young people to pursue their dreams, overcome challenges and work towards positive change in their communities and in the world. In short, Black history is not only important to Black people, but to everyone, as it deepens understanding and it fosters empathy and promotes positive societal change. By learning about the past, we are better equipped to build a more equitable future.

Mr. Speaker, I will leave you with the words of the great Maya Angelou. "You may shoot me with your words, you might cut me with your eyes, you may kill me with your hatefulness, but still, like air, I'll rise." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Winter Harbor, Representative Faulkingham.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand in support and recognition of Black History Month.

Last year, I put in a Resolution celebrating many accomplishments of African-Americans from the State of Maine, and this is the third year in a row that I have seen this particular Resolution and I'm disappointed that we continue to see this Resolution that, rather than talking about the many, many accomplishments of Black Americans in our country, that we have a Resolution that talks more about what was done to them with lynch mobs and slaving vessels, and that the people of Maine made barrel staves that were then sent to the West Indies and built by slaves; that we can't have a Resolution that talks about the accomplishments and the progress that's been made. Mr. Speaker, this country is sick of the division and sick of the divisive language and sick of Resolutions like this that aren't unifying. That instead of talking about the pride and the accomplishments of Black Americans, that we talk about the bad things that were done to them.

Mr. Speaker, I think it should be noted that the State of Maine was formed solely for the purpose that it was an abolition state in the Missouri Compromise; that the State of Maine was a Republican state that led abolition; that was full of abolitionists. The same State that sent the 20th Maine to Gettysburg to turn the tide of the Civil War that ended slavery. And we don't talk about those things and those accomplishments, we talk about lynch mobs and slaving vessels. Because, yes, we have a maritime tradition, and yes, shockingly, in the 1800s when the timber industry was the biggest industry in the country, that we built ships.

I hope that next year, I won't see for the fourth year in a row this Resolution, and we can talk about a Resolution that speaks to the accomplishments of Black Americans and talks about something that will unify us, rather than divide us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 184)
**JOINT RESOLUTION CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
 MARY MCLEOD BETHUNE**

WHEREAS, Mary McLeod Bethune, the daughter of formerly enslaved parents, was one of the most important Black educators, civil rights and women's rights leaders and government officials of the 20th century; and

WHEREAS, the college she founded set educational standards for today's Black colleges, and her role as an advisor to President Franklin Delano Roosevelt gave African Americans an advocate in government; and

WHEREAS, born on July 10, 1875 near Mayesville, South Carolina, she was one of the last of Samuel and Patsy McLeod's 17 children. After the Civil War, Mary's mother worked for her former owner until she could buy the land on which the family grew cotton. By age 9, Mary could pick 250 pounds of cotton per day; and

WHEREAS, she benefited from efforts to educate African Americans after the Civil War, graduating in 1894 from the Scotia Seminary, a boarding school in North Carolina. She next attended Dwight Moody's Institute for Home and Foreign Missions in Chicago, Illinois. But with no church willing to sponsor her as a missionary, she became an educator. While teaching in South Carolina, she married fellow teacher Albertus Bethune, with whom she had a son in 1899; and

WHEREAS, the Bethunes moved to Palatka, Florida, where Mary worked at the Presbyterian church and also sold insurance. In 1904, her marriage ended, and, determined to support her son, she opened a boarding school, the Daytona Literary and Industrial Training School for Negro Girls. Eventually, her school became a college, merging with the all-male Cookman Institute to form Bethune-Cookman College in 1929. It issued its first degrees in 1943; and

WHEREAS, a champion of racial and gender equality, Bethune founded many organizations and led voter registration drives after women gained the right to vote in 1920, risking racist attacks. In 1924, she was elected president of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs and, in 1935, she became the founding president of the National Council of Negro Women. She also played a role in the transition of Black voters from the Republican Party, "the party of Lincoln," to the Democratic Party during the Great Depression. A friend of Eleanor Roosevelt, she became the highest-ranking African American woman in government when President Franklin Roosevelt named her director of Negro Affairs of the National Youth Administration in 1936. She remained there until 1944. She was also a leader of the president's unofficial "Black Cabinet"; and

WHEREAS, in 1937, Bethune organized the National Conference on the Problems of the Negro and Negro Youth and fought to end discrimination and lynching. In 1940, she became vice president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored Persons, or NAACP, a position she held for the rest of her life. As a member of the advisory board that in 1942 created the Women's Army Corps, she ensured that the corps was racially integrated. Appointed by President Harry S. Truman, she was the only woman of color at the founding conference of the United Nations in 1945; and

WHEREAS, Bethune regularly wrote for leading African American newspapers the Pittsburgh Courier and the Chicago Defender and was a businesswoman who co-owned a Daytona, Florida resort and cofounded the Central Life Insurance Company of Tampa; and

WHEREAS, Bethune's life was celebrated with a memorial statue in Washington, D.C. in 1974 and a postage stamp in 1985, and her final residence is a National Historic Site. On July 13, 2022, she became the first African American to be represented with a state statue in the National Statuary Hall Collection at the United States Capitol; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, take this occasion to honor the life and memory of Mary McLeod Bethune, a great American, for her efforts to educate African Americans, her political activism and advocacy in government and her championing of racial and gender equality.

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

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 173)

JOINT RESOLUTION MAKING AN APPLICATION TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES CALLING AN ARTICLE V CONVENTION TO PROPOSE AN AMENDMENT ADDRESSING CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

WHEREAS, the United States Constitution, Article V places substantial authority and responsibility upon the legislatures of the several states to ensure that the Federal Government and each of its branches remain within their enumerated powers and remain protective of the rights of the people; and

WHEREAS, a variety of important movements have arisen within the legislatures of the several states to address a wide variety of concerns that may be appropriately addressed within the context of Article V of the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature of Maine wishes to address these various approaches in a bipartisan manner; and

WHEREAS, an agreement to call for a convention under Article V of the United States Constitution does not commit the Legislature of Maine to approve any proposal that may arise from any subsequent convention; rather, this Legislature is simply exercising its will to engage in a formal process with other states to give full and authoritative consideration to various proposals consistent with the topics expressed by this joint resolution; and

WHEREAS, under the United States Constitution, Article V, the Congress of the United States, whenever two-thirds of both Houses shall deem it necessary, shall propose amendments to the United States Constitution, or, on the application of the legislatures of two-thirds of the several states, shall call a convention for proposing amendments that, in either case, shall be valid to all intents and purposes, as part of the United States Constitution, when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several states, or by conventions in three-fourths thereof, as the one or the other mode of ratification may be proposed by the Congress; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That, if the Congress of the United States does not propose by December 31, 2026 an amendment to the United States Constitution to regulate the role of money in elections and governance to ensure transparency, prevent corruption, protect against the buying of access to or influence over representatives and overturn the decision of the United States Supreme Court in the case of *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* and related cases, the Legislature of Maine hereby applies to the Congress of the United States, under the provisions of Article V of the United States Constitution, to call a convention of the states limited to proposing an amendment to the United States Constitution to regulate the role of money in elections and governance to ensure transparency, prevent corruption, protect against the buying of access to or influence over representatives and overturn the decision of the United States Supreme Court in the case of *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* and related cases; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this application is intended to address the same subject matter as applications from other states under the provisions of Article V of the United States Constitution to call a convention to regulate the role of money in elections and governance to ensure transparency, prevent corruption, protect against the buying of access to or influence over representatives and overturn the decision of the United States Supreme Court in the case of *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* and related cases; and this application must be aggregated with the same for the purpose of attaining the two-thirds of states necessary to require Congress to call a limited convention on

this subject, but may not be aggregated with any other applications on any other subject; and be it further

RESOLVED: That this application constitutes a continuing application in accordance with Article V of the United States Constitution until the legislatures of at least two-thirds of the several states have made applications on the same subject; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Secretary of the Senate and presiding officers of both houses of the legislatures of each of the several states in the nation, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President and Secretary of the United States Senate and each member of the Maine Congressional Delegation.

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.P. 332)

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

February 6, 2025

Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

132nd Legislature

Honorable Matthea Daughtry

President of the Senate

132nd Legislature

Dear Mr. Speaker and Madam President:

On February 6, 2025, 26 bills were received by the Clerk of the House.

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, these bills were referred to the Joint Standing Committees on February 6, 2025, as follows:

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Resolve, Authorizing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Convey and Release the State's Interest in Certain Real Property Located in the Town of Richmond (H.P. 320) (L.D. 491) (Sponsored by Representative CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham) (Cosponsored by Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc)

Resolve, to Improve Standards for Animal Rescue Entities (H.P. 327) (L.D. 498) (Sponsored by Representative PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft) (BY REQUEST) (Cosponsored by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec and Representatives: BABIN of Fort Fairfield, MCINTYRE of Lowell, MINGO of Calais, NUTTING of Oakland, WHITE of Guilford)

Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Bill "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Secure Prosperity for Maine Families and Businesses" (H.P. 312) (L.D. 483) (Sponsored by Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford)

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Bill "An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Rural Counties by Providing State Police Patrol and Policing Services" (H.P. 306) (L.D. 477) (Sponsored by Representative DUCHARME of Madison) (Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset and Representatives: BUNKER of Farmington, CRAFTS of Newcastle, CRAY of Palmyra, FREDETTE of Newport, PARRY

of Arundel, POIRIER of Skowhegan, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, STOVER of Boothbay)

Bill "An Act Regarding the Department of Public Safety" (H.P. 313) (L.D. 484) (Sponsored by Representative HASENFUS of Readfield)

Bill "An Act Regarding Criminal Justice" (H.P. 314) (L.D. 485) (Sponsored by Representative HASENFUS of Readfield)

Bill "An Act to Remove the Duty of an Individual Exercising Self-defense to Safely Retreat or Abstain from Performing Certain Acts upon Demand" (H.P. 315) (L.D. 486) (Sponsored by Representative PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft) (Cosponsored by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec and Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, BABIN of Fort Fairfield, CARUSO of Caratunk, EDER of Waterboro, MCINTYRE of Lowell, MINGO of Calais, NUTTING of Oakland, WHITE of Guilford)

Bill "An Act Regarding the Time Frame for Issuing a Silver Alert and to Require Silver Alerts for All Persons Missing from Certain Inpatient Facilities" (H.P. 325) (L.D. 496) (Sponsored by Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill) (Cosponsored by Senator CURRY of Waldo and Representatives: DODGE of Belfast, SUPICA of Bangor)

Education and Cultural Affairs

Bill "An Act to Expand Educational Opportunities and Broaden Educational Services for Students Enrolled in Equivalent Instruction Programs" (H.P. 311) (L.D. 482) (Sponsored by Representative BAGSHAW of Windham) (Cosponsored by Senator LIBBY of Cumberland and Representatives: CIMINO of Bridgton, COLLINS of Sidney, HAGGAN of Hampden, HASENFUS of Readfield, MATHIESON of Kittery, Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, HAGGAN of Penobscot, STEWART of Aroostook)

Bill "An Act to Fairly Fund School Administrative Units for Economically Disadvantaged Students" (H.P. 330) (L.D. 501) (Sponsored by Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston) (Cosponsored by Representative ARCHER of Saco, Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin and Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, DHALAC of South Portland, LEE of Auburn, MOONEN of Portland, MURPHY of Scarborough, ROEDER of Bangor, SALISBURY of Westbrook, TUELL of East Machias)

Energy, Utilities and Technology

Bill "An Act to Allow a Water District Created by Special Act of the Legislature to Borrow Money and Issue a Warrant Prior to a Default" (H.P. 310) (L.D. 481) (Sponsored by Representative BECK of South Portland) (Cosponsored by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland and Representatives: BOYER of Cape Elizabeth, KESSLER of South Portland, OLSEN of Raymond, WADSWORTH of Hiram, WARREN of Scarborough, Senator: HARRINGTON of York)

Environment and Natural Resources

Bill "An Act to Facilitate Expansion of the State's Recycling Efforts Under the Beverage Container Redemption Program" (H.P. 308) (L.D. 479) (Sponsored by Representative CHAPMAN of Auburn)

Bill "An Act to Protect Coastal Property by Allowing Property Owners to Protect Their Existing Dwellings" (H.P. 317) (L.D. 488) (Sponsored by Representative HALL of Wilton) (BY REQUEST) (Cosponsored by Representatives: COOPER of Windham, JACKSON of Oxford, WADSWORTH of Hiram)

Bill "An Act to Require Rules Designed to Reduce Climate Change to Include Estimates of the Reduction in Adverse Climate Effects and of the Cost to Consumers" (H.P. 324) (L.D. 495) (Sponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor) (Cosponsored by Senator HARRINGTON of York and Representatives: CAMPBELL of Orrington, DUCHARME of Madison, FOSTER of Dexter, MCINTYRE of Lowell, PARRY of Arundel, PAUL of Winterport, SMITH of Palermo, WADSWORTH of Hiram)

Bill "An Act Regarding the Department of Environmental Protection" (H.P. 326) (L.D. 497) (Sponsored by Representative DOUDERA of Camden) (Cosponsored by Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc)

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Geoengineering" (H.P. 328) (L.D. 499) (Sponsored by Representative SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico) (Cosponsored by Representatives: JAVNER of Chester, LAVIGNE of Berwick, LEMELIN of Chelsea, LYMAN of Livermore Falls, MASON of Lisbon, PAUL of Winterport, QUINT of Hodgdon, SOBOLESKI of Phillips)

Bill "An Act to Promote Clean and Affordable Maine-sourced Bioenergy by Amending the Law Regarding Outdoor Wood Boilers and Outdoor Pellet Boilers" (H.P. 331) (L.D. 502) (Sponsored by Representative ARDELL of Monticello) (Cosponsored by Representatives: ALBERT of Madawaska, BLIER of Buxton, DAIGLE of Fort Kent, PAUL of Winterport, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, Senators: BERNARD of Aroostook, HARRINGTON of York)

Health and Human Services

Bill "An Act to Support Healthy Weight by Providing MaineCare Coverage for Certain Weight Loss Medications" (H.P. 309) (L.D. 480) (Sponsored by Representative GRAHAM of North Yarmouth) (Cosponsored by Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, EATON of Deer Isle, ROBERTS of South Berwick, SALISBURY of Westbrook, TERRY of Gorham)

Bill "An Act to Expand Testing for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances to Private Drinking Water Wells" (H.P. 322) (L.D. 493) (Sponsored by Representative OSHER of Orono) (Cosponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford and Representatives: DHALAC of South Portland, DOUDERA of Camden, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, RANA of Bangor, ZAGER of Portland, Senators: INGWERSEN of York, TEPLER of Sagadahoc)

Bill "An Act to Ensure Access to Safe Drinking Water from Household Wells in Rural Areas by Expanding Testing" (H.P. 329) (L.D. 500) (Sponsored by Representative PLUECKER of Warren) (Cosponsored by Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, FLYNN of Albion, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, RANA of Bangor, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, STOVER of Boothbay, Senators: INGWERSEN of York, MOORE of Washington)

Judiciary

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Provide for Parental Rights (H.P. 321) (L.D. 492) (Sponsored by Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan) (Cosponsored by Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot and Representatives: DUCHARME of Madison, GIFFORD of Lincoln, GRIFFIN of Levant, HAGGAN of Hampden, LYMAN of Livermore Falls, QUINT of Hodgdon, THORNE of Carmel, WADSWORTH of Hiram)

Marine Resources

Bill "An Act to Provide for a Vessel Breakdown License Exception for Commercial Halibut Fishing License Holders" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 318) (L.D. 489) (Sponsored by Representative STROUT of Harrington) (Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: DRINKWATER of Milford, LYMAN of Livermore Falls, QUINT of Hodgdon, TUELL of East Machias, Senator: RENY of Lincoln)

State and Local Government

Bill "An Act to Provide for a 5-year Automatic Repeal of Agency Rules" (H.P. 319) (L.D. 490) (Sponsored by Representative SMITH of Palermo) (Cosponsored by Representatives: COLLINS of Sidney, HAGGAN of Hampden, MINGO of Calais, MORRIS of Turner, OLSEN of Raymond, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, SOBOLESKI of Phillips)

Transportation

Bill "An Act to Reduce Maximum Speeds on Roads Close to Residences" (H.P. 307) (L.D. 478) (Sponsored by Representative HENDERSON of Rumford)

Resolve, Directing the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority to Apply for Federal Funding for the Purpose of Identifying the Rail Corridor Connecting Portland to Orono as an Intercity Passenger Rail Corridor (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 316) (L.D. 487) (Sponsored by Representative HASENFUS of Readfield) (Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and Representatives: BISHOP of Bucksport, DUCHARME of Madison, FREDETTE of Newport, MONTELL of Gardiner, MOONEN of Portland, SAYRE of Kennebec, Senators: CYRWAY of Kennebec, HICKMAN of Kennebec)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act to Update and Clarify Certain Provisions of State Liquor and Lottery Laws" (H.P. 323) (L.D. 494) (Sponsored by Representative SUPICA of Bangor) (Cosponsored by Representatives: DOUDERA of Camden, GUERRETTE of Caribou) (Submitted by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services pursuant to Joint Rule 204.)

Sincerely,
S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
S/Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.
Sent for concurrence.

The Following Communication: (H.P. 339)

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

February 7, 2025
Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House
132nd Legislature
Honorable Matthea Daughtry
President of the Senate
132nd Legislature

Dear Mr. Speaker and Madam President:
On February 7, 2025, 6 bills were received by the Clerk of the House.
Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, these bills were referred to the Joint Standing Committees on February 7, 2025, as follows:

Energy, Utilities and Technology

Bill "An Act to Reverse Recent Changes Made to the Law Governing Net Energy Billing and Distributed Generation" (H.P. 333) (L.D. 515) (Sponsored by Representative SOBOLESKI of Phillips) (Cosponsored by Senator MARTIN of Oxford and Representatives: CAMPBELL of Orrington, DRINKWATER of Milford, GREENWOOD of Wales, GRIFFIN of Levant, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, STROUT of Harrington, THORNE of Carmel, WOODSOME of Waterboro)

Health and Human Services

Resolve, Increasing Access to Maternal and Child Health Care (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 336) (L.D. 518) (Sponsored by Representative MEYER of Eliot) (Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York)

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Bill "An Act to Remove the Requirement That Individual and Small Group Health Plans Be Offered Through a Pooled Market and to Eliminate the Provision of Law Establishing a Pooled Market for Those Plans" (H.P. 337) (L.D. 519) (Sponsored by Representative MORRIS of Turner) (Cosponsored by Representatives: CIMINO of Bridgton, FLYNN of Albion, FOLEY of Wells, OLSEN of Raymond, Senator: HAGGAN of Penobscot)

Bill "An Act to Ensure Choices in Health Insurance Markets by Modifying the Provisions of Law Governing Clear Choice Design Health Plans" (H.P. 338) (L.D. 520) (Sponsored by Representative MORRIS of Turner) (Cosponsored by Representatives: CIMINO of Bridgton, FLYNN of Albion, FOLEY of Wells, OLSEN of Raymond, Senator: HAGGAN of Penobscot)

Judiciary

Bill "An Act to Protect the First Amendment Rights of Individuals in the State" (H.P. 335) (L.D. 517) (Sponsored by Representative KUHN of Falmouth)

Transportation

Resolve, to Name the Bridge Between Milford and Old Town the Alton L. Drinkwater Memorial Bridge (H.P. 334) (L.D. 516) (Sponsored by Representative DRINKWATER of Milford) (Cosponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot and Senator: RAFFERTY of York)

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

Sent for concurrence.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 59)

**STATE OF MAINE
132ND MAINE LEGISLATURE**

January 23, 2025

Chief Justice Valerie Stanfill

Maine Supreme Judicial Court

Capital Judicial Center

1 Court Street, Suite 40

Augusta, Maine 04330

Dear Chief Justice Valerie Stanfill,

We are pleased to invite you to address a Joint Session of the 132nd Maine Legislature on February 25, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. concerning the State of the Judiciary and any other matters that you may care to bring to our attention.

We look forward to seeing you then.

Sincerely,

S/Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry

President of the Senate

S/Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 62)

**SENATE OF MAINE
132ND LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

February 7, 2025

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Title 5 MRSA, Part 8, Chapter 310, §3111, I am pleased to appoint the following to the Office of New Americans Advisory Council, effective immediately:

Senator Rick Bennett of Oxford County, representing a member of the Maine State Senate;

Senator Peggy Rotundo of Androscoggin County, representing a member of the Maine State Senate;

Barbara Stoddard of Portland, representing an adult education provider;

Budagu Makoko of Westbrook, representing a small business;

Hermenegildo Paulo of South Portland, representing a school administrative unit;

Mufalo Chitam of Portland, representing a member of the immigrant community.

If you have any questions regarding these appointments, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

S/Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry

President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 63)

**SENATE OF MAINE
132ND LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**

February 7, 2025

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Title 5, MRSA, Part 10-A, Ch. 319 §3371.2-A, I am pleased to appoint the following to the *Maine Fire Protection Services Commission*, effective immediately:

Senator Glenn "Chip" Curry of Waldo County, representing a member of the Maine State Senate;

Senator Scott Cyrway of Kennebec County, representing a member of the Maine State Senate.

If you have any questions regarding these appointments, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

S/Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry

President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 60)
**MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
323 STATE STREET
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04330-7131**

January 31, 2025

Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Honorable Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry

President of the Senate

3 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0002

Dear Speaker Fecteau and President Daughtry:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Maine Community College System (MCCS), I respectfully submit the attached report on certain procurements, contributions, and policy changes for the period July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, as required by

5 M.R.S.A. §12023.

Combined, the seven colleges and the MCCS System Office make thousands of purchases each year. To compile this report, MCCS used customized reporting features built into our business management systems. We then tested the validity of those reports and reviewed several transactions with college personnel.

While reporting is complex, our review indicates that the colleges' compliance with existing policies is extremely high, and expenditures are consistently mission related. In those few areas where we have identified a need for improvement, refinements have been made or are under way.

MCCS will continue to use its internal controls and annual outside audit to adapt its systems to changing needs, and our Board of Trustees will continue to monitor compliance through regular reporting and an ongoing dialogue with auditors.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate

to contact me. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

S/David Daigler

President

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 61)

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

February 11, 2025

Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Fecteau:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services has approved the requests for "Leave to Withdraw" by the following sponsors:

Representative Cloutier of Lewiston

L.D. 49 An Act to Ensure Quality in Personal Care Agencies

Representative Milliken of Blue Hill

L.D. 346 An Act to Help Child Care Providers by Requiring Recipients of Benefits to Pay the Difference Between the Amount Reimbursed and the Amount Charged

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 64)

**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SPEAKER'S OFFICE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002**

February 11, 2025

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Please be advised that pursuant to her authority, Governor Janet T. Mills has nominated the following:

on February 10, 2025

Shirrin Blaisdell of Manchester and John Beliveau of Portland for reappointment to the Board of Trustees of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System.

Pursuant to Title 5 M.R.S.A. §17102, these reappointments are contingent on Confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Labor.

Paul H. Gendreau of Waterville and Ronald P. Green, Jr. of Plymouth for reappointment to the Workers' Compensation Board.

Pursuant to Title 39-A, MRSA §151, these reappointments are contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Labor.

Sincerely,

S/Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

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

The Following Communication: (S.P. 174)

**MAINE SENATE
132ND LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

January 30, 2025

Hon. Matthea Daughtry

President of the Senate

132nd Legislature

Hon. Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

132nd Legislature

Dear Madam President and Mr. Speaker:

On January 30, 2025, 27 bills were received by the Secretary of the Senate.

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, these bills were referred to the Joint Standing Committees on January 30, 2025, as follows:

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Bill "An Act to Require Notification of Certain Outdoor Pesticide Applications" (EMERGENCY) (S.P. 142) (L.D. 356) (Sponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford) (Cosponsored by Senator: GROHOSKI of Hancock, Representatives: DOUDERA of Camden, BELL of Yarmouth, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, CIMINO of Bridgton, EDER of Waterboro)

Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Bill "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Build a Warehouse for Goods and Cargo at Bangor International Airport" (S.P. 136) (L.D. 351) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot)

Bill "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Replenish the Land for Maine's Future Program" (S.P. 153) (L.D. 362) (Sponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin) (Cosponsored by Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, PIERCE of Cumberland, CYRWAY of Kennebec, GROHOSKI of Hancock, RENEY of Lincoln, Representatives: THORNE of Carmel, DUCHARME of Madison, HENDERSON of Rumford)

Bill "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Create the School Capital Improvement Fund" (S.P. 155) (L.D. 363) (Sponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative BOYER of Cape Elizabeth and Senators: PIERCE of Cumberland, TEPLER of Sagadahoc, HAGGAN of Penobscot, LIBBY of Cumberland, Representative: HEPLER of Woolwich)

Bill "An Act to Authorize General Fund Bond Issues to Improve Highways, Bridges and Nonhighway Modes of Transportation" (S.P. 159) (L.D. 367) (Sponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset) (Cosponsored by Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, HICKMAN of Kennebec, PIERCE of Cumberland, CYRWAY of Kennebec, DUSON of Cumberland, MARTIN of Oxford, Representative: CRAFTS of Newcastle)

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Bill "An Act to Improve Criminal Justice and Public Safety" (S.P. 137) (L.D. 352) (Sponsored by Senator BEEBE-CENTER of Knox)

Education and Cultural Affairs

Bill "An Act to Improve Education in Maine" (S.P. 140) (L.D. 354) (Sponsored by Senator RAFFERTY of York) (Cosponsored by Representative MURPHY of Scarborough)

Bill "An Act Supporting the Dirigo Reads Literacy Program" (S.P. 151) (L.D. 360) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Representative SUPICA of Bangor and Senator: BENNETT of Oxford, Representatives: SALISBURY of Westbrook, ROEDER of Bangor, RANA of Bangor)

Bill "An Act to Support the Francis Malcolm Science Center" (S.P. 152) (L.D. 361) (Sponsored by Senator BERNARD of Aroostook) (Cosponsored by Representative BABIN of Fort Fairfield and Senator: STEWART of Aroostook, Representatives: QUINT of Hodgdon, UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle, GUERRETTE of Caribou, DAIGLE of Fort Kent)

Bill "An Act to Grant or Extend Conditional Teaching Certificates Under Certain Circumstances" (S.P. 161) (L.D. 369) (Sponsored by Senator LIBBY of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representatives: CARLOW of Buxton, LYMAN of Livermore Falls, BAGSHAW of Windham, HAGGAN of Hampden)

Bill "An Act to Raise the Minimum State Standard for Mathematics Education for a High School Diploma" (S.P. 162) (L.D. 370) (Sponsored by Senator LIBBY of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative CARLOW of Buxton and Senator: RAFFERTY of York, Representatives: LYMAN of Livermore Falls, BAGSHAW of Windham, HAGGAN of Hampden)

Bill "An Act to Require the University of Maine School of Law to Provide an Online Degree Program" (S.P. 170) (L.D. 375) (Sponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook) (Cosponsored by Senators: BAILEY of York, CARNEY of Cumberland, RAFFERTY of York, DUSON of Cumberland, LIBBY of Cumberland)

Energy, Utilities and Technology

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Net Energy Billing by Certain Customers" (S.P. 146) (L.D. 359) (Sponsored by Senator BICKFORD of Androscoggin) (Cosponsored by Senators: CYRWAY of Kennebec, HARRINGTON of York, BRADSTREET of Kennebec, Representative: WADSWORTH of Hiram)

Bill "An Act to Expand Hydroelectric Development by Removing the 100-megawatt Cap" (S.P. 163) (L.D. 371) (Sponsored by Senator MARTIN of Oxford) (Cosponsored by Representative PAUL of Winterport and Senators: CYRWAY of Kennebec, HARRINGTON of York, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, Representatives: WADSWORTH of Hiram, FOSTER of Dexter, SOBOLESKI of Phillips)

Health and Human Services

Bill "An Act to Improve Maternal and Infant Health Outcomes Through Doula Care" (S.P. 172) (L.D. 376) (Sponsored by Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc) (Cosponsored by Representative ZAGER of Portland and Senators: MOORE of Washington, INGWERSEN of York, BRENNER of Cumberland, Representatives: SHAGOURY of Hallowell, EATON of Deer Isle, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth)

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Bill "An Act to Advance the Maine Retirement Savings Program" (S.P. 141) (L.D. 355) (Sponsored by Senator BAILEY of York) (Cosponsored by Representative MASTRACCIO of Sanford and Senators: President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, BALDACCI of Penobscot, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, BOYER of Cape Elizabeth, TERRY of Gorham)

Housing and Economic Development

Bill "An Act to Promote Economic Development in Maine" (S.P. 156) (L.D. 364) (Sponsored by Senator CURRY of Waldo)

Bill "An Act to Respond to the Housing Affordability and Accessibility Crisis in Maine" (S.P. 157) (L.D. 365) (Sponsored by Senator CURRY of Waldo)

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Bill "An Act Regarding the Operations of the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife" (S.P. 134) (L.D. 350) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot)

Judiciary

Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Recommend Methods for Preventing Deed Fraud in the State (EMERGENCY) (S.P. 139) (L.D. 353) (Sponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York) (Cosponsored by Representative DUCHARME of Madison and Senators: PIERCE of Cumberland, CARNEY of Cumberland, BRENNER of Cumberland, RAFFERTY of York, Representatives: MALON of Biddeford, SATO of Gorham)

Bill "An Act to Provide Comparable Compensation and Benefits for Deputy and Assistant District Attorneys, Assistant Attorneys General and Public Defenders" (S.P. 166) (L.D. 374) (Sponsored by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin) (Cosponsored by Representative MCCABE of Lewiston and Senators: HAGGAN of Penobscot, STEWART of Aroostook, CARNEY of Cumberland, Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, ABDI of Lewiston, KUHN of Falmouth)

Labor

Bill "An Act to Establish a State Minimum Hourly Wage for Agricultural Workers" (S.P. 143) (L.D. 357) (Sponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford) (Cosponsored by Representative ROEDER of Bangor and Senators: TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland, TIPPING of Penobscot)

State and Local Government

Bill "An Act to Increase Fees Paid to Registers of Deeds" (S.P. 144) (L.D. 358) (Sponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford) (Cosponsored by Senators: BAILEY of York, MARTIN of Oxford, LIBBY of Cumberland)

Bill "An Act to Establish 'Welcome Home' as the Official State Anthem" (S.P. 165) (L.D. 373) (Sponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington) (BY REQUEST) (Cosponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor)

Taxation

Bill "An Act to Ensure Consistency of Income Tax Deductions for Retired Members of the Uniformed Services" (S.P. 158) (L.D. 366) (Sponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset) (Cosponsored by Senators: President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, HICKMAN of Kennebec, STEWART of Aroostook, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, Representatives: PARRY of Arundel, WADSWORTH of Hiram, ZAGER of Portland, FREDETTE of Newport)

Bill "An Act to Protect Maine People from Inflation by Exempting Gold and Silver Coins and Bullion from the State Sales and Use Tax" (S.P. 164) (L.D. 372) (Sponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington) (Cosponsored by Representative GREENWOOD of Wales, Representative QUINT of Hodgdon and Representatives: TUELL of East Machias, LIBBY of Auburn, DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, BOYER of Poland, PAUL of Winterport, MCINTYRE of Lowell, MINGO of Calais)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act to Address Concerns Regarding Radiation Machines and Similar Equipment Used in the Cannabis Industry" (S.P. 160) (L.D. 368) (Sponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec)

Sincerely,
S/Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate
S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House

Came from the Senate, **READ** and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

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

PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE

Bill "An Act to Address the Rise in Rabies in Animals by Appointing Certified Rabies Vaccine Administrators" (H.P. 347) (L.D. 528)

Sponsored by Representative DOUDERA of Camden.
Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and Representatives: DILL of Old Town, FROST of Belgrade, MEYER of Eliot, OSHER of Orono, PLUECKER of Warren, Senator: TEPLER of Sagadahoc.

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.

Bill "An Act to Establish Bail Officers to Administer the Maine Bail Code" (H.P. 346) (L.D. 527)

Sponsored by Representative LEE of Auburn.
Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook.
Submitted by the Judicial Department pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Bill "An Act to Protect Health Care Workers by Addressing Assaults in Health Care Settings" (H.P. 351) (L.D. 532)

Sponsored by Representative STOVER of Boothbay.
Cosponsored by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec and Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, NUTTING of Oakland, SALISBURY of Westbrook, Senators: CURRY of Waldo, DUSON of Cumberland, RENY of Lincoln.

Bill "An Act to Allow Residents of the Department of Corrections to Opt In to Additional Restitution for Their Victims" (H.P. 352) (L.D. 533)

Sponsored by Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill.
Bill "An Act to Clarify the Rights of Crime Victims and Witnesses Regarding Professional Investigator Communications" (H.P. 353) (L.D. 534)

Sponsored by Representative HASENFUS of Readfield.
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.

Bill "An Act to Enhance Maine's Wildlife Conservation Efforts and Preserve Maine's Sporting Heritage by Requiring Hunter Safety Education in Schools" (H.P. 362) (L.D. 543)

Sponsored by Representative ARDELL of Monticello.
Cosponsored by Representatives: DAIGLE of Fort Kent, NUTTING of Oakland, PAUL of Winterport, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, SWALLOW of Houlton, THORNE of Carmel, Senators: BERNARD of Aroostook, HARRINGTON of York.

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.

Bill "An Act to Establish Net Neutrality"

(H.P. 355) (L.D. 536)

Sponsored by Representative KESSLER of South Portland.

Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** suggested and ordered printed.

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding Dams"

(H.P. 348) (L.D. 529)

Sponsored by Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill.

Cosponsored by Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot and Representatives: BISHOP of Bucksport, MOONEN of Portland, Senator: GROHOSKI of Hancock.

Bill "An Act Regarding Dam Ownership"

(H.P. 350) (L.D. 531)

Sponsored by Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill.

Cosponsored by Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot and Representatives: BISHOP of Bucksport, MOONEN of Portland, Senator: GROHOSKI of Hancock.

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.

Bill "An Act to Identify the State's Unidentified Human Remains"

(H.P. 359) (L.D. 540)

Sponsored by Representative BOYER of Poland.

Cosponsored by Senator BICKFORD of Androscoggin and Representatives: FREDERICKS of Sanford, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, HYMES of Waldo, JAVNER of Chester, SUPICA of Bangor, Senators: GROHOSKI of Hancock, HICKMAN of Kennebec, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin.

Bill "An Act to Promote Awareness of the Maine Parentage Act"

(H.P. 360) (L.D. 541)

Sponsored by Representative BRIDGEO of Augusta. (BY REQUEST)

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.

Bill "An Act to Amend Maine's Prescription Drug Labeling Law by Allowing the Removal of the Name of a Prescriber of Mifepristone, Misoprostol and Their Generic Alternatives"

(H.P. 357) (L.D. 538)

Sponsored by Representative CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham.

Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland and Representatives: Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, JULIA of Waterville, KUHN of Falmouth, MATHIESON of Kittery, MOONEN of Portland, WARREN of Scarborough, Senator: BAILEY of York.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Resolve, to Require the Preparation of Preapproved Building Types

(H.P. 365) (L.D. 546)

Sponsored by Representative GERE of Kennebunkport.

Cosponsored by Senator BRADSTREET of Kennebec and Representatives: BLIER of Buxton, CAMPBELL of Orrington, DOUDERA of Camden, DUCHARME of Madison, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, JULIA of Waterville, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, MINGO of Calais.

Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Exempt a Person Making Electrical Installations in the Person's Existing Bona Fide Personal Abode from Licensing and Permitting Requirements"

(H.P. 364) (L.D. 545)

Sponsored by Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick.

Submitted by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** suggested.

On motion of Representative GERE of Kennebunkport, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **LABOR**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Discrimination in Housing Based on Source of Income, Veteran Status or Military Status"

(H.P. 340) (L.D. 521)

Sponsored by Representative JULIA of Waterville.

Cosponsored by Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, ARCHER of Saco, DEBRITO of Waterville, GERE of Kennebunkport, LOOKNER of Portland, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, ROBERTS of South Berwick.

Bill "An Act to Change How the Office of the Attorney General Investigates Officer-involved Shootings"

(H.P. 342) (L.D. 523)

Sponsored by Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill.

Bill "An Act to Reduce Trafficking in the State"

(H.P. 343) (L.D. 524)

Sponsored by Representative KUHN of Falmouth.

Bill "An Act to Authorize Judicial Disposition of a Juvenile Adjudicated of Murder or a Class A Crime to a Term of Commitment Extending Beyond the Juvenile's 21st Birthday"

(H.P. 354) (L.D. 535)

Sponsored by Representative FREDETTE of Newport.

Bill "An Act to Prohibit the Doxing of a Minor and to Authorize a Related Civil Action"

(H.P. 356) (L.D. 537)

Sponsored by Representative SACHS of Freeport.

Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland and Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, DHALAC of South Portland, KUHN of Falmouth, MOONEN of Portland, OSHER of Orono, RANA of Bangor.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Strengthen Maine Citizens' Second Amendment Rights by Allowing the Discharge of Firearms on Private Property That Is Within 500 Feet of School Property in Certain Circumstances"

(H.P. 344) (L.D. 525)

Sponsored by Representative MORRIS of Turner.

Cosponsored by Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot and Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, CHAPMAN of Auburn, CIMINO of Bridgton, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, NUTTING of Oakland, PAUL of Winterport, SMITH of Palermo, WHITE of Guilford.

Committee on **JUDICIARY** suggested.

On motion of Representative KUHN of Falmouth, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Resolve, Directing the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women to Study the Extent of Workforce Gender Segregation in the State

(H.P. 341) (L.D. 522)

Sponsored by Representative COPELAND of Saco.

Cosponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland and Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, BECK of South Portland, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, O'HALLORAN of Brewer, ROEDER of Bangor, SACHS of Freeport, SARGENT of York, SINCLAIR of Bath.

Bill "An Act Regarding Occupational Licensing Reform"

(H.P. 349) (L.D. 530)

Sponsored by Representative BOYER of Poland.

Bill "An Act to Repeal the Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 358) (L.D. 539)

Sponsored by Representative RUDNICKI of Fairfield.

Cosponsored by Representatives: CHAPMAN of Auburn, DUCHARME of Madison, EDER of Waterboro, LANCE of Paris, QUINT of Hodgdon, SOBOLESKI of Phillips, STROUT of Harrington, Senator: BERNARD of Aroostook.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding Municipal Property Tax Levy Limits"

(H.P. 361) (L.D. 542)

Sponsored by Representative ADAMS of Lebanon.

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.

Bill "An Act to Reduce the Time Period for Challenging the Validity of a Property Tax Lien on Commercial Real Estate"

(H.P. 345) (L.D. 526)

Sponsored by Representative HENDERSON of Rumford.

Cosponsored by Representatives: COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, GERE of Kennebunkport, LEE of Auburn, Senator: MARTIN of Oxford.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Create Parity in the Taxation of Medicine by Exempting Sales of Cannabis for Medical Use"

(H.P. 363) (L.D. 544)

Sponsored by Representative FREDERICKS of Sanford.

Cosponsored by Representative: HENDERSON of Rumford, Senator: HICKMAN of Kennebec.

Committee on **TAXATION** suggested.

On motion of Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston, **TABLED** pending **REFERENCE** and later today assigned.

Bill "An Act to Modify Maine Motor Vehicle Inspection Standards to Permit Exterior, Nonstructural Corrosion That Does Not Directly Affect the Passenger Compartment"

(H.P. 366) (L.D. 547)

Sponsored by Representative ARDELL of Monticello.

Cosponsored by Representatives: NUTTING of Oakland, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

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

ORDERS

On motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, the following Joint Order: (H.P. 367)

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that the Joint Rules be amended by amending Joint Rule 310, subsection 2, last paragraph to read:

Except for Leave to Withdraw, the committee shall vote on all recommendations to be included in reports on a bill during a work session on that bill. When the committee recommendation is not unanimous, a minority report or reports are required. Minority committee reports, except as provided in subsection 4, paragraph A, must be voted on at the same work session as the majority report on that bill. A committee vote to report a bill out favorably must be taken based on written language before the committee at that time or on a motion describing the content of the report. After a committee vote, no substantive change may be made in the committee report unless motions to reconsider and to amend the report are approved at a committee work session. All reports on any legislative document must be submitted to the Legislature at the same time.

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that the Joint Rules be amended by amending Joint Rule 310, subsection 4, paragraph A to read:

A. If any member is absent from the committee at the time of the vote, that member's vote may be registered with the clerk up until noon on the 2nd business day following the vote. A member may register a vote only on a report that was made when the vote was taken by the committee. A member may not register a vote with the clerk creating an additional report other than Ought Not to Pass.

READ.

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

Representative **MOONEN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Colleagues of the House. As we all know, we unanimously passed under the hammer some rule changes a few weeks ago. One of those changes was clarifying that if a Member is absent from Committee, they cannot register a new Report that was not articulated on mic, in full view of the public. Since that time, we've heard from a lot of Members in multiple Committees expressing some frustration with how broad that rule was and the fact that it does not allow someone to register an Ought Not to Pass vote if they were absent.

The rule that is before us in this Joint Order, the change that is before us, would clarify the rule to say that a Member cannot offer a new Report other than Ought Not to Pass. So, if we were to approve this rule change, we would maintain the commitment to transparency that I hope we all believe in, that new amendments; new versions of bills, when they are suggested to be passed; that they should be articulated on mic, in full view of the public, and this would maintain that, but this would narrow the rule just a little bit to allow someone who was absent to register only a vote agreeing with what was offered on mic or adding a new Report of Ought Not to Pass.

I think that the simplest solution to this problem is for folks to show up and do their job, but there are times when people have very valid reasons for being absent; family commitments, job commitments; that get in the way. We recognize that there are sometimes valid reasons why people are absent, and this would recognize that, and I ask you to support it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Winter Harbor, Representative Faulkingham.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand in support of this Order.

As the Good Majority Leader just said, this rule originally had been put in for transparency, so that Members could not be absent from a Committee hearing where the public was there, and then later log in a Report. That is understood. But the reason why this rule is before us today is because the very first time this rule was used, it was abused, and my Members of the Appropriations Committee wanted to reconsider so that they could have transparency with the public and explain why they were in opposition to it and allow a Member who had been absent to log his vote, but that transparency was denied to them, as they were overruled in a vote where they were not allowed to explain their position anymore and then a Report went forward as unanimous when that was clearly not the case.

So, I'm supportive of this Order and I hope that in the future, when Members want to reconsider because their position has changed, that the Committee Chairs will allow Members to do that and have transparency with the public and be able to speak about that on mic. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Pursuant to Joint Rule 102, this Joint Order required the affirmative vote of two-thirds of those present for passage. 138 having voted in the affirmative and 0 in the negative, 138 being more than two-thirds of the membership present, the Joint Order was **PASSED** and sent for concurrence.

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

On motion of Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston, the following House Order: (H.O. 13)

ORDERED, that Representative Michael F. Brennan of Portland be excused Jan 21 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Benjamin C. Hymes of Waldo be excused Feb 4 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Robert W. Nutting of Oakland be excused Jan 28 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Reagan L. Paul of Winterport be excused Jan 21 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Nathan J. Wadsworth of Hiram be excused Jan 14 for personal reasons.

READ and PASSED.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(H.P. 131) (L.D. 209) Bill "An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-1)**

On motion of Representative GATTINE of Westbrook, was **REMOVED** from the First Day Consent Calendar.

The Committee Report was **READ**.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on **ACCEPTANCE** of the **Unanimous Ought to Pass as Amended 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 Westbrook, Representative Gattine.

Representative **GATTINE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Members of the House. I rise in support of the pending motion.

This is the first Committee Report to come before the Chamber in the 132nd Legislature, and it is undoubtedly one of the most important matters we will take up all session. And I'm really not exaggerating when I say that. For the first time in many years, we are taking up a supplemental budget that is a true emergency. A bill that, if we fail to pass in a manner that allows it to go into effect immediately, will have dire impacts on the health and well-being of Maine people, a devastating impact

on our health care economy and our rural economy, and basically disrupt the basic functioning of our government. It's really that serious. But the good news is that we have the resources readily available to solve the problem at hand. All we need to do is step up and do our jobs and do what is right for Maine people by passing this bill with a strong vote.

So, before I talk about the details of our final Committee Amendment, I want to explain how we got here. The bill as originally proposed by the Chief Executive was far more extensive and included many more things than are before you today. But working together, the AFA Committee decided that because there are some things in this supplemental budget that were clearly true emergencies, and because there were many other things proposed that were less urgent and more difficult to resolve quickly, that we would pare this budget down to the truly urgent items. And after a lot of discussion and negotiation, we came to a determination of what those critical emergencies are, and we set aside all of the other issues and will take them up when we work on the biennial budget. And all this work that we did together culminated in a vote in Committee last Tuesday night that was unanimous. And I think that's a big deal, frankly, because unanimous votes are not easy to come by in the AFA Committee. They require compromise and give and take. So, when the motion was made by one of the Democratic Chairs and seconded by one of the Republican leads, and all of the 11 Members who were there that night voted for it, that was an important moment, and we all recognized that it boded well for our ability to work together.

So, let's talk a little bit about the items in this report that are truly urgent. Our MaineCare program is projecting a shortfall that will result in it running out of money to pay provider claims sometime in May. This funding gap needs to be closed. About one in three Maine people rely on MaineCare for their health care; nearly half of Maine children are on MaineCare. Most Mainers who are in some form of long-term care like nursing homes are relying on MaineCare. Adults with disabilities rely on MaineCare for the supports they need to live independently in their homes and outside of institutions. MaineCare is a principle source of funding in this State for behavioral health care. No matter what you think about the program or whether or not you think it needs to be changed, the fact is that it is a central component of our health care system and we cannot allow it to cease to function. The consequences would be dire for the people who rely on it, and for the providers whose businesses rely on it and for the workers who actually provide the care that people need. And this program is particularly important in rural Maine, where the greatest percentage of people rely on it. Over 40% of people in Washington County, Aroostook County and Somerset County are enrolled in MaineCare.

Yesterday, the Department of Health and Human Services sent out a memo to providers describing the extreme and extraordinary steps that it would need to take if we do not pass this bill as an emergency. Over \$400 million in provider payments would be at risk, and the department would start capping its payment cycles and making partial payments to providers beginning in March. There are many, many providers, including nursing homes and providers of services to people with disabilities, who are so heavily reliant on MaineCare for their revenue that they would not be able to survive these kinds of disruptions in payments. Passing this budget as an emergency would ensure that people can see their doctor, get their medicine and continue to live safely in their communities. We have the money to do it in the General Fund, all we need to do is appropriate it to the right account.

The other issue that we need to address urgently is the risk to our northern forests from the impact of spruce budworm infestation. We heard testimony in the Committee that, left untreated, this infestation puts millions of acres of our forests at risk of deforestation, with an economic impact easily in the hundreds of millions of dollars. In order to combat this, we need to be ready to spray this spring, so, this is truly an emergency and extremely time sensitive. Doing nothing means a loss of thousands of jobs, would have severe economic impact on our rural economy, would destroy some of our most important and valuable natural resources and put our woods clearly at risk of wildfires. And my friend and colleague, the Representative from Old Town, is going to speak a little bit more about this a little bit later.

So, I'm asking my colleagues to join me in making sure that we act with urgency today. There are emergency items that need to be addressed in the supplemental budget and I hope that when we press our buttons, we are thinking about what those are, making sure Maine people can see their doctor and get their medicine, making sure hospitals and nursing homes are paid and making sure our forests are protected. And I'm asking all my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to honor the earnest, bipartisan work that we did in the Committee and do right by the people of Maine by supporting this motion. Thank you.

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

Representative **ARATA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. First of all, I want to express appreciation of my fellow Members of the Appropriations Committee from both parties for their hard work on this supplemental budget, and I would very much like to vote for it. But unfortunately, it misplaces priorities by leaving out the promised cost of living adjustment for direct care workers.

Over my last six years in the Legislature, there have been, sadly, very few times when we've all come together and agreed on important policies. But addressing the direct care worker shortage by paying competitive wages was one of the very few times when we all did agree. We made this a priority; we promised a small wage increase. But if we pass this budget, we have lied.

I cannot in good conscience vote for a budget that continues to pay nine months of General Assistance for anybody who steps foot in Maine, yet does not pay our vital direct care workforce what they were promised. We have an obligation to put the families who have been working and paying Maine taxes for years over an expensive, unsustainable, impractical General Assistance program that desperately needs reform. We cannot take for granted the people who provide difficult, very personal, life-saving services for those who cannot care for themselves. If you or a family member have never needed direct care, consider yourself blessed. All it takes is one slip and fall as you walk out the door today, and you could be dependent on direct care workers for the rest of your life.

I don't think that a single person in this room disagrees that we should pay the promised cost of living adjustment to direct care workers. Therefore, I ask you to send this bill back to the Committee, where we will work on a compromise that will garner a two-thirds majority and get this promised money out the door immediately. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Eliot, Representative Meyer.

Representative **MEYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Women and Men of the House. I rise in support of the pending measure.

Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program, MaineCare and CHIP here provide critical access to

comprehensive, cost-effective care for 10s of millions of American children and families, older people, those who are pregnant, those with disabilities and other income-eligible adults. More than 400,000 of those people are Mainers. One in three live here in our State. Half of all Maine kids are covered under these programs. Forty-five percent of the population of Washington County, covered by MaineCare. Forty percent of the population in Aroostook County, covered by MaineCare. An average of 37% of the population in Oxford, Franklin, Somerset and Piscataquis County, covered by the MaineCare program. Four hundred thousand Mainers.

If one in three of our friends, family, neighbors, workers, constituents are not a factor in the decision to support this supplemental budget, perhaps the providers of the care to MaineCare-enrolled folks might resonate more deeply. Because in most cases, those are the same providers; the hospitals, the nursing homes, home and community-based services, for example; they are serving the rest of the population as well. They are serving all Mainers. They are serving us. Stability in the MaineCare program means stability in the health care delivery system overall, for all Mainers. In addition to the direct health benefits of coverage to one in three Mainers, MaineCare strengthens the broader community and economic fabric here. By keeping the doors of hospitals, nursing homes and home and community-based service organizations open, MaineCare provides life-saving care, supports job creation and sustains local economies.

Did you know, Mr. Speaker, that MaineCare is the backbone of Maine's mental and behavioral health system? MaineCare payments to these providers is the lifeline that enables delivery of care to address the mental health needs and substance use disorder treatment needs in our State. The impact of delays in or decreased payments for these services would be devastating and far-reaching. Those providers already operating on very thin margins may be unable to meet payroll, unable to keep the doors open. In fact, in communication just this morning from one of our State's largest community-based mental and behavioral health provider for adults, kids and families, we were told that unless they are reimbursed what they expect to bill between March and June of 2025, outwards of \$20 million, they've got 30 days of cash on hand, a line of credit that will all be used in one month and closure in two months. And when those doors shut, they are closed to all of us. I hear an awful lot in this building about the need to do more about mental health in this State. Well, here's the opportunity.

Similarly, our hospitals have communicated with most Members in the last 24 hours. If you didn't read the email, I'll read just a piece of it from our hospital systems: "It is critically important that the Legislature pass the supplemental budget to allow for emergency implementation. We do not have fiscal tolerance to absorb reduction in payments, nor delayed payments for the health care services we provide." Our hospital systems communicating with the Legislature.

Do you know that the roughly 100 organizations that deliver care to folks with intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorder and brain injuries rely nearly 100% on MaineCare to deliver those services to more than 5,000 adults, 2,000 children, with a workforce of nearly 9,000 direct support workers? When those doors shut, and they will, how will we explain to those individuals and their families, the hardworking direct care workforce providing care to them day in and day out statewide, that we could not come together to do what was necessary to convey to them that yes, you matter, and yes, we care? MaineCare is the number-one payer to the long-term care industry in our State. Ensuring MaineCare is stable, functional

and fully funded is critical to the health of older Mainers, whether they are residing in nursing facilities or receiving care at home. When those doors shut, and they will, on the care provided to so many frail, fragile people, some nearing the end of their days; when the doors shut on the care provided in hospitals, homes and communities statewide; how do we explain that on February 11th, 2025, we had the opportunity to ensure the continuum of care for all Mainers to keep those doors open and that we simply said no? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Winter Harbor, Representative Faulkingham.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the pending motion.

This supplemental budget is critical to Maine's future. However, the bill before us failed to demonstrate even the basic level of fiscal responsibility. We must acknowledge that there is a problem that got us here before we can begin to fix it. Simply put, this demonstrates that Democrats want to pass a supplemental budget without Republican support. Throughout the process, Republicans worked in good faith with Democrats to shape every aspect of this budget. However, Democratic opposition blocked the inclusion of the Chief Executive's Part S, which would've limited General Assistance benefits to three months. This provision is essential to the Chief Executive's budget proposal. It imposes necessary controls on escalating spending.

Republicans remain committed to advancing common-sense solutions that address the State's challenges while protecting Maine's taxpayers. Doing so will ensure immediate funding for Maine's hospitals, nursing homes and critical spruce budworm spraying needed in Maine's northern forests.

Mr. Speaker, February 11th is way too early to give up on compromise. We've had, what, four session days? This bill should be sent back to Appropriations for more work so that it can come here and gain two-thirds support. Mr. Speaker, please vote no on the pending motion.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will remind Members to refer to the Governor as Chief Executive in floor speeches. I know this our first time in a foray of debate, so, I'll probably provide some reminders during the course of the debate around sort of things that we typically follow in the Chamber.

The Chair recognizes the Representative from Old Town, Representative Dill.

Representative **DILL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, and Fellow Members of the House, I rise today in support of the pending motion.

As a few of my colleagues have already stated, the supplemental budget does exactly what a supplemental budget is supposed to do; it addresses the most urgent needs facing our State right now. While it is well known that one of these urgent needs is to fill the significant funding gap that is currently facing the MaineCare program; however, I want to look at a little different angle to this. The budget also addresses another less publicized challenge that could have devastating consequences for Maine, and that is a torricid moth, which has many pest species including the spruce budworm, which is what I want to address here briefly.

For those who don't know, the eastern spruce budworm is one of the most damaging forest insects in Maine, and actually the United States, too. Outbreaks of the spruce budworm happen every 30 to 60 years and cause severe defoliation of balsam fir and spruce trees, which are two of the most common species in the forests of northern Maine. We've seen this problem here before in the 1970s and '80s; some of you may

remember. A spruce budworm infestation ravaged our forests, covering about 136 million acres across eastern Canada and Maine. This outbreak defoliated both the fir and spruce trees across most of the northern half of our State, and it resulted in hundreds of millions of dollars in lost revenue for our forest-based economy. It was the largest spruce budworm outbreak ever recorded. Right now, we stand on the precipice of another outbreak, with spruce budworm populations expected to potentially increase dramatically in the near future.

The supplemental budget has critical funding to help prevent another outbreak like the one we had 50 years ago from happening again in 2025. We're going to be spraying different materials this time around, not the broad-spectrum materials that was used 50 years ago. We're going to be looking at what's called biorationals, which include an IGR, or an insect growth regulator, which impacts the molting process of the caterpillar, and we're going to be spraying a microbial, which will only impact moth caterpillars.

If we don't act now to address the problem, we risk a 40% destruction of our State's spruce wood, which is mostly in the northern and western portion of the State, a loss of nearly 4,000 direct and indirect jobs, possibly up to \$800 million negative economic impact and an increased risk of forest fires. This is a very inexpensive fire insurance. Just one lightning strike in the middle of this potential tinderbox and we could end up like Canada was last year, or the wildfires in the west.

We have a responsibility to pass this budget, protect our heritage industries and safeguard the jobs that rely on our healthy forests. Not doing so would have devastating consequences for our State. We simply cannot afford to wait. Please say yes.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will remind Members to address their comments through the Chair.

The Chair recognizes the Representative from Auburn, Representative Libby.

Representative LIBBY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've been sitting here listening to the comments offered by my colleagues, and I feel like it could be that I'm serving my third term and have been around for the last couple sessions and maybe some have not, but it seems to me that we've gotten a big case of amnesia.

So, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to review a little history in the context of this supplemental budget. The Representative from Westbrook said that for the first time in many years, this supplemental budget is a true emergency. So, what led to this true emergency, Mr. Speaker? I was perusing some old news clippings, and I came across one from March 31st, 2023, by Kevin Miller, *Maine Public*; "Maine Democrats pass budget after partisan debate." Democrats in the Maine Legislature used their majority status to push through a State budget on Thursday that maintains existing programs, blah-blah-blah. And there's a quote later on in the article that talks about this budget as a win for Maine families and for responsible State government because it continues to fund essential services. Now, I would consider hospitals certainly an essential service in Maine, wouldn't you, Mr. Speaker? Following, it then wraps up the article talking about this being the second straight session during which Democrats have passed a majority budget, a tactic that has been only used a few other times in recent decades.

Mr. Speaker, that's the backdrop to this supplemental budget. A supplemental budget is just that; it is a supplement to the earlier passed biennial budget. Now, Mainers are pretty smart, and Mainers can see through scare tactics. Mainers know that there have been multiple years of one-party budgets that have put us in this position where we are today, where the

hospitals are at risk of not getting paid. So, when the Representative from Eliot asked, how will we explain this to Maine people? It is truly incredibly simple; Maine Democrats passed majority budgets that overspent and didn't prioritize properly and now we are out of money. Not only that, we're going into the next biennial budget with a half-billion-dollar shortfall, and this money that now has to be prioritized for hospitals could go towards filling that shortfall, i.e. overspending, but instead, it is being used as a bailout. That's how I will explain it to Maine people.

This supplemental budget is before us because of repeated bloated, fat, spendy biennial budgets that were passed by half the Legislature that failed to properly account for the full Medicare budget. Thousands of Maine people have repeatedly been left out of the budget process in passing majority budgets. And you and I both know, Mr. Speaker, March 31st is looming, and there will be another one. You want a bipartisan process? Then take this budget back to Appropriations where it belongs and make an actual good faith effort to do just that.

Another Representative talked about the needs of Washington and Aroostook Counties. I would remind everyone in this Chamber and Maine people that Washington and Aroostook County is represented 100% by Republicans. Which means by leaving them out of the process in the biennial budget, and now in the supplemental; whatever you want to call that Tuesday night negotiation; that Washington and Aroostook Counties are left out of the budget process. How insulting to reference those counties when they don't actually have representation, but instead have taxation without representation in this budget.

Over the last week, I've received a lot of questions about how a budget could be passed without the two-thirds required by the Constitution. And I have answered that it's an end-run around the Constitution. It's a manipulation of our Maine Constitution because the Constitution requires two-thirds of this Legislature to work together in good faith and come up with a budget that will properly and responsibly provide for the needs of Maine people, that will allocate their tax dollars in a way that does represent every county, including Aroostook and Washington County.

I've heard reference to the pinkie promise regarding MaineCare in Part X. I'll read it: "The Department of Health and Human Services, within 30 days of the effective date of this Part, shall submit to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Services and the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services a report detailing policy options and operational changes related to attaining a reduction in MaineCare enrollment;" that historic enrollment where we are today, 400,000 Mainers; "a reduction in MaineCare enrollment of 10% by June 30, 2026. The policy options and operational changes must include an evaluation of allowable changes across eligibility categories including state-only programs within the MaineCare program. The policy options must include evaluation of the impact of changing income eligibility criteria for individuals in the childless adult expansion program group." Mr. Speaker, for anyone listening that doesn't understand the legalese of that, let me explain. That is a pinkie promise that means absolutely nothing and will not cut MaineCare in any way, because there won't be follow-through to actually make that change. That's just a report.

So, Mr. Speaker, we do have a responsibility to pass a budget. We have a responsibility in the Constitution to pass a biennial budget, indeed. And I would look forward to voting on this budget and that on April 1st or any date thereafter, when we're talking about a bipartisan budget.

Maine people don't want us to bail you out. This current biennial budget is at \$11.67 billion; a reminder, that is up from \$7 billion under the last Administration; and this supplemental budget will take that up to \$11.79 billion. We've surpassed that \$10 billion mark and now we're about to hit 12. Mr. Speaker, we are here not because of anything else that I have heard today from the other side of the aisle. We are here because you and others have passed bloated majority budgets that waste Mainers' tax dollars and because you overspent and mismanaged Mainers' money. If hospital doors shut, that is on you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Madison, Representative Ducharme.

Representative **DUCHARME**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today reluctantly in opposition to this.

The Good Representative from Westbrook is right when he says this is a true emergency. I've been on Appropriations now since 2022, and nearly every day I've been on Appropriations, I've said we need to slow this thing down, we're spending too much money. I've been that guy that said, hey, slow down. The real emergency that we have today is that MaineCare as currently constructed is not sustainable. It was passed by the voters in 2017 with a 60% vote. It is our responsibility to make sure that MaineCare remains sustainable. Part of that sustainability is making sure that the taxpayers of Maine can afford it. And anyone that has listened to anybody in any district knows that taxpayers of Maine are about ready to cry uncle, because they can't afford more.

The Chief Executive spoke from that rostrum a couple weeks ago and said the economy of Maine is good. I cannot understand how we can say that the economy of Maine is good, when a third of our people are reliant on MaineCare for their health care. There are other options. I just don't think that we're managing it well, and it's our responsibility to do that. It's our responsibility to make sure this program is sustainable.

I'm opposed to this because this does not make good on the promises that we made to health care providers in January. The suspension of the COLA was wrong. Now, we could debate in the biennial whether or not suspending '26 and '27 is the right or the wrong thing to do, but a month before the COLA goes into effect, the Department sends a letter out to the providers and says, oh, by the way, the COLA that you were going to get in January, you're not. You want to talk about damaging the health care business? That's some real damage right there. These health care providers had already given raises to their people based on the fact that they were going to get that. And then, less than 30 days before they were supposed to get it, the rug gets pulled out from underneath them? That's no way to run this thing. Whether you agree with it or you don't, that's no way to run things. Businesses need time to react to things.

Early on in the process, a number of times it was mentioned to us that the presiding officers have said, based on what happened in a prior session, that there would be no votes taken after dark. I'm here to tell you, at 1:30 in the morning, it's dark out. Just so you know.

When we took our vote, we took our vote based on really having less information than what we could have, because we didn't know what our friends on the other side of the aisle were going to do. And when you take a vote based on that, all you're trying to do is protect what you have already gotten. Now, anybody that has read this has seen some of the language that's been put in there. This is a big program, it's a difficult program to manage, but one of the things that you need is you need information. People rely on this. So, the reforms that we put in are a mechanism to get that information, so that when, as the

Good Representative from Auburn said, when the Department brings forth a report and a plan to reduce MaineCare rolls by 10% by June 30, 2026, we'll have the appropriate information. Because without that information, you're going to have to paint with a broad brush, and you may swerve into areas that you don't want to. This program cannot handle a slash-and-burn cut. It needs to be done in a surgical way. That was what we were considering in how we approached this with respect to the reforms that are in there.

But again, my concern is sustainability. I've heard numbers of \$100 million, I've heard numbers of \$200 million in the '26 biennial budget, \$200 million annually more than this program is going to go up. We can't afford that. I mean, just think that one through. We're at \$11.63 billion right now, if you add \$200 million for each year, okay, now we're up over \$12 billion, and that number grows exponentially every year. If we do nothing now, then all we're doing is kicking the can down the road. Now, everybody says that folks say, well, if we don't do this now, then the providers aren't going to get their money. Well, I would ask you, Mr. Speaker, this question: If we don't do it now, when will you do it? That's the question. Because I've been here, I'm now in my third term, and I keep saying we cannot sustain this. It's only right now that we have the ability to say time out, let's send this back to the Committee, get this done so that we can make steps to get this program sustainable for the people of Maine. That's our objection. There's no objection on this side of paying the bills that we owe. None. There is objection on this side to pulling back things that we promised. That's wrong. We just have to do the right thing for the people of Maine and fix this program for long-term sustainability. And in my view, right now, the best way is to send this bill back to Appropriations and we'll keep working at it. I think we can do that. The Good Representative from Westbrook and I have had many conversations about how do we do this, and there are a number of ideas out there. But at the end of the day, we can't pass it today and expect to be able to pay the bills tomorrow. It's just not going to happen. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Westbrook, Representative Salisbury.

Representative **SALISBURY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, first, I'd like to take a moment to thank the Members of the AFA that were present and voted on this bill that is before us today. And having said that, as a reminder to this Body and anybody watching, I'd like the Clerk of the House to read the Committee Report on who voted.

Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook **REQUESTED** that the Clerk **READ** the Committee Report.

The Clerk **READ** the Committee Report in its entirety.

Representative **FREDETTE**: Point of Order.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would inquire as to the Representative from Newport's Point of Order.

Representative **FREDETTE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a picture on my phone of the vote at 9:00 a.m.; of the vote tally, the vote sheet; but because of an error on the rules, that 'no' vote obviously does not count. But if you look in reality, folks, reality, it was not a unanimous Report, it was one vote against; that was my vote --

Representative **MOONEN**: Point of Order.

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

Representative **MOONEN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Representative from Newport is not in fact expressing a Point of Order.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would inquire as to the Representative from Newport's Point of Order.

Representative **FREDETTE**: And which is why we fixed the rules this morning.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Milford, Representative Drinkwater.

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I wasn't planning on speaking on this. I wanted to be the first one in this session to say that.

You know, two weeks ago, we took a field trip. There was a lot of Republicans and Democrats, and we had an opportunity to speak to one another. Hey, we're all human, we all have feelings, and as Mainers, we all have opinions. And there was a lot of talk with can we get to a compromise, can we get to a compromise. And one of the things that I heard, and I agreed with, was that there are things in this supplemental that we want to get to yes to; paying the hospitals, yes; spruce budworm, yes; other things; I counted 15 things I'd like to say yes on. But we asked for an opportunity that we could vote on those individually, and it wasn't just me and my side, it was your side, Mr. Speaker, that also would like to get to yes on some of these things. If we could send this back; and yes, it'll probably come back before us with disagreement, but if we could vote on things that we agree on, I think that would be a good start to working together, which this Body desperately needs to start out this session showing that we can work together, and we won't agree on everything, but these supplemental issues, we will say yes to. So, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Winter Harbor, Representative Faulkingham.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to pose a question through the Chair to the Representative from Westbrook that chairs the Appropriations Committee.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In the previous reference the unanimous Committee was read, I would like to pose a question to the Representative from Westbrook; on the motion to Reconsider the next day, Thursday, who voted yes to Reconsider and why was that motion denied? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Winter Harbor has posed a question through the Chair to the Representative from Westbrook if he wishes to answer.

A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Unanimous Ought to Pass as Amended Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 3

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette,

Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmursal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Babin, Crockett, Pluecker, Wood S, Yusuf.

Yes, 74; No, 71; Absent, 5; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 71 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 5 being absent, and accordingly the **Unanimous Ought to Pass as Amended Report was ACCEPTED.**

The Bill was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (H-1) was READ** by the Clerk.

Representative **DUCHARME** of Madison **PRESENTED House Amendment "A" (H-2) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the representative from Madison, Representative Ducharme.

Representative **DUCHARME**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Amendment asks to attach to this bill the; what was Part S, now Part Y; the same language that the Chief Executive proposed in the supplemental regarding General Assistance housing. Thank you.

Representative **GATTINE** of Westbrook moved that **House Amendment "A" (H-2) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1) be INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

Representative **FAULKINGHAM** of Winter Harbor **REQUESTED** a roll call on **INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT of House Amendment "A" (H-2) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1).**

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 Hodgdon, Representative **QUINT**.

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was just going to request the roll call, but it's been taken care of. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Indefinite Postponement of House Amendment "A" (H-2) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 4

YEA - Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmursal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Abdi, Babin, Crockett, Pluecker, Wood S, Yusuf.

Yes, 73; No, 71; Absent, 6; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

73 having voted in the affirmative and 71 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 6 being absent, and accordingly **House Amendment "A" (H-2) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1)** was **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

Representative DUCHARME of Madison **PRESENTED House Amendment "B" (H-3) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Madison, Representative Ducharme.

Representative **DUCHARME**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Amendment instructs the Department of Health and Human Services to request a waiver from Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for Section 1115 demonstration waiver on the United States Social Security Act that would temporarily freeze MaineCare enrollment for the expansion population; able-bodied, childless adults; and reduce that enrollment in that category over time, to create a permanent enrollment cap at the reduced enrollment level after the freeze is lifted.

Representative GATTINE of Westbrook moved that **House Amendment "B" (H-3) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1)** be **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Westbrook, Representative Gattine.

Representative **GATTINE**: Mr. Speaker, CMS was referred to; the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services does not grant these kinds of waivers. I think moving forward with this type of waiver would put our federal match at risk and our Medicaid program. Again, as I explained earlier, in the earlier debate, the purpose of the supplemental budget was to focus on things that we needed to do immediately, and this is a major policy change that, if we were even to consider, which I hope we wouldn't, that really should be in its own bill or debated as part of a bill. Thank you.

Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor **REQUESTED** a roll call on **INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT of House Amendment "B" (H-3) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1)**.

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

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Indefinite Postponement of House Amendment "B" (H-3) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 5

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre,

Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Babin, Crockett, Pluecker, Wood S, Yusuf.

Yes, 74; No, 71; Absent, 5; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 71 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 5 being absent, and accordingly **House Amendment "B" (H-3) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1)** was **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

Representative DUCHARME of Madison **PRESENTED House Amendment "C" (H-4) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Madison, Representative Ducharme.

Representative **DUCHARME**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Amendment simply asks again for a waiver from CMS to allow us to institute work requirements for those able-bodied folks on MaineCare.

Representative GATTINE of Westbrook moved that **House Amendment "C" (H-4) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1)** be **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Westbrook, Representative Gattine.

Representative **GATTINE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Similarly to my remarks a few minutes ago, this would be a major policy change without the benefit of a public hearing or any input; I don't think this is the appropriate place to be debating this. You know, there are some states that have moved forward and tried to get waivers and gotten waivers and tried to implement this. I think what we're finding is that those states have found this to be very ineffective from a cost perspective and actually ended up costing them more money than they actually saved. So, I think this would be unwise, it's not appropriate for us to take up in the supplemental budget and I would urge people to support Indefinite Postponement. Thank you.

Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor **REQUESTED** a roll call on **INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT of House Amendment "C" (H-4) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1)**.

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

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Indefinite Postponement of House Amendment "C" (H-4) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 6

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre,

Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Babin, Crockett, Pluecker, Wood S, Yusuf.
Yes, 74; No, 71; Absent, 5; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 71 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 5 being absent, and accordingly **House Amendment "C" (H-4) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1) was INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

Representative BOYER of Poland **PRESENTED House Amendment "D" (H-5) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Poland, Representative Boyer.

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Amendment would require State employees, including us Members of the Legislature, of this Body, to pay their half of paid family leave. Currently, State employees do not have to contribute to the half a percentage point of paid family leave and the taxpayer picks up the tab. We have the taxpayer subsidizing State employees' paid family leave contribution. You can have your feelings about the program, some want to repeal, some don't, but I don't know what would be more fair or more equitable for everyone to pay their fair share. I don't think there should be an exemption for people just because they work for the State, just because; us. What message does that send to hardworking Mainers that are struggling to stay afloat during this time, that they have to pay for somebody else's paid family leave? It's no good, and we know that this will save our State millions of dollars based on the fiscal note, so, I urge folks to follow my light on this one. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Westbrook, Representative Gattine.

Representative **GATTINE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think this is an item that's much better taken up as we deliberate the biennial budget, so, I would move that this item and all its accompanying papers be Indefinitely Postponed.

Representative GATTINE of Westbrook moved that **House Amendment "D" (H-5) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1) be INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor **REQUESTED** a roll call on **INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT of House Amendment "D" (H-5) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1).**

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 Turner, Representative Morris.

Representative **MORRIS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in opposition to the pending motion and in support of the Amendment from my good colleague from Poland.

Over the last few weeks, I've heard a lot from Maine citizens about how, one, annoyed they are about having to have a new tax being taken out of their paycheck right now; but particularly, they're annoyed that they're finding out that State employees are not also being required to pay their fair share of this new tax that they are being assessed every week in their paychecks. So, I think we should reject this motion, this is a great program; as other people have said, there should be no problem requiring everybody that works for the State to pay their fair share of this tax as well. So, I would urge a rejection of the pending motion. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Milford, Representative Drinkwater.

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we just heard some numbers on what this would save the taxpayers, and I'd like to give what is reported is \$4.6 million will be saved if they pay their fair share. I just wanted to put that information out there. I think this is something that we should be able to agree on, that they should pay and us as legislators should pay our half, and that would help put money towards spruce budworm and paying the hospitals. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Indefinite Postponement of House Amendment "D" (H-5) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 7

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Babin, Crockett, Pluecker, Sinclair, Wood S, Yusuf.

Yes, 73; No, 71; Absent, 6; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

73 having voted in the affirmative and 71 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 6 being absent, and accordingly **House Amendment "D" (H-5) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1) was INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

Representative BOYER of Poland **PRESENTED House Amendment "E" (H-6) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Poland, Representative Boyer.

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Amendment has to do with our free community college here in Maine. During COVID, this Body passed a law to say that Maine high school graduates should be able to attend community college for free. It was passed. And the issue is, I think, I don't know if it was talked about back then, it was before I was in the Legislature, but there's no requirement; A, that these graduates have to stay in Maine; and B, that they be actually Maine high school graduates, Mr. Speaker. I don't think that our Maine tax dollars should subsidize folks from Massachusetts, from New Hampshire to come over to Maine, get free college and then go back to New Hampshire or Massachusetts or Florida or wherever. Why are we subsidizing other states' students, Mr. Speaker? It doesn't make sense.

My colleagues on the Education Committee asked the President, I believe, there's 624 folks that are getting some form of free tuition that aren't from Maine, that didn't graduate a Maine high school. Every dollar we spend on those folks is a dollar taken away from Maine people's education. So, again, maybe you like free college, maybe you don't, but it should be for Mainers. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Westbrook, Representative Gattine.

Representative **GATTINE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, there are items in the Chief Executive's proposed biennial budget addressing the future of this program, and I think that this conversation would be more appropriate when working on the biennial budget. So, I would move that this item and all of its accompanying papers be Indefinitely Postponed.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will remind Members to refer to the Governor as Chief Executive.

Representative GATTINE of Westbrook moved that **House Amendment "E" (H-6) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1) be INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor **REQUESTED** a roll call on **INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT of House Amendment "E" (H-6) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1).**

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

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Indefinite Postponement of House Amendment "E" (H-6) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 8

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmursal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Babin, Crockett, Pluecker, Sinclair, Underwood, Wood S, Yusuf.

Yes, 73; No, 70; Absent, 7; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

73 having voted in the affirmative and 70 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 7 being absent, and accordingly **House Amendment "E" (H-6) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1) was INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

Representative LIBBY of Auburn **PRESENTED House Amendment "F" (H-7) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1),** which was **READ** by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Auburn, Representative Libby.

Representative **LIBBY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my Amendment is also related to free community college, but rather than amend it, it simply repeals it.

I had a conversation with a constituent this summer as I was knocking doors, as I'm sure many of us did, and free college came into that conversation. My constituent attended the college in my district and enjoys the benefit of free college, moved to Maine recently and is now participating in the free college that is abundantly available. And the thing was about this conversation with my constituent, by the end of the conversation, he actually didn't think that free college should exist in Maine. And I'll tell you what, that kind of surprised me. This was a young man who I would describe as progressive, but I asked him, I said, do you think, you know, you enjoy this benefit of free college, you're getting two years of free education; I said, do you think that Maine taxpayers should be paying for free college for young adults while there are homeless on our streets? He said no. Do you think that Maine taxpayers should be paying for free college for young folks while seniors are struggling to pay their bills and can't even heat their homes? He thought about that for a moment, and said no. I said, do you think that Maine taxpayers should be paying for free college for young adults with their whole life ahead of them while so many Mainers are struggling in so many ways? And he said no. A \$4,000 bill per year, we should not be getting that for free, Mr. Speaker.

My brother, who is significantly younger than I am, he went to community college in my district. Great experience, Central Maine Community College is a wonderful college. And my brother graduated that two-year program with his machining degree and then went on to USM, where he completed his four-year engineering degree. This was prior to Maine offering free college on the back of Maine taxpayers, and he paid his way. He lived with my husband and I; he washed a lot of dishes and cooked dinners to pay his rent, and he paid his tuition for that college experience, Mr. Speaker. He is now thriving in his field of choice as an engineer and doing very well. He and my sister-in-law have one child; I hope that I have other nieces and nephews coming along; but when I look at the needs here in our State, Mr. Speaker, I can attest a hundred percent, my brother did not need free college on the back of Maine taxpayers.

Free college is not free. Nothing is free. Somebody is paying for it. And college, an education, is not an entitlement. College is not a right bestowed in our Constitution or anywhere else. And so, I am aware that this Amendment is shortly to be Indefinitely Postponed, for discussion further in the biennial budget. I would love to think that would be a serious discussion in the biennial budget, Mr. Speaker, because our biennial budgets are woefully mis-prioritized. Free college on the backs of Maine taxpayers is not a right, and I would encourage folks to vote with me for this Amendment.

Representative GATTINE of Westbrook moved that **House Amendment "F" (H-7) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1) be INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor **REQUESTED** a roll call on **INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT of House Amendment "F" (H-7) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1).**

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

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Indefinite Postponement of House Amendment "F" (H-7) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 9

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Eaton, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Tuell, Warren, Webb, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Ardell, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmursal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Arata, Babin, Crockett, Lanigan, Pluecker, Sinclair, Wood S, Yusuf.

Yes, 75; No, 67; Absent, 8; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 67 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 8 being absent, and accordingly **House Amendment "F" (H-7) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1) was INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

Representative LIBBY of Auburn **PRESENTED House Amendment "G" (H-8) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1),** which was **READ** by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Auburn, Representative Libby.

Representative **LIBBY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, a long story short; this Amendment would make the paid family medical leave program optional rather than mandatory. And I appreciate that the Representative from Westbrook has offered the distinction that today, we should focus on things we need to do immediately.

This program was implemented in January, a year and a half after it passed, and I have heard nothing but negatives from Maine families, Maine workers, Maine businesses regarding not just the implementation, but the impact of this new one percent payroll tax on them, Maine people. And I have to ask; you know, I've heard from more people on this issue than any other in my time in the Legislature, I have to ask; is it a benefit if it is something that Maine people don't want? Can we still call it a benefit? I would think not.

This law is affecting Maine people who are living close to the margin, having dollars taken out of every paycheck when those paychecks; every dollar in those paychecks matter. It's been disastrous for many families and businesses. And, you know, I think we should appreciate that Maine is built on the backs of small businesses. From our fishermen and farmers and hardworking families that value self-determination. These are not people who are looking for government mandates. These are people looking for opportunity. Mainers know how to take care of themselves, their employees and their families when given the freedom to do so.

Mr. Speaker, this benefit does not allow Maine people the opportunity to take care of themselves and each other; it's a mandate that's onerous on Maine workers and businesses alike and it should be optional. How dare we mandate this upon Maine people? This amendment would make Paid Family Medical Leave Act and the 1% payroll tax optional, and we should support that immediately.

Representative GATTINE of Westbrook moved that **House Amendment "G" (H-8) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1) be INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor **REQUESTED** a roll call on **INDEFINITE POSTPONEMENT of House Amendment "G" (H-8) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1).**

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 Presque Isle, Representative Underwood.

Representative **UNDERWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support my colleague from Lewiston-Auburn, and this should be optional because we need to consider the children and remember the children because it would be more money for the children, for anybody that votes for the optional. I thank you very much for your time, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bridgton, Representative Cimino.

Representative **CIMINO**: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support my colleague, Representative Libby, with this issue. Obviously, not only do our constituents have an issue with paid family leave, but my colleagues on the other side of the aisle do as well, which is why they do not want to pay their share. So, thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will remind Members to not question the motives of other Members during the course of debate. That is part of the House Rules. If you don't like the House Rules and our decorum and our procedure, then you can choose to not participate in the floor debate. Is that understood? And the Member will also refer to other Members by their district, not by their name. So, the Representative from Auburn, I agree with, not Representative Libby. Thank you.

A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Indefinite Postponement of House Amendment "G" (H-8) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 10

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmursal-Burgess, Simmons,

Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Babin, Crockett, Pluecker, Sinclair, Wood S, Yusuf.

Yes, 73; No, 71; Absent, 6; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

73 having voted in the affirmative and 71 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 6 being absent, and accordingly **House Amendment "G" (H-8) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-1) was INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor **REQUESTED** a roll call on **ADOPTION of Committee Amendment "A" (H-1).**

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

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Adoption of Committee Amendment "A" (H-1). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 11

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Babin, Crockett, Pluecker, Sinclair, Wood S, Yusuf.

Yes, 73; No, 71; Absent, 6; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

73 having voted in the affirmative and 71 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 6 being absent, and accordingly **Committee Amendment "A" (H-1) was ADOPTED.**

Under suspension of the rules, the Bill was given its **SECOND READING WITHOUT REFERENCE** to the Committee on **Bills in the Second Reading.**

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-1)** and sent for concurrence.

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

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Support Outdoor, Agricultural-based and Hands-on Experiential Learning in Public Schools"

(S.P. 202) (L.D. 550)

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.

Bill "An Act to Create a Separate Department of Child and Family Services"

(S.P. 217) (L.D. 555)

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.

Bill "An Act to Create an Outfitter License for Owners and Operators of Hunting, Fishing and Recreation Businesses Who Are Not Maine Guides"

(S.P. 204) (L.D. 552)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Establish a Statewide Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Kit Tracking System and Update Certain Requirements Regarding Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Kits" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 199) (L.D. 549)

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 Assert State Sovereignty over Ocean Waters and Marine Resources up to 12 Nautical Miles off the State's Coast" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 208) (L.D. 553)

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

REFERRED to the Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Restore Balanced Emergency Powers"

(S.P. 203) (L.D. 551)

Bill "An Act to Preserve Heating and Energy Choice by Prohibiting a Municipality from Prohibiting a Particular Energy System or Energy Distributor"

(S.P. 218) (L.D. 556)

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.

Bill "An Act to Encourage Resident-owned Communities and Cooperatives and Preserve Affordable Housing Through Tax Credits"

(S.P. 211) (L.D. 554)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Allow All-terrain Vehicles to Be Used on a Public Way"

(S.P. 231) (L.D. 557)

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

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

Bill "An Act Regarding Intoxicating Hemp Products"

(S.P. 195) (L.D. 548)

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.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (S.P. 220)

**MAINE SENATE
132ND LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

February 5, 2025

Hon. Matthea Daughtry
President of the Senate
132nd Legislature

Hon. Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House
132nd Legislature

Dear Madam President and Mr. Speaker:

On February 5, 2025, 25 bills were received by the Secretary of the Senate.

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, these bills were referred to the Joint Standing Committees on February 5, 2025, as follows:

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Bill "An Act to Address Food Insecurity by Helping Maine Residents Access Locally Produced Food" (S.P. 206) (L.D. 468) (Sponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York) (Cosponsored by Representative HALL of Wilton and Senators: BLACK of Franklin, President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, PLUECKER of Warren, SALISBURY of Westbrook, DUCHARME of Madison, SAYRE of Kennebunk)

Bill "An Act to Support Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry in Maine" (S.P. 213) (L.D. 473) (Sponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland)

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Bill "An Act to Fund Rural Patrol Services in Washington County" (EMERGENCY) (S.P. 194) (L.D. 461) (Sponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington) (Cosponsored by Representative MINGO of Calais and Representatives: TUELL of East Machias, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, QUINT of Hodgdon, DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, STROUT of Harrington, MCINTYRE of Lowell)

Education and Cultural Affairs

Bill "An Act to Fund Climate Resiliency Projects Related to the Repair of Campus Infrastructure Used for Active Transportation and Outdoor Recreation" (S.P. 190) (L.D. 457) (Sponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative BECK of South Portland and Senator: CURRY of Waldo, Representatives: KESSLER of South Portland, DHALAC of South Portland, BOYER of Cape Elizabeth)

Bill "An Act to Require School Administrative Units to Adopt Mentoring Programs for Teachers and to Improve Existing Programs" (S.P. 209) (L.D. 470) (Sponsored by Senator RAFFERTY of York) (Cosponsored by Representative MURPHY of Scarborough and Senators: PIERCE of Cumberland, INGWERSEN of York, RENY of Lincoln, Representatives: DODGE of Belfast, SARGENT of York, MITCHELL of Cumberland)

Resolve, to Establish a Pilot Program to Expand Intensive English Language Learner Programs (S.P. 210) (L.D. 471) (Sponsored by Senator RAFFERTY of York) (Cosponsored by Representative MITCHELL of Cumberland and Senator: BALDACCI of Penobscot, Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, DHALAC of South Portland, RANA of Bangor, MURPHY of Scarborough, SARGENT of York, YUSUF of Portland)

Energy, Utilities and Technology

Bill "An Act to Extend the Law Governing Electric Power and Service Residential Rates for Military Veterans' Organizations" (EMERGENCY) (S.P. 201) (L.D. 466) (Sponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock)

Bill "An Act to Prioritize State Access to Electricity Generated in Canada via High-impact Electric Transmission Lines" (S.P. 207) (L.D. 469) (Sponsored by Senator MARTIN of Oxford) (Cosponsored by Representative SOBOLESKI of Phillips and Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, CYRWAY of Kennebec, HARRINGTON of York, BRADSTREET of Kennebec, STEWART of Aroostook, Representatives: FOSTER of Dexter, SMITH of Palermo)

Environment and Natural Resources

Bill "An Act to Update Waste Discharge License Fees" (S.P. 200) (L.D. 465) (Sponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock) (Submitted by the Department of Environmental Protection pursuant to Joint Rule 204.)

Bill "An Act to Improve Maine's Environment and Protect Natural Resources" (S.P. 214) (L.D. 474) (Sponsored by Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc) (Cosponsored by Senator: MARTIN of Oxford)

Bill "An Act to Ban the Sale of Polystyrene Packing Peanuts in the State" (S.P. 216) (L.D. 476) (Sponsored by Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc) (Cosponsored by Representative DOUDERA of Camden and Representatives: GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, ANKELES of Brunswick)

Health and Human Services

Bill "An Act to Require the State to Pay 90 Percent of All General Assistance Expenses of Municipalities and Indian Tribes" (S.P. 186) (L.D. 453) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot)

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Bill "An Act to Regulate the Use of Prior Authorization for Health Care Provider Services" (S.P. 192) (L.D. 459) (Sponsored by Senator CURRY of Waldo)

Judiciary

Bill "An Act to Improve Public Defense Services" (S.P. 189) (L.D. 456) (Sponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland)

Bill "An Act to Improve Court Procedure and Update Family Law" (S.P. 191) (L.D. 458) (Sponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland)

Labor

Bill "An Act to Amend the Eligibility Criteria for Creditable Service in the Armed Forces of the United States Under the Maine Public Employees Retirement System" (S.P. 196) (L.D. 462) (Sponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook)

Bill "An Act to Require the State to Pay Medicare Part B Premiums for Certain Retired State Employees" (S.P. 205) (L.D. 467) (Sponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec) (Cosponsored by Representative HASENFUS of Readfield and Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, MOORE of Washington, TIPPING of Penobscot, Representatives: DODGE of Belfast, SHAGOURY of Hallowell)

Marine Resources

Bill "An Act to Protect Maine's Marine Resources" (S.P. 215) (L.D. 475) (Sponsored by Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc) (Cosponsored by Senator: MOORE of Washington)

State and Local Government

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Provide for the Popular Election of the Secretary of State and the Attorney General by Ranked-choice Voting (S.P. 185) (L.D. 452) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot)

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Require a Statewide Popular Election of the Secretary of State, the Treasurer of State and the Attorney General for 4-year Terms (S.P. 188) (L.D. 455) (Sponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford) (Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset and Senators: HICKMAN of Kennebec, BRADSTREET of Kennebec, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, Representative: SUPICA of Bangor)

Transportation

Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in Newfield the Dam's Mills Veterans Memorial Bridge (S.P. 193) (L.D. 460) (Sponsored by Senator LIBBY of Cumberland)

Resolve, to Rename the New Ten Mile River Bridge on Pequawket Trail in Brownfield the Brownfield Veterans Memorial Bridge (S.P. 197) (L.D. 463) (Sponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford) (Cosponsored by Representative WADSWORTH of Hiram)

Resolve, to Rename the Brackett Mill Bridge in Denmark the Brackett Mill Veterans Memorial Bridge (S.P. 198) (L.D. 464) (Sponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford) (Cosponsored by Representative CIMINO of Bridgton)

Resolve, Directing the Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Commission and the New England and Eastern Canada Legislative Commission to Examine Restoring Passenger Rail from Boston to Montreal (S.P. 212) (L.D. 472) (Sponsored by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin) (Cosponsored by Senators: STEWART of Aroostook, BALDACCI of Penobscot, TIPPING of Penobscot, Representative: BABIN of Fort Fairfield)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act to Allow Candidates for Secretary of State or Attorney General to Participate in the Maine Clean Election Act" (S.P. 187) (L.D. 454) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot)

Sincerely,
S/Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate
S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House

Came from the Senate, **READ** and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

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

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

The Following Communication: (S.P. 235)

**MAINE SENATE
132ND LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

February 7, 2025

Hon. Matthea Daughtry
President of the Senate

132nd Legislature

Hon. Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

132nd Legislature

Dear Madam President and Mr. Speaker:

On February 7, 2025, 12 bills were received by the Secretary of the Senate.

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, these bills were referred to the Joint Standing Committees on February 7, 2025, as follows:

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Bill "An Act to Require the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands to Maintain the Weld to Byron Road in Township 6 North of Weld" (S.P. 228) (L.D. 510) (Sponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin) (Cosponsored by Representative HALL of Wilton and Senator: MARTIN of Oxford, Representatives: PLUECKER of Warren, BUNKER of Farmington, DILL of Old Town)

Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Bill "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Research and Development and Commercialization" (S.P. 224) (L.D. 506) (Sponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford and Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, GROHOSKI of Hancock, Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, STROUT of Harrington)

Bill "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund LifeFlight of Maine" (S.P. 225) (L.D. 507) (Sponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook) (Cosponsored by Representative MATLACK of St. George and Senators: FARRIN of Somerset, MOORE of Washington, BALDACCI of Penobscot, BERNARD of Aroostook, Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, STOVER of Boothbay, BUNKER of Farmington, LAJOIE of Lewiston)

Education and Cultural Affairs

Bill "An Act to Provide Educational Opportunities for Students in Secondary Schools with 200 or Fewer Students" (S.P. 230) (L.D. 512) (Sponsored by Senator GUERIN of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Representative BAGSHAW of Windham and Representatives: LYMAN of Livermore Falls, HAGGAN of Hampden)

Bill "An Act to Allow the Spouse of a School Board Member to Serve as a Stipend Employee Within the School Board's Jurisdiction" (S.P. 232) (L.D. 513) (Sponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington) (Cosponsored by Representative TUELL of East Machias and Representatives: QUINT of Hodgdon, SAYRE of Kennebunk, STROUT of Harrington, MCINTYRE of Lowell)

Health and Human Services

Bill "An Act Regarding the Substance Use Disorder Services Commission" (S.P. 221) (L.D. 503) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Representative SUPICA of Bangor and Senators: FARRIN of Somerset, RAFFERTY of York, Representatives: STOVER of Boothbay, RANA of Bangor)

Resolve, to Raise MaineCare Reimbursement Rates for Detoxification Services for Substance Use Disorder Treatment (S.P. 233) (L.D. 514) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Representative SUPICA of Bangor and Senators: FARRIN of Somerset, RAFFERTY of York, Representatives: STOVER of Boothbay, RANA of Bangor)

Judiciary

Bill "An Act to Improve Family Court Procedure" (S.P. 222) (L.D. 504) (Sponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative HENDERSON of Rumford and Senators: BAILEY of York, STEWART of Aroostook, Representatives: POIRIER of Skowhegan, KUHN of Falmouth, BABIN of Fort Fairfield, CARUSO of Caratunk, O'HALLORAN of Brewer)

Bill "An Act to Update Processes and Fees in the Probate Court System" (S.P. 223) (L.D. 505) (Sponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative COLLINS of Sidney and Senators: BRADSTREET of Kennebec, LAWRENCE of York, Representatives: STOVER of Boothbay, HASENFUS of Readfield, KUHN of Falmouth, SINCLAIR of Bath)

Labor

Bill "An Act to Allow a Journeyman Electrician to Supervise 3 Helper Electricians" (S.P. 227) (L.D. 509) (Sponsored by Senator TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin) (Cosponsored by Representative LYMAN of Livermore Falls and Senators: BLACK of Franklin, FARRIN of Somerset, CYRWAY of Kennebec, BICKFORD of Androscoggin)

State and Local Government

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Require Constitutional Officers to Be Elected by Popular Election (S.P. 226) (L.D. 508) (Sponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook) (Cosponsored by Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, HICKMAN of Kennebec, FARRIN of Somerset, BALDACCI of Penobscot, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, Representatives: WARREN of Scarborough, SUPICA of Bangor)

Transportation

Resolve, to Direct the Department of Transportation to Implement the Recommendations of the Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council (S.P. 229) (L.D. 511) (Sponsored by Senator DUSON of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative BELL of Yarmouth and Senators: President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, PIERCE of Cumberland, FARRIN of Somerset, BICKFORD of Androscoggin, Representatives: KUHN of Falmouth, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth)

Sincerely,

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

Came from the Senate, **READ** and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

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

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

The Chair laid before the House the following item which was **TABLED** earlier in today's session:

Bill "An Act to Create Parity in the Taxation of Medicine by Exempting Sales of Cannabis for Medical Use"

(H.P. 363) (L.D. 544)

Which was **TABLED** by Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston pending **REFERENCE**.

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

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 234)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, February 25, 2025, at 10:00 in the morning, or until the call of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, respectively.

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

READ and **PASSED** in concurrence.

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

On motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, the House adjourned at 7:15 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, February 25, 2025, or until the call of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, respectively, pursuant to the Joint Order (S.P. 234).