

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
12th Legislative Day
Thursday, March 20, 2025

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

Prayer by Chaplain Quinn Elleen Gormley, MaineHealth Maine Medical Center, Auburn.

National Anthem by Gabriela Gardner, Belfast.

Pledge of Allegiance.

The Journal of Tuesday, March 18, 2025 was read and approved.

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

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

CONSENT CALENDAR
First Day

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

(S.P. 106) (L.D. 240) Bill "An Act to Create Consistency in Retirement Service Benefits Deferral Under the Maine Public Employees Retirement System" Committee on **LABOR** reporting **Ought to Pass**

Under suspension of the rules, Second Day Consent Calendar notification was given.

There being no objection, the Senate Paper was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** in concurrence.

(H.P. 178) (L.D. 274) Bill "An Act Making Unified Allocations from the Highway Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-14)**

On motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, was **REMOVED** from the First Day Consent Calendar.

The Unanimous Committee Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-14)** was **READ** by the Clerk.

Representative CRAFTS of Newcastle **PRESENTED House Amendment "A" (H-22) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-14)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Newcastle, Representative Crafts.

Representative **CRAFTS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, before us is an amendment, technical amendment, that comes from a discrepancy between OFPR and our Committee which reduces the Highway Fund capital expenditures by \$2 million and corrects the OSR capital expenditures by \$2 million, as just incorrectly reported in the budget language.

Subsequently, **House Amendment "A" (H-22) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-14)** was **ADOPTED**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-14) as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-22) thereto 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**.

Representative MOONEN of Portland **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-14) as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-22)** thereto.

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 Passage to be Engrossed as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-14) as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-22) thereto. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 21

YEA - Adams, Albert, Ankeles, Arata, Archer, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Bagshaw, Beck, Bell, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Copeland, Crafts, Cray, Crockett, Daigle, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eaton, Eder, Faircloth, Farrin, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Gifford, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hasenus, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Julia, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lance, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lee, Lemelin, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Matlack, McCabe, McIntyre, Meyer, Milliken, Mingo, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Morris, Murphy, O'Halloran, Olsen, Osher, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pluecker, Poirier, Pomerleau, Pugh, Quint, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Rudnicki, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Schmersal-Burgess, Shagoury, Simmons, Sinclair, Skold, Smith, Soboleski, Stover, Strout, Supica, Swallow, Terry, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, Warren, Webb, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - NONE.

ABSENT - Abdi, Hall, Kessler, Lyman, Mason, Mathieson, Nutting.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 143; No, 0; Absent, 7; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

143 having voted in the affirmative and 0 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-14) as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-22)** thereto and sent for concurrence.

ENACTORS
Emergency Measure

An Act to Make Supplemental Allocations from the Highway 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

(H.P. 179) (L.D. 275)
(C. "A" H-12)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 114 voted in favor of the same and 11 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Resolves

Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in Newfield the Dam's Mills Veterans Memorial Bridge

(S.P. 193) (L.D. 460)

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)

Resolve, to Rename the Brackett Mill Bridge in Denmark the Brackett Mill Veterans Memorial Bridge

(S.P. 198) (L.D. 464)

Resolve, to Name the Bridge Between Milford and Old Town the Alton L. Drinkwater Memorial Bridge

(H.P. 334) (L.D. 516)

Were reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed, **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The following matter, in the consideration of which the House was engaged at the time of adjournment Tuesday, March 18, 2025, had preference in the Orders of the Day and continued with such preference until disposed of as provided by House Rule 502.

Expression of Legislative Sentiment Recognizing Diana Allen, of Ogunquit

(HLS 28)

TABLED - February 4, 2025 (Till Later Today) by Representative MASTRACCIO of Sanford.

PENDING - **PASSAGE**.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Report

Majority Report of the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-13)** on Bill "An Act Making Certain Appropriations and Allocations and Changing Certain Provisions of Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government"

(H.P. 377) (L.D. 609)

Signed:

Senators:

ROTUNDO of Androscoggin
RENY of Lincoln

Representatives:

GATTINE of Westbrook
BRENNAN of Portland
CLOUTIER of Lewiston
DHALAC of South Portland
RANA of Bangor
STOVER of Boothbay

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

BERNARD of Aroostook

Representatives:

ARATA of New Gloucester

BLIER of Buxton

DUCHARME of Madison

FREDETTE of Newport

READ.

Representative GATTINE of Westbrook moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on his motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **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. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, I rise in support of the pending motion.

For several months now, my colleagues and I on the Appropriations Committee have been working hard reviewing the budget proposals put forward by the Chief Executive, holding public hearings, reviewing report backs, engaging with the Executive Branch and figuring out what we need to do to craft spending packages that meet the moment, acknowledging that we live in challenging and uncertain times. And I can say without a doubt that we face some challenges, with flattening State revenues and, although there are lots of indicators that our economy still has strength, we're facing an uncertain economy. And I'm also going to acknowledge and suspect that most of us are disappointed that the supplemental budget that we debated here for well over a month has now died between the Chambers. And next week will be the third week that MaineCare providers will be receiving reduced payments for the care that they've already provided for the 400,000 people who rely on MaineCare to stay healthy, become healthy and live freely in their communities.

So, now we find ourselves here today and we're putting before you a continuing services budget that takes care of those truly urgent items from the supplemental, filling the MaineCare gap and protecting our northern forests, and also provides funding for the very important services and programs that Maine people need in the upcoming biennium. And this bill does just that. It ensures continued services and government operations in the upcoming fiscal year and the next one. This continuing services budget does some really good and really important things for Maine people and Maine communities, things that I believe that both sides of the aisle agree on, and I'm going to list some of those things. It meets the State's obligation to fully fund public education in K-12 schools at 55% for the biennium. It helps municipalities create their budgets and manage property taxes by keeping municipal revenue sharing at five percent for the biennium. It honors, in this 2025 college school year, the commitment of free community college for Maine students who are already enrolled. It meets the State's obligation to its employees, negotiated through collective bargaining. It supports rural hospitals and the health of Maine people by filling the \$118 million MaineCare gap in 2025, so Maine people can continue to access critical health care services. It also fills this hole in fiscal year 2026; it fills a shortfall in critical public health programs. It protects Maine forests and the forest products industry by providing two million dollars for remediation of a severe spruce budworm outbreak in Maine. And it implements the cost-of-living adjustment reimbursement rate of 1.95% to

essential workers and direct care workers through the next biennium.

Let me also be very clear about what this current services budget does not do. It does not create any new taxes or increase any existing taxes, nor does it increase any fees. Any new revenues or fee increases proposed by the Chief Executive in her original biennial budget bill are not included in this bill. This bill also does not accept any of the reductions to services proposed by the Chief Executive in her original bill. Reductions to child care, reductions in rates paid to hospitals, reductions in behavioral health services such as crisis receiving centers or food assistance or housing assistance. None of those proposed cuts are included in this bill. All those things will still need to be resolved as we move forward with our work this session.

This budget is in balance, and it leaves \$127 million in the General Fund. Money that we will certainly need as we move forward. But one of the most important things that this bill does is provide stability and certainty. We are living in very uncertain times. The future of our national economy is uncertain. The impact of things like tariffs will have on our State economy are uncertain. The impact of actions by the Executive Branch in D.C. or the United States Congress create uncertainty, especially in programs like Medicaid. These are unstable and uncertain times, but this bill provides some stability to our communities and to our constituents. Mr. Speaker, it tells them, as towns prepare their budgets this spring, that the State will maintain its commitment to revenue sharing and it will maintain its statutory obligation to support K-12 education. It tells our most vulnerable citizens and the health care providers who serve them that we will pay our bills to hospitals and nursing homes and pharmacies and small agencies that help people with disabilities live in their communities and not institutions. We will pay our bills now, and we will have the resources to pay them going forward as we watch what changes may come our way from the federal government. It tells all the people of Maine and the businesses that operate here that State Government will be open for business when we begin a new fiscal year on July 1, that all the Departments of the Executive Branch; DHHS, State Police, Corrections, IF&W, resources to farmers through the Department of Agriculture, State Parks, Marine Resources; they will all be operating without disruption or interruption.

This continuing services budget preserves the status quo while all of this other uncertainty plays out. To those who say there is still more time, I respectfully disagree. MaineCare providers, those hospitals and nursing homes, began seeing curtailed payments last week and they're seeing their payments curtailed again this week, and whether or not we pass this as an emergency today, they will see reduced payments next week. This needs to end. There are many, many providers, including nursing homes and providers of services to disabled people who are so heavily reliant on MaineCare for their revenue that they may not be able to survive these kinds of disruptions in payments. Our neighbors rely on MaineCare, and they are worried and I'm sure my colleagues have received some of the same phone calls that I have.

Our towns are building their budgets for the next fiscal year. They need to know that the State will meet its commitment to revenue sharing. This continuing services budget does that. Our school committees are planning their budgets right now. They need the certainty of knowing that the State will meet its obligations to continue to provide 55%. This continuing services budget does that.

These might not seem urgent to all of us, but to the people back home, the decision to move forward will have a huge impact. There is nothing controversial in this bill. This budget is straightforward, but it will do great things for Maine people. So, Mr. Speaker, let's move this forward and then roll up our sleeves and get back to work on all the other truly difficult things we need to resolve between now and the end of session. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Newport, Representative Fredette.

Representative **FREDETTE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Last Thursday, a week ago, the supplemental budget which was in this Body and passed by this Body went to the Other Body to be passed. Someone in the Other Body asked the question; I'll vote for this supplemental budget if someone will tell me that the majority party will not run a majority budget. They asked that question a number of times, and they indicated if the answer was no, they would not be; they would vote in the affirmative and pass the supplemental budget. That was a week ago. After much work in this Body and that supplemental budget passed, they could not get assurances in the Other Body that they would not run a majority budget.

As a Member of the Appropriations Committee, we were sitting down in the Committee on Friday, and I think it was around 11:30, one of the staff came in and handed us a piece of paper, and we were told then we're going to be voting out a budget today. The very next day, the paper was still warm, just coming off the printer, the budget's a 400-page document, we didn't have anything to read, we had a piece of paper and about 10 pages with blippies on them, to vote off. That's not how we do a budget.

When I previously served in this Body, oftentimes it was said, Maine is not Washington, referring to, many times, to the dysfunction in Washington. And oftentimes, it would be said, Maine is not Washington, we're different. Mr. Speaker, we've become Washington. We have become the definition of dysfunction. I thought it was important to look at the history of budgets in Maine, so, I went to the Legislative Law Library and I asked the Legislative Law Library, give me some information on how many times a majority budget, Mr. Speaker, have been passed in this institution. And I think it's important to have that historical context, because it goes back to my prior statement that Maine is not Washington. And the information that I got from the Maine Legislative Law Library was that starting in 1956, which was when they started collecting that data, a total of four majority budgets had been passed in the last 65 years. So, to give us historical context, in the last 65 years; I want to say that again, four majority budgets, this would be the fifth. I think it's important to note the first one done was done in 1998-'99, the second one was done in 2006 and 2007, and as many in this Body may be aware, we've recently passed two majority budgets. So, the majority party now seeks to pass a third, three in a row, the fifth in 65 years. Maine has become Washington.

Mr. Speaker, in this Body, nearly half the State is represented by Republicans and half the State, roughly, is represented by Democrats. However, the rights of the minority, the rights of the people on this side of the aisle, are being trampled today by passage of this majority budget. The roughly 600,000 people that this side of the aisle represent, their rights don't matter. The folks that they elected to come to this Body and to represent, their votes don't matter. Because the history of this State is, is that we pass budgets with two-thirds votes. And what that means is, is Democrats and Republicans work together, oftentimes into the month of June, before the end of the fiscal year, and we pass two-thirds budgets. That's what the

history of this State is. Now, we're being asked to believe that passing majority budgets is the new norm. We've normalized passing majority budgets. I don't agree with that. Maine is better than that. We are better than that.

When I looked again at what is being proposed today, again, I tried to look for context. And on January the 28th, not even 60 days ago, not even 60 days ago, the Chief Executive gave a speech to this Body, and that document was entitled the State of the Budget Address by the Chief Executive, Janet Mills, on January the 28th. Most of us were here for that. I want to cite a few passages which were in that, because I think they're important, but I want to note here today before I do that, that there are these terms that now get used in the media, and I think it's important to correct it, because it's not accurate. The document that's being presented today in LD 609 is not a Part A/Part B budget, it's not a Part 1/Part 2 budget, it's not a current services budget. I think one of the best lines I think I've heard or read on this budget is it keeps the lights on. I think even in the State of Maine, with our electric light bills, an \$11.4 billion budget does more than keep the lights on. And so, to our good friends in the media, when you're talking about this, this is a two-year \$11.4 billion budget. And I want to say that again, this is a two-year \$11.4 billion budget. It's not Part A/Part B, Part 1/Part 2, not current services. And I don't know how anyone can say an \$11.4 billion budget is a Part 1/Part 2 budget. What this does do is leave lots of unanswered questions. And you want to talk about the uncertainty in Washington, you want to talk about tariffs; this budget doesn't even include funding in the second year for MaineCare. In the first year, it includes \$122,750,382 for MaineCare funding to reflect increases in cost in enrollment in 2026. And if you look at that same document for 2027, it's blank. And then, if you go down to the bottom of that document, it says, well, it's got an ending balance of 124 million, six hundred; 538 million dollars. But we can all anticipate that number in the second year of the budget is probably going to be higher, and so, when we talk about this being a balanced budget, \$125 million missing, it's not in balance.

Going back to the Chief Executive's address on January the 28th, and I'm quoting directly; if anybody cares, they can go online to the Chief Executive's website, this document is on there. In the second paragraph, she said, "tonight, we gather for the time-honored tradition of a Maine Governor's address to you, the 186 public servants who collectively have chosen to represent the interests of 1.4 million people of this State." And so, the Chief Executive, in her second paragraph of that address, recognizes the importance of the minority, a minority who will have no say in this budget. And she says on the second page, "each of the bills that you will debate this session is designed to change things for the better, but the most consequential and complex tool that we have that affects the lives of Maine people is the State budget." And so, the Chief Executive, in the title of her speech and in her speech, says that this is the most consequential bill that we will address this session. And she indicates in it, and she acknowledges higher operational costs and the leveling off of revenues have merged to produce a tougher than usual budget environment. The time for hard conversations and tough decisions is here, starting with the supplemental budget.

I would submit to you, Mr. Speaker, being handed a piece of paper Friday that was still warm from the printing machine, and having conversations and tough decisions is not consistent with the Chief Executive's comments in her speech to this Body. And in that supplemental budget, we talked about; and again, the Chief Executive acknowledges; a gap in the budget that is the result of four things, and I'm going to take the time to read

them, and I do not mean to belabor my comments, Mr. Speaker, but they're important. The gap is the result of four things: the federal government requiring us to keep people on MaineCare during and after the pandemic; an uptick in health care costs, services, as more people went back to the doctor after the pandemic; an increase in the cost of those services because of inflation; and the practice of cost reimbursements which do not allow the State to control cost, something that we're trying to move away from. Any of these things on their own might've been troublesome, but together, they're very concerning. And those are the sorts of issues that the minority tried to discuss in the supplemental budget, roughly \$118 million, but now an \$11.4 billion budget; the majority decides that they know the answers and they're going to pass a budget without the conversations, without the hard work. She says clearly in her presentation to this Body; on the other hand, the State of Maine is expected to take in \$11.2 billion in revenue. I don't have to spell it out for you, that's a budget gap. That's the Chief Executive telling us we don't have the revenues to support the spending.

I promise, I'm coming to the end. She talks about, in her speech, tax increases, raising the cigarette tax; we haven't talked about that one yet; what about the raise in the cannabis tax? We haven't talked about that one yet. My favorite, the ambulance tax, we haven't talked about that one yet. What about the prescription tax? We haven't talked about that one yet, either. She begins closing her address by saying, "now, I have already heard some of you criticizing the budget before it was even printed, quote, no tax increases, some said, no program cuts from others." Well, I empathize with the Chief Executive, because when she says I've already heard from some folks criticizing the budget before it's even printed, now I know what she meant. We didn't have a printed budget, either, yet the majority party chose to vote it out.

The Chief Executive's direction to the Body was, "I encourage you to reserve judgment, however, and not create barriers to compromise." Then she says, "but it's harder to do the work of sitting around the table;" or the horseshoe; "putting forward your own ideas, hearing what folks on all sides have to say and then coming to consensus to enact balanced public policy." That was the Chief Executive, who's not from our party, was telling us. And now, here we are less than 60 days later, after not having sat around the table, putting forward ideas and voting out a budget. So, where's that leave us? That leaves us with, I suspect, ending session and coming back to work on essentially a supplemental budget again, trying to figure out how we're going to pay for increased costs the Chief Executive spoke about, and whether that's raiding the Rainy Day Fund or cannibalizing other accounts to pay for some of these increases or other budget gimmicks. And Republicans will be criticized that we're not at the table, we're not negotiating in good faith. But really, Mr. Speaker, is what we're doing today in good faith? We're keeping the lights on. This is a two-year budget. It's not balanced, and it takes away the rights of the minority, of half of the 1.4 million people that the Chief Executive talked about in her speech to this Body. We're better than that. We're not Washington. And I urge people not to vote for this because we are better than that and we can prove that we're better than Washington. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **MURPHY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and Colleagues of the House, I rise in strong support of the pending motion.

Maine people deserve predictability, stability and good governance, and that's exactly what this continuing services budget provides for our State. This budget will ensure that we will meet our financial obligations to Mainers and provide continued support for the many critical services that all of our communities depend on. But of all the important initiatives in the budget, perhaps none are more important than the funding it includes for public education throughout our State. This includes funding 55% of K-12 public education costs, a monumental investment. This funding will promote educational equity across school systems and bridges resource gaps. It also includes funding for free school meals for all students. When children have access to healthy meals at school, they are able to concentrate better in the classroom, leading to greater academic performance and enhanced emotional well-being. The better Maine kids do, the better each of our communities do.

Not passing this budget will directly harm students and force local districts to make hard decisions about how schools can continue to best serve their students. Losing this critical funding will also mean that property taxpayers will be forced to make up the difference, causing taxes to increase when many families are already struggling to pay bills. This budget will provide the stability and consistency that our public K-12 school systems and towns across the State rely on. Let's advocate for Maine students and their families by supporting the pending motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Fairfield, Representative Rudnicki.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think this is the first time I've risen to speak on a budget since I've been here. But I want you to ask yourselves this; are we being good stewards of taxpayer money? I would say no.

In the time that I've been in the House, the majority party has rammed through budget after budget after budget, with no regards to the Maine people and how it's affecting them, and with no Republican support. So, more than 400 towns and communities here in Maine are not being represented, because we're not given a seat at the table. You can say we are, but we know we're not, that's why we're ramming through a budget right now. Well, when we end today, the plan we know is *sine die*, our work is done. To continue to play these games and asking the Chief Executive to call us back, we're derelict in our duties as legislators here.

Maine people cannot sustain this budget. When I started in 2019, I came in the same time our Chief Executive did, our budget at that time was \$7.6 billion. We're putting forth a budget of; I should say not we; you are putting forth a budget of \$11.4 billion. For those of you that need the help with the quick math, that's a \$3.8 billion increase in six years' time. Now, furthering those numbers, that's \$2,714 increase per man, woman and child in this State in six years that you're taking out of the pockets of the Maine people and giving it to a variety of your pet projects.

I, like many of my colleagues, are disgusted with this project, or the way this has been happening. Continuously pushing a majority budget; we've proven today, we've proven that we can work together, they've done it in the Transportation Committee, they've proved that we can work together, that we can negotiate, that they're willing to negotiate. We're willing to sit at the table. But to push this through because it has to be done by March 31st is a dereliction on every one of us, particularly the majority party, for doing what they're doing. Maine people cannot sustain this. There should be cuts in this budget, and there should not be any increase in taxes. And let

me ask you this, you get the Chief Executive Officer to call us back into session? There's no more money, why are we even bothering to do any more work after this? Because there's no money to pass anything, what are you going to do? Keep kicking the can down the road. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Presque Isle, Representative Underwood.

Representative **UNDERWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One point that I wanted to make this morning on this budget, there are no guardrails involved in this budget in MaineCare. So, the question I ask is, when are the hospitals going to start crying wolf because they're not receiving their funds from the State? How long is it going to take before they start crying wolf again, and we're back in the same spot? My idea is to vote no on this proposed amendment. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Buxton, Representative Blier.

Representative **BLIER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I rise today in opposition of the current proposal in front of us.

And I think one of the few things that is important, that the Good Representative from Westbrook mentioned, that I agree with, is that we are in uncertain times, and we are having flattening in revenues. So, the question is, then, why are we spending \$100 million more than we have in revenues? Is that prudent? Is that good governance that we're spending \$100 million more than we're getting in currently?

You know, one of the other items that he mentioned is that we're reaching our statutory obligations. Well, when you take the statutory obligation that says we have a levy limit and we put notwithstanding language, so, we don't have to follow that; is that reaching our statutory obligations, Mr. Speaker? Those levy limits were put in place, so, that way, there; the Maine taxpayers of this State are not controlled by out-of-control, out of spending; overspending government policies. That's why the levy limit was put in place. So, when we remove it, we're not reaching our statutory obligation; we're making our own path without the guidelines that previous legislators put in place for exactly what we're doing here today.

I look at this budget and say this is a balanced budget, and you know what, how can we have \$122 million in year '26 to fund MaineCare and have zero dollars in '27? What happened? I don't see any language that's taken all these people off the rolls. What, are we suspecting they're going to die? I mean, where's the money to fund year '27? Because if you put the year '27 in there, then the \$124 million we have left is upside down, and then, we don't have a balanced budget. So, we leave that language out and it looks like we have a balanced budget. Again, fool the media, right here, this is exactly what we're doing.

We have proven to you, Mr. Speaker, that this Body is willing to work with the Democrats. Passing a simple current services budget, right. I'm an Appropriations member, getting the paperwork two hours before we have to vote, does that give us the appropriate time to look over these budgets? No, we're just ramming this thing through, Mr. Speaker. And don't fool anybody else that we're not, all right? We're already \$100 million over budget and we've got another \$350 million left. The money's got to come from someplace, and we're going to find it either through taxing the population, which they're already overtaxed, under uncertain times and flattening revenues, right? We are not the only people that are suffering from inflation. The people of Maine are suffering from inflation, and what are we doing? We're taxing them more. What's going on here, folks? People are hurting out there, why are we crushing them, cutting them at the knees?

This is overspending. We need to make cuts; this is not making any cuts whatsoever. We need to be a Body that works for the people of Maine, and we need to step up, and right now is the time, and passing this is not working for the people of Maine. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The House will be in order. In this Chamber, we have debates that do not result in reaction. If the Member would like to react, the Member can step outside into the hallway and applaud all day long. But in this Chamber, that is not how we conduct our business, and that will be the last warning I provide. The Chair would remind the Member to address his comments to the Chair.

The Chair reminded Representative BLIER of Buxton to address his comments toward the Speaker.

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

Representative **ARATA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I rise not to condemn you or your side of the aisle, but to sincerely provide you with some additional information that maybe you haven't considered yet and to try to bring the tone down in this room, bring the temperature down a little bit, I think we all need that.

You know, and I'm also here to raise the alarm against the short-term planning that went into this budget. In order to fund ongoing commitments, this budget uses one-time sources of revenue and accounting changes, and it doesn't fund MaineCare in 2027. Now, the problems with this have already been discussed, but this one-time revenue includes the Education Stabilization Fund. Now, when this fund was set up a few years ago by the Chief Executive, I really did appreciate that she did that, and I want to give her credit where credit is due. And that's why I am baffled as to why it's being used right now. The Education Stabilization Fund was intended to maintain school funding at 55%, to prevent a spike in property taxes during an economic downturn. Now, so, the very stability that the other side of the aisle has said they seek is provided by this Education Stabilization Fund and that's why it doesn't make sense to use it right now. High property taxes are the number-one concern of our constituents, and if this budget is passed, we won't have this fund for the recession that many experts expect.

Now, our constituents rely on us to plan long-term, and that's why I urge you to vote no. In spite of what just happened, we can work together, we have proven that it's possible, and I'd love to work together with everybody to craft a long-term, sustainable budget that the people we represent deserve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Turner, Representative Morris.

Representative **MORRIS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Who is John Galt? This budget begs that question.

Who is John Galt? With this budget, we are continuing the decline of Maine and its fiscal health and stability. Since the current Chief Executive took office in 2019, Maine has seen its budget bloat from \$7.5 billion to \$11.3 billion with this proposal before us today. While Maine people, families, entrepreneurs are struggling with higher energy costs, higher electricity costs, higher property taxes, a new payroll tax that State workers don't have to pay; this status quo budget doubles and triples down on the failed policies that have caused Maine people and families to see their cost of living skyrocket.

Who is John Galt? This question is continually asked in Ayn Rand's novel, *Atlas Shrugged*, to express a hopeless sentiment as productive people, families, leave society because of a government that sees its job as one of leveling the playing

field, by constantly placing new roadblocks in the way of its citizens in the form of new taxes and new regulations. Indeed, in the last few months, we have seen multiple businesses close throughout Maine. Consistently, they have reported higher energy costs, higher taxes and more burdensome regulations heaped on them by State Government. Who is John Galt, indeed.

The status quo budget does nothing to address the underlying problems with which Maine people have continually expressed their frustrations. This budget is nothing more than a revamp and reissue and rerunning of a late-late show of the same policies that have made life in our State more expensive, chase young people, families and retirees away and force many long-term businesses to shutter their doors.

Five years ago this month was the beginning of the COVID pandemic. At that time, businesses were forced to shut their doors and the employees were thrown to the wolves, as State Government failed to meet the challenges of increased unemployment claims. Despite this cruel reality, many businesses, workers, families persevered here in Maine. How has State Government thanked them since then? With increased unemployment taxes and, as of January 1st, a new payroll tax for Maine businesses, workers and families. The rollout for this new tax scheme has been a disaster brought to you by the same Department of Labor that mismanaged the unemployment system five years ago. Businesses were told they would get an exemption if they offered a private plan, yet the Department of Labor, which has had a year and a half to plan, did not have these rules ready. As of January 1st, everyone is paying in, even if they have their own plan. They say exceptions will be granted next month, but won't commit to sending any money back that has already been paid. This response is unacceptable, and they should be held accountable whether one supports this new tax scheme or not. It is another failure by the DOL and part of why many businesses have closed their doors rather than deal with another failed bureaucratic experiment crafted by their government. Again, who is John Galt?

To add insult to injury, Maine people and businesses have found out that State workers do not have to pay their fair share of this new tax scheme in this status quo budget. They are exempt, meaning Maine people not only have to pay their share of the payroll tax, but the tax for State workers as well. A few weeks ago, the Representative from Poland proposed an amendment to a previous measure that would've required State workers to pay their fair share. In response, he was told by the other side of the aisle that it would be considered in the biennial budget. Today, we are considering that biennial budget, and there is no requirement that State workers pay their fair share of this new tax scheme. We must ask ourselves, if businesses continue to close because of the status quo that is being pushed in this budget, how will State Government continue to find the revenue to pay its bills? More importantly, how will Maine people, Maine families and entrepreneurs find employment to continue to pay the rising costs of living in this State and their rising property taxes?

Who is John Galt? Another reason businesses have closed and another problem that families have cited is the rising cost of energy. It's an issue I hear expressed by families, businesses, retirees, everyone in my district consistently. They have seen their electricity rates continue to rise to pay for a solar tax that is part of their monthly bill. Yet the status quo budget continues this failed policy, doing nothing in the way of relief for Maine families or businesses.

We hear much of the need to pay the hospitals for MaineCare. Make no mistake about it, this is a direct result of failed policies that go back five years ago this month at the beginning of the pandemic. At the time, the Chief Executive ordered that any nonessential preventative care be halted. The result has been a rise in health care costs that has caused the cost of MaineCare to balloon. In the private insurance markets, we have seen people's premiums increase to reflect the increasing costs of health care to pay for the short-sighted edict issued by the Chief Executive five years ago. Maine hospitals have also had to pay the higher cost of travel nurses, because the Chief Executive required that all workers be vaccinated against COVID-19, even though the Federal Government allowed for a testing option for those that chose not to get the vaccine. This also caused the cost of care in our hospitals to rise precipitously, and no doubt contributed to the MaineCare deficit.

Perhaps the worst part of this status quo budget is that it's unconstitutional. Maine's Constitution states we must have a balanced budget, yet this proposal before us spends more money than the State takes in. The Legislature, like all Maine Legislatures before us, took an oath to defend the Constitution. I will honor my oath today and vote against this budget that is out of balance.

Who is John Galt? I have asked that question repeatedly today. This budget is the status quo. It is more of the same, with no concern for the people who pay their bills, the Maine families that are struggling with higher costs and the businesses that create jobs for our citizens. I have used the phrase in reference to the book, *Atlas Shrugged*, by Ayn Rand. I close by sharing with this Body a conversation between two interlocutors from that book that I think perfectly captures the relationship between State Government and our citizens with the passage of this budget. "If you saw Atlas, the giant who holds the world on his shoulders, if you saw that he stood, blood running down his chest, his knees buckling, his arms trembling but still trying to hold the world aloft with the last of his strength, and the greater his effort, the heavier the world bore down upon his shoulders, what would you tell him? I don't know, what could he do? What would you tell him? To shrug." This passage perfectly encapsulates what Maine people, Maine families, Maine entrepreneurs, those young and old all over our State are feeling as they struggle to make a life for themselves in this State, doing everything they can to hold the world up by their shoulders, all the while State Government continues to heap taxes, regulation and costs upon them. It is heavier every day, and this budget does nothing in the way of relief for their burden. Businesses are closing, people are leaving because of the policies pursued and continued in this status quo budget. Those that have stayed and continue to persevere wonder how much longer. It is no wonder that many of them in the last few months have looked at the indifference from their government and decided to shrug. Thank you.

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

Representative **DUCHARME**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I rise today in opposition to LD 609. I don't rise in opposition to funding 55% general purpose aid to education, I don't rise in opposition to maintaining municipal revenue sharing, I don't rise in opposition to filling the MaineCare gap. Clearly, this Body did that before. I don't rise in opposition to protecting Maine forests. My opposition comes from several areas.

First, my opposition comes from the process. The Appropriations Committee had barely completed our public

hearings on the biennial budget. We had not yet received all the report-backs and not had any real substantive discussions about what items would be in the budget and what would not. Our friends on the other side suggest that we must do this in order to make sure that State Government can continue its operations after July first. However, it appears that they don't believe that we have a chance of coming together for a two-thirds budget, and it's necessary to do this after March 30th. As the Good Representative from Newport highlighted, the Chief Executive asked us to do this on January 28th. The problem is, is we just haven't tried. We haven't tried.

The second reason I rise in opposition to this is, quite frankly, the money. The December '24 forecast, revenue forecast, projects that we'll have \$11.22 billion in revenue to use for '26/'27. The proposal before us spends over \$11.4 billion, roughly \$120 million of that is using funds currently sitting in surplus. The rest of the money over the projected revenue number will come from various, what I would call budget gimmicks; using MaineCare and Education Stabilization Funds, using over \$42 million in interest earned on federal art funds, using other special revenue funds including \$14 million in unneeded funds from the Homestead Exemption Fund and other sources of funds that are one-time use and will not be available in future years. Once those funds are spent, future years will look very, very bleak in the State of Maine. There will be no cushion for any kind of disaster, any kind of glitches in the economic forecast that might have a downturn in revenue. At that point, serious cuts will have to be made in order to maintain Maine's balanced budget. Waiting until that time, however, will simply limit the choices of the cuts that will be available. They'll have to be broad, and they'll have to be hard.

Further, we talk about, well, let's see what the May first revenue report shows. How many in this Body expect May 1st revenue report to be above \$11.22 billion? I certainly don't. I won't speak for you, but I bet you don't, either. Now, we're talking about passing this continuing services budget and then, we're going to come back and sit around the horseshoe and we're going to talk about a Part 1 budget, where we then allocate all of the money for the things that we're passing in committees and those things that didn't make it into the continuing services budget. My question is this, how are we going to pay for it? There's no pot of money there. We've used them all.

The third reason I rise is to speak for the roughly 230,000 taxpayers that actually pay the bills for the people of Maine. Roughly 50% of our 1.4 million population is included in the taxpayer pool. However, of that total, about 50% of those people actually pay any taxes. Numbers are interesting to me, so, it's interesting that we have roughly 360,000 taxpayers to pay nearly all the cost of State Government, including MaineCare for over 400,000 people. While Mainers are compassionate and willing to help those truly in need, we have reached a point where we have to make hard choices about who we can help. If we don't make those choices now, Mr. Speaker, they'll be much more dire in the future. Clearly, our colleagues on the other side are not willing to make those hard choices.

Hard choices is what today is all about. I would urge you to make a hard choice on this budget, this continuing services budget, because maybe, if the continuing services budget passes, State Government might continue, but I can tell you the people of Maine are having difficulty continuing. And the people of Maine are making hard choices. Every one of us in this Body has heard about constituents that are making a choice of splitting medications because they can't afford, they're buying different foods than they would like to buy because they can't afford. What makes us different? Because we're the

government? We have to make hard choices, and we have to make hard choices today. I would urge you to reject this budget, instruct Appropriations to get back to the drawing board and come up with a budget that the people of Maine can afford without increasing taxes. We all know we're the fourth-highest taxed State in the Union, but by resetting our priorities to what is necessary and proper to ask the people of Maine to pay for. Thank you.

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

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

It's families, it's children across our State depending on MaineCare for reliable, cost-effective, high-quality health insurance. More than 400,000 people, one in three Mainers, are enrolled in MaineCare; half of all Maine children are covered under this program. They are our friends, they are our family members, our neighbors, our constituents.

Now, I could speak at length today about how important MaineCare is to keeping our communities healthy, something we all should already know, but I won't. Instead, I think it's even more important to focus on the critical impact MaineCare has on the health care system we all rely on, regardless of whether we are enrolled in MaineCare or not. MaineCare is the reason hospitals, nursing homes and community-based service organizations are able to keep their doors open. MaineCare payments to these providers ensure that they are able to provide care that saves lives. Without MaineCare, providers across our State, especially in rural communities that are already experiencing significant care deserts, they would be forced to curtail critical services or shut down, leaving Mainers with nowhere to turn. This budget will provide the stability to ensure that that will not happen. It will also have a significant impact on the workers who provide that care. This budget will implement a cost-of-living adjustment reimbursement rate of 1.9% to essential support and direct care workers throughout the State. These crucial workers provide care to some of the most vulnerable people in our communities, work that is physically and emotionally demanding, underappreciated and, frankly, significantly underpaid.

Right now, there is a care gap in our State, that's no secret. The driving force behind the gap is a lack of available workers. As a result, too many people who need access to these services are simply unable to find them. As a State, it's our responsibility to do everything we can to ensure that every Mainer, regardless of where they live, has access to the care they need. It is also our responsibility to ensure that we compensate the workers who care for the most vulnerable neighbors we have fairly and for the thankless work that they do for our communities.

To be clear, the COLA increase included in this budget will not solve all of the challenges that our essential support and direct care workers are facing, but it is an important start to meet our obligations as a State, and to show that we value these workers who are taking care of our neighbors, our family members, our community members, our constituents. For these reasons, and many more, I urge you to join me in supporting this measure. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Orrington, Representative Campbell.

Representative **CAMPBELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I want to start with a little story. There are a few of us that came in sometime long ago, far away, where I as a Republican and three of my colleagues were placed in seats on the other side of the aisle. And we were placed in

seats behind other freshmen from the other side of the aisle; the Good Representative from Portland, Representative Brennan, Rowe, Townsend; and it was an interesting time because the session just before that, and we use this boogeyman all the time, the State shut down. It shut down for Worker's Comp. We had two personalities involved, we had Chief Executive McKernan, and we had Speaker Martin. And just a little story about what I didn't go through, but what we heard about was, of course, it was a major shutdown on Worker's Comp. The Speaker of the House would go out at lunch and gin up the crowd, who would then drive their tractor-trailer trucks around the State House with airhorns, all day and all night. The Speaker made the Republicans walk through the gauntlet from the office, down the hall, which was loaded; loaded unlike what we hear and see here today. And these fine ladies; Ruth Foster and Kaleigh Woods from Bangor and Ellsworth; were spat upon, had airhorns in their ears, to come into the Body, when, of course, there's a back way through the Clerk's office. And I just share that with you because that's kind of what was going on in the lowest part of this Legislature's history.

So, now, let's fast forward to a different time, when Representative Brennan and I first arrived. Actually, it was quite cordial. We actually became good friends, except his conservative nature of dressing. That's when we were faced with the first \$1 billion; \$1 billion shortfall. One billion. So, the budget proposed by the Chief Executive was \$4.125 billion. So, that meant we were overspending a \$3.125 billion budget. It was interesting because there were some of us that decided, this isn't going to work. So, we decided to start meeting in the back of Appropriations where, with the information of George Kerr as the House Chair, and a group of Bob Tardys and Sam DiPietros and all these names that we've heard about out in our private lives, just decided, this isn't working. So, a term I'd never been aware of was a term 'zero-based budgeting;' spend what you spent last time this time. And guess what? That's the budget that we passed, because people were civil. Look at me and Representative Brennan. It happened because we were working together, and guess when it happened? I don't remember the date, but it was late in the First Regular Session, June-ish, so, there was a need for 101 votes. I remember sitting in the darkness of this Body, well into the night, until we got 101 votes. Look at us now. Simple majority budgets, over and over and over. Let me tell you a little story about that.

In 1998-'99, I forgot, but it's been mentioned, I sat in the corner, and we were invited to the Chief Executive's breakfast. They were nice breakfasts, if you like granola. Chief Executive King pointed his finger at us Republicans and said, if you Republicans don't start working with the Democrats, I will. We looked at each other and said, we've been working with the Democrats in the Speaker's office for a month. That's how the first idiotic budget was passed. The system is broken down. It's time to get back to the purpose of serving on behalf of the citizens of Maine. The Legislature and the budget process has lost respect for the institution and the people of Maine. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Carmel, Representative Thorne.

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in opposition to the pending motion, and I hope everyone here in this Chamber will rise in opposition and speak their displeasure.

In my going on five years in the Legislature, I've learned all about hypocrisy, inconsistency and double standards within our Legislature. I thought when I came in the Legislature and became a legislator, that I would be working with everyone to

come to a common goal. That hasn't worked out. I won't talk to the nuts and bolts of this budget, I'll leave that to my colleagues from Madison, Newport, New Gloucester, Buxton; they've already spoken eloquently to the details of it. I can tell you that I know of my portion of this budget, as I sit on the Marine Resource and Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and I know that each of those budgets, each of them are up \$16 million from the last biennial budget. Ironically, both of them are up \$16 million. We had hoped to keep the budget low, to not increase taxes, to keep the numbers where they were, but instead, we grew government again. We always heard about the 1,500 vacant positions that are budgeted in the baseline for Maine government workers. Last biennial budget, we increased that by 300 positions; we added 300 positions to our vacant list. This budget adds about 250 more positions to government in the State of Maine. That's up near 2,000 vacant positions that we budget for.

One other point that I'll make is I heard the Representative from Westbrook mention that we have so much work to do, so much important work to do here in the 132nd. And I would add a preemptive statement that we have so much work to do in the 132nd. There's been over 2,000 bills submitted. Our work is far from *sine die*. That may go back to my inconsistency statement earlier.

I heard another Representative on the other side of the aisle talk about the importance for funding public education and that they advocate for Maine families, Maine students, friends, neighbors, people that are vulnerable, people that are underappreciated. Mr. Speaker, my seatmate, the Representative from Auburn, has been silenced for speaking up for her students, for her neighbors, for her friends. One thing is clear, Mr. Speaker, we've heard it said before, Maine does not have a revenue problem, we have a spending problem, and I urge everyone in this Chamber to vote no on the pending motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, if I were to know this budget is subsidizing out-of-state community college students; Mr. Speaker, if I were to know that this budget doesn't require State employees to have to pay their fair share of paid family leave; Mr. Speaker, if I were to know this budget retains the regressive solar tax; Mr. Speaker, if I were to know this budget contains zero tax relief for working Mainers, would I still hit the green button?

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Dexter, Representative Foster.

Representative **FOSTER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I rise simply to bring some clarity to something that was mentioned earlier by one of the speakers when they referred to folks' electric bills at home.

I want to assure everyone here that there's almost nothing in this budget that you are concerned about that has any effect on that. Since I've been here in the 129th, I have a list of the bills that we've passed in EUT that have added to the cost of electricity for ratepayers in Maine. Unfortunately; or fortunately for you; I left that list at home. But that list will continue because when we pass a bill in EUT, it almost always is funded from other sources, which is mostly ratepayers in Maine, whether it's electric, utility, gas ratepayers or water ratepayers. And we will continue to do so. This Body does not review those fiscal notes, because there is none, it comes from other revenues, which is the ratepayers. So, when and if this Body continues and EUT continues their work, we will still address more bills, and I am sure in some form or fashion will add to that significant number

that we've added to ratepayers' bills over my time here in the Legislature.

Now, I will add that that certainly has an effect on those folks that are paying the bills for what you are about to pass here today. And we should keep that in mind, because those folks at home who are trying to pay their electric bills along with everything else that this Government has added to their cost of living in the State of Maine over the years will be faced with some decisions. They may be notified that their power is going to be shut off or, as we did in the last Legislature, they may find that they now are eligible for the low-income subsidy for ratepayers that no longer can afford to pay their bills. By the way, we increased that level, income level, where people are eligible last time, because of the cost of everything that they have to pay for in the State of Maine, most especially their electric bills. And as I told the Public Advocate the day we passed that bill; which I helped sponsor, because we had to do it; I told him we cannot keep doing this, but we will as long as we don't face up to what we're doing in the State of Maine to pay for ridiculous energy issues that are unnecessary here in the State of Maine, competing with what you are proposing to pass here today.

I will be voting no on this bill, because I know that they have other things to pay for, like their electric bill, that I have no say in this particular piece of legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **BRENNAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House; \$6.4 billion. That is a significant amount of money, and that is the amount of money that is owed by 186,000 citizens in the State of Maine in student debt; \$6.4 billion. One of the reasons that we started the free community college was to provide an affordable pathway for students and families to higher education. By almost every metric that the Legislature established for the community college, it has been met, and in particular, it has benefited rural Maine. In this budget, we continue funding for free community college. What that means is that not 10s of millions of dollars, but hundreds of millions of dollars will be saved by Maine families and Maine students over the next generation of them pursuing higher education. I think that's a fairly good investment.

One hundred and twenty-five million dollars is a significant amount of money, and according to the Margaret Chase Smith Center public policy review, in the first two years of COVID in the State of Maine, every hospital in the State of Maine collectively saved; saved \$125 million due to the MaineCare expansion; saved \$125 million. And in subsequent years, there's been additional millions of dollars that have been saved because of the MaineCare expansion. This budget continues funding for MaineCare and continues insurance for hundreds of thousands of citizens across the State of Maine, as well as payment to hospitals and hospital providers. I think that's a pretty good investment for the State of Maine.

And lastly, I served as the Mayor of Portland for four years, and on any number of occasions, we had to delay our budget, postpone our budget and step back from going through our budgeting process at the municipal level, because the State had not made a decision about how much they were going to invest in revenue sharing, school funding and other state revenue. This budget gives absolute certainty to every municipality, to every School Board across the State of Maine of what their expectation should be in terms of revenue sharing and school funding. That's going to result in property tax relief, as well as making sure that students receive quality education in our

schools. So, this budget, I would say, is a pretty good budget, and is a budget that invests in Maine communities, invests in Maine's families and saves hundreds of millions of dollars in educational costs and in medical costs.

So, I'm very supportive of this budget, and I hope that people in this Chamber will also endorse this budget and allow us to move forward. And lastly; I think I said lastly, maybe I'll say finally this time; my seatmate on the Appropriations Committee, the Representative from Buxton, Representative Blier; and I only have a seatmate to the right of me, I don't have a seatmate to the left of me; and I want to say, if I had a choice of any seatmate on the Appropriations Committee, it would be Representative Blier. I am very appreciative of the opportunity to sit next to him and serve with him, and I look forward, as we move forward with the next budget, next iteration of budgets, to working with him and other people on the Education Committee to continue to make sound decisions and investments for the people of the State of Maine. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Buxton, Representative Blier.

Representative **BLIER**: Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I want to thank the Good Representative from Portland. I enjoy sitting next to him as well. And the reason is because we can disagree, right, and still have compliments like we just had. That's what Legislature's all about.

But I do want to make a comment that I just heard from the Good Representative from Portland where we'll disagree. The \$100 million that we're saving on tuition for our students at the Maine Community College is not a savings, it's a transfer. We're transferring it from the student to the taxpayers. And that's really what the free community college is; it's not free, we're just borrowing it from other people, other people are paying for it. Now, I'm not against community college and I'm not against free community college; that's not why I'm standing here; but the one thing that's important is that 40% of the people that go to community college don't get a degree. That means the taxpayers are paying 40% of an education for a student that never graduates. That's humongous. And the second; we have no guidelines between educating people from other countries, which we do, as long as they have a Maine address, they don't have to graduate from Maine and we're educating them and we don't know if they're staying, they could be going back to another country and/or another state.

Now, I'm not against community colleges being paid for by the State, that's not what I'm saying. We need to put guidelines. This budget doesn't do that. That's all I'm saying. Thank you so much.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Hodgdon, Representative Quint.

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I feel as though we've come full circle. My very first speech on the House Floor was speaking against the budget when we were both in the session before last and now, here we are again with the same issue, and that saddens me.

Some have said that supporting this budget is important to our rural areas. I find this ironic, as my district is completely rural, and my voice and therefore, my entire district; Republicans, Independents and Unenrolled; has been left out of this budgetary process once again. I am very disappointed by this motion, and I really hope that we can vote this down. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Sanford, Representative Mastraccio.

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

I have served for over 30 years as an elected official, and many of those years were in municipal government. During my tenure as a town councilor and as Mayor of Sanford, I became very familiar with the challenges that municipalities across the State face without the support, stability and predictability of a strong State budget. The budget before us today will provide that critical stability and certainty that our communities need and are asking us for.

It includes many important initiatives that I could talk about, but one of the most fundamentally important is that it fulfills the State's obligation to provide five percent in municipal revenue sharing to every city and town in our State. This funding is absolutely essential. Right now, local governments across Maine are facing growing financial uncertainty, and many are concerned about balancing their budgets while still being able to meet their community's needs. The economic instability facing our country and State is leaving many of our municipalities and constituents feeling vulnerable, and it is our responsibility to provide stability where we can. This budget does exactly that, ensuring that towns across Maine will have a strong foundation upon which to craft their upcoming budgets. Without the funding from municipal revenue sharing, the burden of municipal costs for local services fall directly on local residents, many of whom simply cannot afford it. I'm sure that everyone here has heard loud and clear from their constituents that they're struggling with the rising costs of property taxes. The funding included in this budget will alleviate that burden and prevent property taxes from increasing even faster.

In this Chamber, we hear a lot of talk about the importance of lowering costs for Maine people. Well, let me be crystal clear; a vote against this budget is a vote to raise costs on Mainers. It is a vote to raise property taxes, and it's a vote to make it harder for working families to make ends meet. Our constituents are watching, and they're counting on us to do the right thing. For these reasons and so many more, I am proud to vote in support of the measure before us, and I urge you all to do the same. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **DUCHARME**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for allowing me to rise a second time.

When I first rose, I talked about how Maine taxpayers are truly compassionate and willing to help those who are in need. And I appreciate the Good Representative from Eliot's remarks about the folks that are really relying on MaineCare and some of the programs. But like I also said, I'm about numbers, and numbers tell the story. In this current presentation of the budget, there's \$11,449,000,000 for HHS. Those are all the folks that are being helped by some program or another, whether it be MaineCare or other programs through the Department of Health and Human Services. The numbers of folks that are being helped is about 500,000 Mainers. That's \$23,000 a person, Mr. Speaker. Twenty-three thousand dollars a person that Maine taxpayers; remember I said there was 360,000 of them; are being asked to pay. Now, part of that is federal money, but those same taxpayers are paying federal dollars as well. So, we just need to have real perspective. We can stand up here and we can talk about how it tears at our heartstrings, but we have to live in reality, and the reality is we cannot afford this. We just can't afford it.

I don't want to leave a big bill for my kids and my grandkids to pay, and if we go down this road, that's what we're going to do. For my kids, everybody else's kids in this Chamber are going to have to pay this bill, and you know what they'll do? They'll not pay this bill, because they'll cross the bridge in Kittery. I already hear people all the time talking about, man, I can't afford to live here anymore, I can't afford to live here anymore, I'm going to go here, I'm going to go there, and so forth and so on. We're struggling to get people to come here and work, while at the same time, every time somebody does a little bit better and gets ahead, we say, oh, wow, the State needs their bigger cut of that. We have to stop that. And if we don't make those hard choices now by voting against this budget and coming back and doing the hard work, the number of 1.4 million people in the State of Maine will go down. I'm pretty sure that will happen. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Newport, Representative Fredette.

Representative **FREDETTE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. First of all, just a Point of Order, I'd question whether or not there's a quorum present of the Body.

Representative **FREDETTE** of Newport inquired if a Quorum was present.

The Chair ordered a quorum call.

More than half of the members responding, the Chair declared a Quorum present.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Phillips, Representative Soboleski.

Representative **SOBOLESKI**: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen. In looking at the budget and looking at the numbers, I've tried to figure out how our government --

The SPEAKER: The Member will defer. The House will be in order. The House will be in order. There's still debate occurring. The Member may proceed.

Representative **SOBOLESKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. In looking over the budget, I've tried to determine, how has our government gotten so big? It appears like it's bloated. I've asked a number of questions to a number of people. Some of it relates back to COVID and the COVID funds that we'd received; we grew our government to a point, and now that that's over with, we're unable to sustain ourselves. And I looked at last year's \$10.2 billion biennial; knowing 1.5 was used last year, we received 4.8 in government funding as well, so, we ran last year on \$10 billion. That's an astronomical amount of money to me. So, I did some looking to find out where a lot of it's going.

I found that we have \$730 million in an overfunded, bloated Unemployment Insurance Trust Fund, which only requires about \$450 million in order to be solvent and safe. This year, the Department of Labor came in front of the Labor Committee and they're looking for an additional \$250 million per year for that fund. And they testified that they only spend about \$150-175 million a year. So, that means by fiscal year '27, we'll be putting another \$250 million into that account. That will be nearly a billion dollars taken out of our economy and put in a State account. Half a billion of that, \$500 million, that doesn't need to be there. Gone from our economy, money we could be using for budget issues, things of that nature, it's just parked there, that's all it is.

Then I looked at the paid family medical leave program. That's not just the \$30 million that we're taking out and spending for it, in '24-'5, '25-'6, and '26-'7 fiscal years, estimated revenue is \$880 million into that fund. Nobody can apply to take any money out of it until next year, about a year from now. So, again,

we're going to have approximately half a billion dollars taken out of our economy and parked in an account that's not able to be used. Looking further, I found that in Other Special Revenue accounts, we had \$1,006,000,000 tucked into those accounts. I asked, what it's all for; we have money coming in, money going out, money coming in, money going out. Then, this morning, I learned that money's being appropriated out of some of those accounts to cover shortfalls. So, again, we have hundreds of millions of dollars tucked away, out of our economy, from our taxpayers that's just sitting and not being used. It's not fair, it's not right.

My colleague, the Good Representative from Carmel, talked about the 1,750 unfulfilled government jobs, State jobs that we have. That's approximately \$100,000, when you average them out, per job that are not fulfilled. That's 1,750 one-hundred-thousand-dollar slush funds sitting out in our different Departments. Again, money that does not need to be there.

I also noticed that there's nothing in this budget that addresses overspending, waste, unfilled positions, unfilled workstations in our government. This past week, I was in D.C. at an Americans for Tax Reform meeting and a Representative from the new Administration came in, talked about how to deal with some of those issues. Over 65,000 workstations just in the federal government, 30-some-odd thousand of them weren't even filled. How many do we have? How much waste do we have? I don't want to go down the road of fraud, because that's something you just, you know, you can't prove in any way, really; but how much are we wasting? How much are we taking that we don't need to have? Now, more than ever, Maine needs a Department of Government Efficiency, and there's nothing in this budget at all that addresses any of the issues that I've talked about. It's spend, spend, spend, more, more, more. How far are we going to go?

Another one of my colleagues talked earlier about going from a \$7 billion budget; now we're up over 11-12. We just keep going and going and going. We need to make changes in our budget system which will address not only the money that we need to continue to run our government, but also work towards whittling our government down, so it's sustainable for the population, for our taxpayers; so we're not just taking and taking and taking. Thank you.

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

Representative **LEMELIN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Friends in the House. My Democratic friends continue to stand and eloquently talk about approximately 10 items that they keep bragging about, because these are the good items within the budget that are just tear-jerking and they think the people of Maine are going to fall for this.

Regardless of whether we pass this budget right now or we do the right thing for the people of Maine and wait and negotiate, wait for all the bills to come through and then negotiate and pass a budget two-thirds; either way, all these people, including these 10 tear-jerking items; which I can assure you, we're not going to eliminate, they're all going to get passed and they're going to get passed at the exact same time. So, there's really no need not to negotiate, except you have to negotiate, except you have to include all Mainers instead of just some of them.

The predicament we're in right now, especially in the Department of Health and Human Services, the \$118 million shortfall is because of the bills that we passed. When you pass a bill that says every family; and Mainers don't know this yet, and if the news puts this out, we're in even more serious trouble; but two parents with one child, by law, they can make 300%

above the federal poverty level, which means they can make \$80,000 a year; a family of three that makes \$80,000 a year, they don't need their kids on MaineCare, but the law says they can be, and so, they keep joining. And it's not that we don't care, as Republicans, about the children; oh, we care about them as much as anybody in this building. The difference is, families making \$80-100,000 a year don't need their kids on MaineCare, and if they do, they need to come see me, and I can counsel them on how to properly finance.

As far as the most vulnerable; and we value everyone, like my Good Friend from Eliot said; well, that's true, we all do; but that's not who's on MaineCare. Some, yes. But you see, New Hampshire has the same values Maine has; they care about the vulnerable and they care about everyone. They have the same population Maine has. Not only that, they passed the same MaineCare expansion. Here's the difference; we have 425,000 people on MaineCare, and that number is climbing daily; they have 187,000. We're doing something wrong. They don't have less poor people than we have. That's a statistical fact.

So, I want to talk about the elephant in the room that nobody here wants to talk about except a few people, and that is, where are we going to be in two years? Every business I've ever owned or run, we look five, 10 years out, where are we going to be? Well, as a Legislative Body, we should be doing that right now. Where are we going to be in two years if we pass this budget? I'll tell you where we're going to be; in a worse position than we are now, with a \$118 million deficit just in HHS. We're going to be deeper in the hole. That's a guaranteed fact. And the next person on the second floor who gets elected in two years, wow, are they going to be in a world of hurt. The next Legislative Body, we're burying them in debt. Why are we doing this? When all we have to do is; I knocked on over 2,000 doors, and more than the fact that they can't pay their bills, the number one thing that every one of them said to me is, why can't you work together? I said, come to the State House, sit in our Committees, sit on the House Floor and you'll see why we can't work together. Come watch a majority budget be passed, you'll see why we can't work together.

Mr. Speaker, the people of the State of Maine, that's who we're here for, and they want you and your friends to work with us on this budget and come to an agreement. It's a simple process. I don't want to dig a hole. I want to be more like New Hampshire when it comes to DHHS. Make me the Commissioner of DHHS, and I'll solve your problems for you. I'll solve them quick. And I will take care of every single Mainer that needs help. I won't leave anybody out. You know how caring I am. I have a son with special needs, I know what it's like. I've taken a beating for 29 years, and I'll take that beating for everyone else, too; every other family member in Maine. I've been poor. It's not a great feeling. And I am willing to help every single person get back on their feet. But it doesn't take a brain surgeon to figure out that if we have 425,000 people on MaineCare and New Hampshire has 187,000, that we're doing something wrong. And every single Mainer knows that we're not working together.

So, yes, I oppose this measure, not because I don't believe in the 10 tear-jerking things that everybody wants to keep mentioning, not at all; it's because of the rest of it. This budget has serious flaws, and the funniest part is every single one of my colleagues across the aisle; including you, Mr. Speaker; you know it. You know darn well this isn't right, and you're moving forward anyway. And if anybody can explain why to me, great. But I want the people of Maine to know right now that I disapprove of this budget, not because I don't want hospitals paid, not because I don't care about children, not because I don't

care about the poor, the vulnerable; not at all. It's because I'm elected to do the job of the people of Maine, and this budget is not that. There's a problem here, all I want to do is fix it. And that's all I'm asking here is, why not wait? We have plenty of time to get a budget through. Plenty of time. There is no need to do this, because nobody's getting paid any quicker. They're getting paid in July. There's no magic act here, they're getting paid in July, the same time they'll get paid if we sit down and do what the people of Maine have asked us to do. And I've spoken to you about that right here on the floor. I said, Mr. Speaker, we need to negotiate, we just need the right people in there negotiating. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Newport, Representative Fredette.

Representative **FREDETTE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I'll be brief. I started this conversation today asking the question; frankly, which was posed by the Chief Executive; about us sitting down, working together and passing a two-year budget. I just heard the Good Representative from Portland, who I met 40 years ago now, talking about free community college and how it was a good thing and what it was helping to do to help our economy. And in the marketplace of ideas, we can debate that, have conversations about it and vote on it. That's not what's happening today. I've heard many speeches about how this is a good budget, how it gives certainty to school districts, how it helps the municipalities. I have not heard anybody answer the question why we have to do this now.

Statutory adjournment, by its very name and nature, is called statutory adjournment for a reason. Statutory adjournment in the long session is the third Wednesday in June; that's June the 18th. That's nearly 90 days from today; statutory adjournment. It's State law. But here we are today, and nobody's answered the question about why we're doing this today, it's a good budget. And I appreciate the Good Representative from Portland calling it a budget because it is a budget; it's not part 1, it's not part 2, part A/part B, we're keeping the lights on; it's a budget, but without the conversation and the marketplace of ideas between both sides, talking about the value of free community college, fully funding 55% of education, doing it without raising taxes, without taking money from the Rainy Day Fund; that's the hard work, that's the hard work that we were sent here to do, and we're circumventing that today, and we're going to adjourn today, 90 days prior to statutory adjournment, because we don't want to do that, because we have a good budget. Because it's the opposite of what we're sent here to do, and I find that unfortunate.

Why we can't sit and debate these issues in Committee and report out a budget? Back in 2010, Republicans had control of the House and the Senate and the Governorship, and we worked with the minority party then, and then-Minority Leader Emily Cain, and produced a budget which got two-thirds support in the House and the Senate and was signed by the Chief Executive. That's what we did when we had a majority not very long ago. It's not what we're doing today, and as I've spoken earlier, it's not what we've done generally since about 65 years ago. So, why are we doing it again today? I ask you to reject this budget so we can get back to work and doing this the normal way. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Guilford, Representative White.

Representative **WHITE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in opposition of this bill.

I will not speak to the details of the 400 pages that I obviously haven't had a chance to read, and I know my

colleagues that have been trying to do a good job and haven't had the opportunity to sort through 400 pages, either. I heard my colleague from the other side of the aisle talk about how great of a deal this is for rural Maine, and my district is recognized by the Federal Government as a frontier district. It doesn't get a lot more rural than where I live, and the folks that I represent.

What we've seen this session is the suppression of my constituents; a little different than the suppression of the constituents in Auburn, but suppression, nonetheless. I've heard it said that, you know, we're very close to 50% here in this Body between the parties. But if you look at a map geographically, it's more like 80/20, when you look at a map of the State of Maine. And I've heard for years about how there's two Maines. You know, the sounds that you hear in rural districts nowadays are quite telling. Last year, Representative Woods allowed me to join him bear baiting, and what did I hear for a sound? I heard very disturbing sounds of windmills that would basically drive you nuts if the wind was blowing right. The other sound that we hear are the rush of the jobs leaving our county, our districts. A few years ago, a colleague and I, over dinner, scratched out over 25 major employers right in my area that had left in the last 25 years. This last year, I've had several of the remaining employers tell me how they're right on the edge of leaving. Yet, we're still budgeting to make them pay family Maine medical leave, but not our colleagues here in the State. If you work for the State, they've got to pay that, too.

Passing a minority budget takes away the voice of my constituents, takes away the voice of 80% of the geography of this State. It's wrong, it was wrong last session, it was wrong the session before. People may not have noticed then, but they're noticing now. This is wrong.

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

Representative **GATTINE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't rise to prolong this lengthy debate, but as I've sat here and listened, I have heard a number of misstatements of fact that I just want to clear up for the Chamber; but more importantly, knowing that people watch, people listen, there are members of the press here, I think it's very important to understand the facts and clear a couple things up. I won't go through my whole list.

A couple members got up and said that LD 609 does not fund MaineCare in the second year of the biennial. I just want people to understand, especially people who rely on those services, people who provide those services; this provides \$1.3 billion in State funding for MaineCare in the second year; that's matched by the Federal Government by about a 2:1 basis. So, there are billions of dollars available here to meet the needs of MaineCare in 2027, including 35 million additional dollars to account for the change in the federal match.

I heard some folks talk about new taxes, and again, I just want to be very clear, you know, I think the Representative from Newport mentioned the cannabis tax, the cigarette tax, ambulance tax, pharmacy tax, things that were proposed in LD 210 by the Chief Executive. Again, I just want to be very clear, those taxes are not in this budget, so, I don't want people to think if people vote for this, they're voting for those taxes.

The Representative from Carmel talked about 240 new positions. There are no new positions, there are no new State-funded positions in this budget, Mr. Speaker. And again, I just wanted people who are listening, you know, reporting on this, hearing this over the airwaves to understand that this budget does not add any of the new positions that were originally proposed by the Chief Executive. So, I just wanted to clear those things up as we move forward. Thank you.

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

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just heard that there's no new taxes in this budget that we're debating on. I'd like to ask a question through the Chair, if I may.

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Milford, Representative Drinkwater, would like to pose a question to the Chair. He may proceed.

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're not done with the budget. We have a phase two that we're going to go to. From what I understand, and this is a true-or-false question, does the Appropriations Committee have the wherewithal and the authority to put those taxes back into the budget? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Member has posed a question through the Chair to any Member who wishes to answer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Poland, Representative Boyer.

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Do I have permission to ask a question through the Chair?

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **BOYER**: As far as I know, there's nearly 2,000 positions that we have funded but not filled. Am I accurate in that?

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Poland, Representative Boyer, has posed a question through the Chair to any Member who wishes to answer.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 22

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

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

ABSENT - Hall, Kessler, Lookner, Lyman, Mason, Mathieson, Nutting.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 74; No, 69; Absent, 7; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 69 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended Report** was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**.

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

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Mr. Speaker, I'm a little confused. Are we voting on the emergency enactment?

The SPEAKER: The pending question is dispensing of the reading of Committee Amendment "A." The Chair recognizes the Representative from Milford, Representative Drinkwater.

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'm a little confused here, because I've heard; and I sat here the whole time, just so we could have a quorum; and I heard a lot about hospitals being paid, not being paid. You know, on the 11th of March, when we voted on 209, we gave you more than enough support, you know, to pass that supplement, but it didn't work out. So, we as House Members showed you that we're willing to work and let's get things done. So, now we're talking about an emergency, and I've got some questions here from some of my colleagues. Is this an emergency? Because that's what I've heard from the other side, that we need to get this done. That would be my question. Thank you, sir.

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Milford, Representative Drinkwater, has posed a question through the Chair to any Member who wishes to answer. I believe the question is: Does the Committee Amendment contain an emergency preamble? The Chair recognizes the Representative from Westbrook, Representative Gattine.

Representative **GATTINE**: Mr. Speaker, the matter does contain an emergency preamble.

Subsequently, **Committee Amendment "A" (H-13)** was **READ** by the Clerk.

Representative BOYER of Poland **PRESENTED House Amendment "A" (H-15)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (H-13)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

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

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is the same amendment I submitted for the supplemental a couple weeks ago that the Representative from Turner referenced earlier, simply asking us, State employees, to pay their, our, fair share of the new paid family leave payroll tax. Many Mainers had no idea that this program was set up in this manner. Looking at the fiscal note for this Amendment, taxpayers would save nearly \$3 million, Mr. Speaker, if we made this change. Hundreds of thousands of dollars would be returned to the Highway Fund, Mr. Speaker. I don't know about you, Mr. Speaker, but my soul has left my body on more than one occasion driving on Maine roads this season.

Now, some might say State employees will start paying later down the line; maybe that's true, maybe it's not, we don't know how it will play out. Either way, Mr. Speaker, one day, one month, one year is too long for this blatant and clear unfairness. Let's show that we stand with Maine workers and vote yes on this Amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **GATTINE**: Mr. Speaker, there are a number of bills working its way through the Legislature so far dealing with this issue, and I would move that this item and all of its accompanying papers be Indefinitely Postponed.

Representative **GATTINE** of Westbrook moved that **House Amendment "A" (H-15)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (H-13)** be **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

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

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think that's hogwash, and I'd like to have a Roll Call.

Representative BOYER of Poland **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE House Amendment "A" (H-15)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (H-13)**.

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 "A" (H-15) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 23

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

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

ABSENT - Hall, Kessler, Lookner, Lyman, Mason, Mathieson, Nutting.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 74; No, 69; Absent, 7; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 69 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly **House Amendment "A" (H-15)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (H-13)** was **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

Representative BOYER of Poland **PRESENTED House Amendment "B" (H-16)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (H-13)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

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

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Colleagues of the House, this Amendment requires a person to be a graduate of high school in the State of Maine, or have obtained the equivalent of a high school diploma through a home instruction program in Maine, in order to be eligible for the free tuition in the Maine community college system.

So, right now, our current law does not require that you even have, you know, grown up in Maine, went to school in Maine, you just have to be here and we'll give you free college. We're broke; we don't have any money. My town's school budget is getting busted, and it's going to get busted again. And we want to subsidize kids from Massachusetts and New Hampshire to come to our schools for free? It's a noble cause, but we don't have any money, Mr. Speaker. And nothing in the law to require them to stay for two years or four years or garnish

their wages if they leave or something, there's nothing in there, it's the honor system. What's going to keep them here? Our low taxes and affordable housing? Give me a break. Continuing services budget, we're going to continue to give services for people from away. I'm over it, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Representative **GATTINE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The issue about the future of the free community college system, again, is currently part of a bill in front of the Appropriations Committee, LD 210, we'll be taking that up. So, I would move that this item and all of its accompanying papers be Indefinitely Postponed.

Representative GATTINE of Westbrook moved that **House Amendment "B" (H-16) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13) be INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

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

Representative **BOYER**: Mr. Speaker, that's malarkey, and I request a Roll Call vote.

Representative BOYER of Poland **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE House Amendment "B" (H-16) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13).**

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 appreciate it. I had a question for the Chair.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **UNDERWOOD**: Are we going to be able to take a break here sometime in the next hour and a half, two hours?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would inform the Member that the Chair anticipates a total of 17 floor amendments being offered this afternoon. We will take a break after the floor amendments have been offered. We are on the second floor amendment.

A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Indefinite Postponement of House Amendment "B" (H-16) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 24

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

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

Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Hall, Kessler, Lookner, Lyman, Mason, Mathieson, Nutting.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 74; No, 69; Absent, 7; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 69 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly **House Amendment "B" (H-16) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13) was INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

Representative CHAPMAN of Auburn **PRESENTED House Amendment "C" (H-17) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13), which was READ** by the Clerk.

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

Representative **CHAPMAN**: I'm neither eloquent nor articulate; I'm vulgar and I get things done. This is about community college being free, and it doesn't matter if you're from Maine or not. My constituents were very upset with this, the Representative from Poland brought it up last budget session and I was asked to bring it up again. I tried calling him, he didn't answer, so, here it is. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Fairfield, Representative Rudnicki.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Mr. Speaker, we're kind of rushing through these amendments, and other than what whoever presents the amendment says, we're not hearing anything. I would like to actually have the Amendment read, so we, you know, so we all know, because apparently, your side of the aisle does not believe what we're saying and what these amendments are, so, it might be a good idea, let's read the amendments. Thank you.

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

Representative **GATTINE**: Mr. Speaker, this appears to be very, very similar to an amendment we just Indefinitely Postponed a few minutes ago. Again, this is an issue that is contained in a bill currently before Appropriations. I would move that this item and all of its accompanying papers be Indefinitely Postponed.

Representative GATTINE of Westbrook moved that **House Amendment "C" (H-17) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13) be INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

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

Representative **CHAPMAN**: That's a soup sandwich. I call for a Roll Call. I request a Roll Call.

Representative CHAPMAN of Auburn **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE House Amendment "C" (H-17) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13).**

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-17) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 25

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher,

Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

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

ABSENT - Hall, Kessler, Lookner, Lyman, Mason, Mathieson, Nutting, Underwood.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 74; No, 68; Absent, 8; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 68 voted in the negative, with 8 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly **House Amendment "C" (H-17) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13) was INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

Representative CHAPMAN of Auburn **PRESENTED House Amendment "D" (H-18) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

The same Representative moved that further reading of **House Amendment "D" (H-18) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13)** be dispensed with.

Representative RUDNICKI of Fairfield **OBJECTED** to dispensing with further reading of **House Amendment "D" (H-18) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13).**

Representative MOONEN of Portland **REQUESTED** a roll call on dispensing with further reading of **House Amendment "D" (H-18) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13).**

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 to dispense with further reading of House Amendment "D" (H-18) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 26

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arata, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Carlow, Cloutier, Cluchey, Cooper, Copeland, Crafts, Cray, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Guerrette, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hymes, Jackson, Julia, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Malon, Mastraccio, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Poirier, Pomerleau, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Tuell, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Daigle, Dill, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Frost, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Henderson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Hall, Kessler, Lookner, Lyman, Macias, Mason, Mathieson, Nutting, Pluecker, Underwood.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 84; No, 56; Absent, 10; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

84 having voted in the affirmative and 56 voted in the negative, with 10 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly further reading of **House Amendment "D" (H-18) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13)** was dispensed with.

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

Representative CHAPMAN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Amendment speaks to General Assistance. Too fast and loose, we give away our money. I understand people are in need. There's no reason why we couldn't expect them to go to school, go to work or volunteer a minimum of 20 hours a week and to cap that General Assistance at three months every 24 months. I don't feel that would be too restrictive, and I think there's plenty of other programs that, if you need assistance, you could find it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative CIMINO: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Point of clarification. So, if we dispensed with the reading of the Amendment, we can still go ahead, though; whoever's presenting that amendment can go ahead and say what the Amendment is about, correct?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would answer in the affirmative. Just for clarity for the Body, if the reading was not dispensed, the Clerk would then be charged with reading the entirety of the Amendment word for word.

The Chair recognizes the Representative from Hodgdon, Representative Quint.

Representative QUINT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I just wanted to point out again, as the Good Representative said some of what the bill does, that it has a requirement for work, educational institution or performing volunteer work. So, there's actually a pretty broad scope that they could fall under to be in compliance with this Amendment that I don't think is undue hardship. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative GATTINE: Mr. Speaker, there are a number of bills currently in front of the Health and Human Services Committee, there's a bill in front of the Appropriations Committee that propose to make changes to the General Assistance program, so, the Body would have an opportunity to address that in the future. I would move that this item and all of its accompanying papers be Indefinitely Postponed.

Representative GATTINE of Westbrook moved that **House Amendment "D" (H-18) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13)** be **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Fairfield, Representative Rudnicki.

Representative RUDNICKI: Mr. Speaker, the Good Representative that just spoke; and I'm drawing a blank on where he's from, so, I apologize. However, I've heard many times already today that, well, we're going to be dealing with that later, we've got bills on that, we don't have to worry about that. Well, actually, if we go *sine die* today, technically, we should be done until next January. So, the fact that we're using that as an excuse, that we don't need to deal with these issues in this budget or we don't need to do these things, because it's coming up; it's B.S. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would remind Members to use language, and even acronyms, that would be appropriate for floor debate. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Auburn, Representative Chapman.

Representative **CHAPMAN**: Yes, Mr. Speaker, that's whack. I request a Roll Call.

Representative CHAPMAN of Auburn **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE House Amendment "D" (H-18) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13)**.

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 Poland, Representative Boyer.

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to pose a question through the Chair.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Three months over 24 months is what the Chief Executive proposed in her budget; three months for 12 months. So, would this Amendment here before us today be twice as generous than what the Chief Executive proposed in her budget? And was that part of a public hearing that we had already, so, you know, this idea that we can't vote on things because there was not a public hearing; did we have a public hearing on this kind of idea? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Poland, Representative Boyer, has pose a question through the Chair to any Member who wishes to answer.

A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Indefinite Postponement of House Amendment "D" (H-18) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 27

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

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, 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, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Archer, Collamore, Hall, Kessler, Lookner, Lyman, Mason, Mathieson, Nutting, Underwood.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 74; No, 66; Absent, 10; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 66 voted in the negative, with 10 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly **House Amendment "D" (H-18) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13) was INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

Representative CHAPMAN of Auburn **PRESENTED House Amendment "E" (H-19) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

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

Representative **CHAPMAN**: This Amendment simply removes all those over the age of 18 that are not U.S. citizens from MaineCare eligibility. This has caused great angst; this and many other programs that are given away at the tax dollars' expense. It's greatly upsetting to my constituents and many other people outside of my district. Therefore, I offer this Amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Representative GATTINE of Westbrook moved that **House Amendment "E" (H-19) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13) be INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

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

Representative **CHAPMAN**: That's FUBAR; I request a Roll Call.

Representative CHAPMAN of Auburn **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE House Amendment "E" (H-19) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13)**.

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 Wales, Representative Greenwood.

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't understand why we can't have discussions on the floor; some bills don't go to committee, but this is an important issue. This is an important issue that's costing our State millions and millions of dollars. This is an important issue that is putting noncitizens ahead of Maine citizens. I don't understand why we can't have that discussion. We have an amendment before us which wasn't read, but if you all have your tablets, it's here. The Amendment clarifies that a person who has attained the age of 18 and is not a citizen of the United States is not eligible for benefits under the MaineCare program. The Amendment allows the Department of Health and Human Services to establish exceptions for a person prohibited from receiving benefits under the Amendment only if the person is working in school or volunteering at least 20 hours per week.

I think this makes sense, Mr. Speaker, and I'm very disappointed in the Good Representative from Westbrook, who's moved to Indefinitely Postpone this discussion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Indefinite Postponement of House Amendment "E" (H-19) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 28

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

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

ABSENT - Arata, Collamore, Guerrette, Hall, Kessler, Lanigan, Lookner, Lyman, Mason, Mathieson, Nutting, Underwood.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 75; No, 63; Absent, 12; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 63 voted in the negative, with 12 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly **House Amendment "E" (H-19) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13) was INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

Representative PAUL of Winterport **PRESENTED House Amendment "F" (H-20) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Winterport, Representative Paul.

Representative **PAUL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Amendment would remove funding for taxpayer-funded abortion in the State of Maine.

Mr. Speaker, we are in a budget crisis. Every dollar we spend must reflect the priorities of the people that we serve, yet millions of taxpayer dollars have been spent to fund abortion, something that the majority of Mainers oppose. At a time when families are struggling with soaring costs, high taxes and underperforming schools, we cannot afford to waste scarce resources on a divisive issue that does not have broad public support.

Your own past leaders have warned against this path. Joe Biden once said he didn't want those who view abortion as a tragedy forced to fund it. Bill Clinton called the Hyde Amendment a fair compromise for taxpayers who reject it. Ted Kennedy wrote in '71 that life deserves protection and taxpayer money should not end it. Al Gore fought against using federal tax dollars to pay for abortions to prevent division, and Jimmy Carter put it plainly, it's not right to force people who believe abortion is wrong to pay for it. Yet, here we are, continuing to funnel taxpayer dollars into a policy most Mainers do not support, while our State faces skyrocketing electricity rates, some of the highest tax burdens in the nation and struggling schools with some of the lowest scores in the country.

Mainers need affordable housing, tax relief, lower energy costs and a stronger education system that gives our kids a future. That's where our focus should be. This budget is a test of our priorities. Let's cut this divisive spending and reinvest in the things that truly matter, lifting up every family, every worker and every child in Maine. That is how we move forward together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **GATTINE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, again, this topic is a subject of bills that are currently pending before the Judiciary Committee. That Committee will have an opportunity to weigh in, and ultimately, this Body will have an opportunity to weigh in.

Representative **SOBOLESKI**: Point of Order.

The SPEAKER: The Member will defer. The Chair would inquire as to why the Representative from Phillips rises.

Representative **SOBOLESKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, with the generalities, I would like to ask that we either be specific in our references or dispense with the vague references.

The SPEAKER: The Member does not need to be specific with his references. The Member may proceed.

Representative GATTINE of Westbrook moved that **House Amendment "F" (H-20) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13) be INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Hodgdon, Representative Quint.

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank the Representative from Winterport for bringing forward this Amendment.

My district; Democrats, once again, Republicans and Independents; have spoken to me very strongly about this and they are in support of this Amendment. And I just have a question, because I'm genuinely confused here. We're speaking about, or at least it's being brought up that we have all of this committee work in which this will be brought forward; I'm a co-sponsor on some of these motions that we're talking about in the Amendment, but my understanding is that the majority party is planning to *sine die*, which is in total conflict with saying, we're going to be speaking about this in the future. So, are you aware, Mr. Speaker; are we done with our work after we're through speaking about these amendments, or is that not actually true; in other words, are we lying about that, or is there actually work that still needs to be done and we shouldn't be ramming this budget through right now? This is getting very confusing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Winterport, Representative Paul.

Representative **PAUL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that Indefinite Postponement of this Amendment is ludicrous, and therefore request a Roll Call.

Representative PAUL of Winterport **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE House Amendment "F" (H-20) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13).**

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 Fairfield, Representative Rudnicki.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If this Amendment had been read in its entirety, we would realize that this actually has a negative fiscal amount on it. It actually has a \$375,000 negative fiscal for the next two years on each year. So, hey, you want to save some money? It's a great way to do it.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Indefinite Postponement of House Amendment "F" (H-20) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 29

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre,

Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Henderson, Hymes, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, 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, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Blier, Chapman, Hall, Jackson, Kessler, Lanigan, Lookner, Lyman, Mason, Mathieson, Nutting.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 75; No, 64; Absent, 11; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 64 voted in the negative, with 11 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly **House Amendment "F" (H-20) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13) was INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

Representative PAUL of Winterport **PRESENTED House Amendment "G" (H-21) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Winterport, Representative Paul.

Representative **PAUL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Amendment would remove all funding for offshore wind development and funding for the development of an offshore wind port in the State of Maine.

Mr. Speaker, as we address this budget crisis, it demands that we make tough, wise choices, just as Mainers are forced to do every single day. We are staring down a massive budget shortfall, despite billions in COVID relief funds from the Federal Government. Our State budget has ballooned over four billion dollars, and yet here we are, still in this hole; spending, spending and more spending. Meanwhile, Mainers are struggling. They're cutting corners, tightening belts and making hard decisions to live within their means. It's time the people in this building do the same.

For years, we've poured 10s of millions of dollars into offshore wind industry that is failing. Millions of dollars of other peoples' money, the taxpayers' money, chasing an agenda that is crumbling before our eyes. Just before 2020, we spent at least six million dollars on offshore wind initiatives, including three million dollars in just the last couple of years on a wind port project in Searsport, in my district. A project the Federal Government has now rejected funding for, not once, not twice, not even three times, but four times. Four grant denials from the feds, the latest being a \$456 million request, turned down last October. That's a clear signal this is a bad bet, and yet, we keep throwing good money after bad.

We cannot afford to waste taxpayer money on an industry that is suffering losses and losing interest. Just this week, a U.S. judge issued an order voiding and invalidating a key Clean Air Act permit for the Atlantic shore's offshore wind project in New Jersey. Another signal to the market that this industry is on shaky ground. The momentum is gone, and the losses are piling up. Wasting money is no longer an option and, frankly, it never should've been. It's easy to spend other people's money on bad investments, but that should stop now. Those six million dollars could've gone to our schools, our roads, our hospitals; things that Mainers actually need. Instead, we are chasing a failing industry, and we're left with nothing to show for it but a rejected wind port and a growing deficit.

Billions in federal assistance flowed into Maine during and after COVID. Money that was supposed to stabilize us, not set us up for failure. Federal aid is supposed to put us on a more solid footing, but instead, we're deeper in the hole than ever. Why? Because we did not prioritize Mainers. We did not live within our means, and we chased agendas instead of making good investments. Mainers don't have the luxury of endless spending. When their budgets get tight, they cut back, they make wise decisions, they prioritize what matters; feeding their families, heating their homes, keeping the lights on. If they can do it because of the choices made under this dome, then, so must we. It's time to pause and redirect these funds. No more offshore wind handouts; no more hard-earned taxpayer money being poured into a sinking ship. We need to take a hard look at where every dollar goes and ensure it's a dollar well spent on Mainers, not on failed experiments. This is not about ideology; it is about accountability. It's about doing what's right for the people that we serve. Let's stop gambling with their money and start investing in their future. Let's live within our means and make good investments. That is what Mainers are forced to do, and that is what must happen in this building, and we should start right now. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Representative GATTINE of Westbrook moved that **House Amendment "G" (H-21) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13) be INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Winterport, Representative Paul.

Representative **PAUL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe that motion is farcical, and I request a Roll Call.

Representative PAUL of Winterport **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE House Amendment "G" (H-21) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13).**

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 "G" (H-21) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 30

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

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, 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, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Hall, Kessler, Lanigan, Lookner, Lyman, Mason, Mathieson, Nutting.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 76; No, 66; Absent, 8; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

76 having voted in the affirmative and 66 voted in the negative, with 8 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly **House Amendment "G" (H-21) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13) was INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

Representative LIBBY of Auburn **PRESENTED House Amendment "H" (H-23) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

Representative GATTINE of Westbrook moved that **House Amendment "H" (H-23) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13) be INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Rumford, Representative Henderson.

Representative **HENDERSON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I completely object to the Chair's inability to recognize the Representative from Auburn. I understand that there was a vote to censure her, but this is not even allowing her to present an amendment. And not only do I think it's absurd, I request a Roll Call. Thank you.

Representative HENDERSON of Rumford **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE House Amendment "H" (H-23) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13).**

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. As I spoke earlier on this issue, on the budget, I referenced the solar tax that Mainers are seeing paid in their monthly electricity bills every month, and this is something to remove that to allow people to see some relief. This is one of the top issues that people have brought to me in my district, and I think it is past time that we did this. This is something that will help people, bring them relief immediately if we can pass this. So, I would urge this Body to reject the pending motion. Thank you.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I tried to get in before this Amendment was introduced, but I have several questions I'd like to ask the Chair.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: The first question is, how many more floor amendments are remaining?

The SPEAKER: The Chair's understanding is that there are 10 additional floor amendments that have been submitted. Whether they are offered is, of course, up to the Member who submitted them. The Member may proceed.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Okay. Mr. Speaker, this is taking an incredibly long time to get through this debate. It is 2:37 and we are on our first get-it-out-of-the-way vote of the morning. We have many members of the public that are here for public hearings. I'd like to know if we have a plan to get to those public hearings or what we can do. I mean, I guess I would suggest that we take a break from this debate and go at ease, so that those members of the public can have their public hearings and take this up again later. Otherwise, I don't understand how the Committees are going to get their work done today.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would respond that it will take a good deal of time for the nonpartisan staff to run this LD 609 to the Other Body. In that time in which this LD leaves our possession and goes to the Other Body, there's processing time. We anticipated that being pretty lengthy, and there will be adequate time for Committees to conduct their work during that interim period. Those Committees that were scheduled to meet today.

The Chair recognizes the Representative from Dexter, Representative Foster.

Representative **FOSTER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be brief. Obviously, this Amendment does refer to something that's often been called a solar tax; in fact, it is a tax on our citizens, but it does bypass this Body and this discussion, because it's appropriated, if you will, through the PUC with approval by the EUT. And I will only say that if we could pass this and stop this money; which is now up towards \$200 million, a little over that now, a year, expected to be at possibly \$240 million a year very shortly; that would go a long way to alleviate those monies that are now going to out-of-state hedge funds and solar developers unnecessarily, that could then be used for many of the things that people have brought up here today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Fairfield, Representative Rudnicki.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Mr. Speaker, since we started this Amendment, the Good Representative from Auburn has been standing and requesting the ability to speak. And once again, it seems like this Body and the men in this leadership are denying a woman a right to speak based on something that happened a while back.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would inform the Member that there is a previous Ruling of the Chair that is still in order.

A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Indefinite Postponement of House Amendment "H" (H-23) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 31

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

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, 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, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Hall, Kessler, Lanigan, Lookner, Lyman, Mason, Mathieson, Nutting.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

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

75 having voted in the affirmative and 67 voted in the negative, with 8 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly **House Amendment "H" (H-23) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13) was INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

Representative LIBBY of Auburn **PRESENTED House Amendment "I" (H-24) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Turner, Representative Morris.

Representative **MORRIS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Amendment simply removes the tax on gold and silver bullion. At a time when Maine people are facing record inflation, we've seen prices rise, this is a relatively stable way for them to help ensure that they are secure for the future with these investments, similar to other types of investments that are not taxed. This would simply remove the sales tax on gold and silver bullion. I think this is something that will help Maine people, and I would urge this Body to adopt this Amendment.

Representative GATTINE of Westbrook moved that **House Amendment "I" (H-24) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13) be INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Mr. Speaker, it's impossible to ignore what's happening in this Chamber right now. The censure of Representative Libby, which has turned into a quasi-expulsion, is not just affecting --

Representative **MOONEN**: Point of Order.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Portland, Representative Moonen, and inquires to his Point of Order.

Representative **MOONEN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The motion before us is Indefinite Postponement of this Amendment, so, the comments should be about whether or not this Amendment should be Indefinitely Postponed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

On **POINT OF ORDER**, Representative MOONEN of Portland asked the Chair if the remarks of Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor were germane to the pending question.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would remind the Member the pending question before the Chamber is Indefinite Postponement.

The Chair reminded Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor to stay as close as possible to the pending question.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Mr. Speaker, I move that we Table this motion and try to resolve the matter that's in front of us, that is undeniably happening in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker.

Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor moved that the Bill be **TABLED** until later in today's session pending the motion of Representative GATTINE of Westbrook to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE House Amendment "I" (H-24) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13).**

Representative MOONEN of Portland **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **TABLE** the Bill until later in today's session pending the motion of Representative GATTINE of Westbrook to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE House Amendment "I" (H-24) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13).**

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 to Table the Bill until later in today's session pending the motion of Representative Gattine of Westbrook to Indefinitely Postpone House Amendment "I" (H-24) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Point of Order.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would inquire as to why the Member rises during the vote.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: If you could just clarify again what a yes vote versus a no vote is, please?

The SPEAKER: A vote in the affirmative will Table LD 609 and all of its accompanying papers until later in today's session. If you are a no vote, you are against Tabling LD 609 and all its accompanying papers until later in today's session.

A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is to Table the Bill until later in today's session. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 32

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

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

ABSENT - Hall, Kessler, Lanigan, Lookner, Lyman, Mason, Mathieson, Nutting.

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

67 having voted in the affirmative and 75 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 8 being absent, and accordingly the motion to **TABLE** the Bill until later in today's session pending the motion of Representative GATTINE of Westbrook to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE House Amendment "I" (H-24) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13) FAILED.**

Representative MORRIS of Turner **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE House Amendment "I" (H-24) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13).**

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 Wales, Representative Greenwood.

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I rise in opposition to the pending motion.

We had a request from the presenter of the Amendment to speak further. It's obvious that the Member has something to say, she's still standing. So, I guess I would ask that; I'm not ready to vote on this until we can hear what that Member might have to say, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Buxton, Representative Carlow.

Representative **CARLOW**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request unanimous consent that the rules be suspended for the purpose of recognizing the Representative from Auburn.

Representative CARLOW of Buxton moved that the rules be suspended for the purpose of allowing Representative LIBBY of Auburn to speak on the record.

Representative MOONEN of Portland **OBJECTED** to suspending the rules for the purpose of allowing Representative LIBBY of Auburn to speak on the record.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would inquire as to whether the Member was referring specifically to House Rule 401, Part 11.

Representative **CARLOW**: To any rule that would be interpreted or construed in such a manner that would prevent the Representative from speaking on her own amendment.

Representative CARLOW of Buxton moved that House Rule 401.11 be **SUSPENDED** for the purpose of allowing Representative LIBBY of Auburn to speak on the record.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the record. I rise to address the censure of the Representative from Auburn.

Mr. Speaker, I asked the Representative from Auburn if she wanted her censure to end, and she told me, yes, absolutely. I stand here today with the intention of doing that. I said this the other day, and I think it bears repeating now; the past weeks and months have borne witness to more harsh words; it's been ugly. It has been ugly, Mr. Speaker, and we've all been worse off for it. I'm sorry that this vitriol has affected people negatively, including children. My heart goes out to all children who have been negatively affected by the decisions of adults. In my opinion, this generation of children is dealing with challenges previous generations have not experienced. Children should never be used as pawns or targets in a societal conflict waged by adults. Kids deserve to be kids.

Mr. Speaker, our country cannot survive if we continue down this path. The vitriolic fever embraced by some people on either side of the political aisle when addressing each other will only lead to our mutually assured destruction. For me, in times like this, it becomes paramount that I turn to the message in the Bible. Mr. Speaker, I Corinthians chapter 13 makes clear to us, and I quote, "if I could speak all the languages of earth and of angels but did not love others, I would only be a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I had the gift of prophesy and if I understood all of God's secret plans and possessed all knowledge, and if I had such faith that I could move mountains, but did not love others, I would be nothing. If I gave everything I had to the poor, even sacrificed my body, I could not boast about it. But if I did not love others, I would have gained nothing. Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. It does not demand its own way. It is not irritable, and it keeps no record of being wronged. It does not rejoice about injustice, but rejoices whenever the truth wins out. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful and endures through every circumstance. Prophecy and speaking in unknown languages and special knowledge will become useless, but love will last forever. Now our knowledge is partial and incomplete and even the gift of prophesy reveals only part of the whole picture, but when the time of perfection comes, these partial things will become useless. When I was a child, I spoke and thought and reasoned as a child, but when I grew up, I put away childish things. Now we see things imperfectly, like puzzling reflections in a mirror, but then we will see everything with perfect clarity.

All that I know now is partial and incomplete, but then I will know everything completely, just as God now knows me completely. Three things will last forever; faith, hope and love, and the greatest of these is love."

Mr. Speaker, it can be hard to forgive or ask for forgiveness, but when someone is hurting, it should not be difficult to show love and compassion. Mr. Speaker, to all the students of Greely High School, Freeport High School and anywhere in the State of Maine that has suffered emotional pain or anxiety caused by adults or Members of the Legislature, my heart goes out to you. We commit to leading by example in a direction of thoughtful dialogue, with compassion and understanding. Mr. Speaker, this censure was never meant to go longer than a day. For it to continue just creates more bitterness. Mr. Speaker, I respectfully request that you accept my heartfelt statement today as a fulfillment of requirement of Rule 401, Part 11. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Arundel, Representative Parry.

Representative **PARRY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just for clarification, you mentioned earlier about when somebody asked about if the Good Representative from Auburn could speak, and you mentioned about there was a previous Ruling by the Chair. I guess my question is, if the Chair so chose, could the Chair change his mind on that and reverse the decision after a month of censure, roughly?

The SPEAKER: It's a decision for the Body as to whether or not House Rule 401, Part 11, continues to be invoked. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Portland, Representative Moonen.

Representative **MOONEN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise briefly to say that the rule in question has been in existence since the founding of the State in 1820. I would urge Members of this Body not to so casually throw away a rule that has stood for 205 years in our great State. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The Chair ordered a division on the motion to **SUSPEND** House Rule 401.11 for the purpose of allowing Representative LIBBY of Auburn to speak on the record.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Mr. Speaker, Rules of the House, Rule 401, Part 11, says that, "unless by way of excuse for the breach." I submit to you, Mr. Speaker, that what I've said today is excuse for the breach and ask for a Ruling on 401, Part 11.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Saco, Representative Copeland.

Representative **COPELAND**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question on this, and I'd like to know if the Facebook post of the child is still standing; is still out there on Facebook?

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

Representative **LEE**: Mr. Speaker, I very much appreciate the earnest and kind and thoughtful words of my friend from Winter Harbor. I appreciate his citation of Scripture as well, and I hope that my friend from Auburn will also be reminded of Proverbs, which tells us, "whoever conceals their sins does not prosper, but the one who confesses and renounces them finds mercy." Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Carmel, Representative Thorne.

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll just leave you; Robert Brault is an author and he writes lots of books about positive, encouraging things; about letting go, about forgiveness, about inner peace. And one of the quotes

that strikes me in this moment is when he wrote, "life becomes easier when you learn to accept the apology you never got." Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Presque Isle, Representative Underwood.

Representative **UNDERWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stuck my neck out when I voted yes on the original Appropriations bill, and there was a lot of other Members from this side, and to give our support to our leaders, so, he could look good and saying he delivered our caucus to you on the original bill for the Appropriations, although it failed in the Senate. But you could, as a point of compassion, you could overrule or grant our Representative from Auburn relief from the situation that she's in out of a sense of compassion for yourself. If you could do that, we'd appreciate that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Berwick, Representative Lavigne.

Representative **LAVIGNE**: Mr. Speaker, I sent an email out a few weeks ago regarding this issue of Representative Libby posting pictures of minors. In that email, I attached a picture that you posted on Facebook holding two babies, stating that they were there to support your efforts in gun safety. Included in that email was a picture of our Executive Officer with her arms around two toddlers at a festival for multi-genders. My question to you, Mr. Speaker; I'm not interested in hearing from anyone else; how is what Representative Libby, what she's done, different than what you did, and if there is no difference, why are you not censured? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Representative has posed a question through the Chair to any Member who wishes to answer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Westbrook, Representative Salisbury.

Representative **SALISBURY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To quote some other Representatives that have spoken today, this is whacked and FUBAR. I just have a question to the Chair --

The SPEAKER: The Member will defer. The Chair did not make mention to the Representative from Auburn earlier about the acronym that was used and including profanity, and now I will enforce that that acronym not be used on the House Floor. The Member may proceed.

Representative **SALISBURY**: Absolutely, and that's the right thing to do. I'll apologize for my words. And I just had a question, if I can pose this through the Chair. The apology that was very heartfelt and that I appreciate from Representative Faulkingham, was that on behalf of himself or on behalf of Representative Libby? I just wasn't sure.

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Westbrook, Representative Salisbury, has posed a question through the Chair to any Member who wishes to answer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Winter Harbor, Representative Faulkingham.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Mr. Speaker, my statement was made with the intention of satisfying Rule 401.11 and ending the censure, because it is negatively affecting everybody in this Body. And just, please, if I could get some clarity, Mr. Speaker, is a yes vote in favor of accepting the excuse?

The SPEAKER: A vote in favor will suspend the Rule, a vote in the negative will not suspend the Rule. The Chair recognizes the Representative from South Berwick, Representative Roberts.

Representative **ROBERTS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in opposition to the motion to suspend House Rule

401, Part 11, to allow the Representative from Auburn to speak on this floor despite failing to meet the most basic expectation of accountability; an apology.

Our rules exist for a reason. They are not arbitrary guidelines to be waived when inconvenient. Rule 401, Part 11, is meant to ensure that this Body operates with respect, with decorum and with a shared commitment to accountability. When a Member's words or actions violate the trust of this Chamber and the people we serve, it is our duty to ensure that harm is acknowledged --

Representative **BAGSHAW**: Point of Order.

The SPEAKER: The Representative will defer. The Chair inquires as to the Point of Order from the Representative from Windham.

Representative **BAGSHAW**: I'm hearing the words on the other side of the aisle; we're about to end *sine die*, which is unconstitutional and against our people, so, I find it rich that we're getting comments from the other side of the aisle, because doesn't *sine die* mean our work is finished?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would inquire as to the Member's Point of Order as it relates to the comments from the Representative from South Berwick.

Representative **BAGSHAW**: They're speaking to her comments; the Representative on the other side of the aisle is reprimanding us on how we behave in this Chamber, and I find that rich when we're about to end *sine die*, against our Constitution, because our work is not done.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would inform the Member that's not a Point of Order, but the Member is permitted to participate in the debate around the pending question. The Member from South Berwick may proceed.

Representative **ROBERTS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To clarify, I'm speaking as elected officials, as a whole, and taking responsibility.

Before affording the privilege of participating again, the Representative from Auburn has had ample opportunity to apologize, to show even the smallest measure of accountability for the words that necessitated this rule's enforcement in the first place. Yet no apology has been given. To now ignore our own rule and allow this Member to speak without any acknowledgement of the harm caused would send a dangerous message that decorum is optional, that accountability is negotiable and that consequences for our actions can be erased with a simple procedural vote. What precedent would this set? If we suspend this rule today, what does that say to every other Member of this Body? That we all, too, can ignore the impact of words and simply wait for a vote to move past it; that the expectations of decorum and responsibility apply only when it's convenient? Mr. Speaker, this Chamber does not function on convenience; it functions on trust, on respect and on the integrity of our rules when all else fails. If the Representative from Auburn wishes to speak, the path is clear; acknowledge the harm caused and issue a simple apology. Until that happens, we must uphold the standards that we have set for ourselves. I urge my colleagues to vote against this motion and stand for accountability. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Guilford, Representative White.

Representative **WHITE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This State has a constitutional remedy if you so choose to silence a Member of this Body. It takes a two-thirds vote to remove a Member; therefore, we can follow up with a special election. To remove a Member and leave her in her seat is circumventing that constitutional remedy. And rules don't override the Constitution. We all took an oath to it. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Fairfield, Representative Rudnicki.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We heard accountability, we heard decorum. Unfortunately, it feels like that's only accountable to one side of the aisle. You can figure out which one that is. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Kennebunk, Representative Sayre.

Representative **SAYRE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in opposition to the motion, in support of the censure, with a very heavy heart.

This matter for weeks now has saddened me deeply as a parent, a grandparent and as a Member of this Honorable Body. I wish there was no need for there to be a censure of a colleague, and for that censure to endure, but there is. I wish that a Member of this Body had not violated the privacy of a minor, but one has. I think a matter of consent and the matter of construction of the post makes all the difference in the world between a harmless post of a child with one of us, which many of us have done. I wish this violation had not touched off a vast outpouring of hateful threats, but it has. I wish these threats had not created real harm to a child, their family, their school and their community, but it has. I wish that the Member in question had chosen to desist when given repeated opportunities to do so, but she has not. I wish that that Member had apologized and put an end to this, but she has not.

There is always room among us in this Body, both when we are within and without this Chamber, to engage in spirited debate of the policy issues on which we differ. That is our role and our duty. But this motion, this censure, is not about policy, it is about conduct. Conduct which has clearly and egregiously crossed the line into formal misconduct. We should all understand cyberbullying is wrong. Cyberbullying a minor is doubly wrong. Sharing a minor's identifying information to facilitate threats and abuse is wrong. I didn't think I would have to say that on the floor of this Chamber, but here we are. And this moment brings to mind another point for me in our nation's history when smears and bullying ran rampant; the McCarthy Hearings. And the fever of those days only broke, and they did break, at the precise moment when Special Counsel Joseph Welch reminded us of who we are as Americans and how we are called to conduct ourselves as people privileged with the honor of representing our fellow Americans. He famously asked of Senator McCarthy a question I repeat to you now, I repeat for all of us now; have you no sense of decency? At long last, have you left no sense of decency?

Today, Mr. Speaker, I appeal to this Body to consider our collective sense of decency. Let us ask ourselves, was it decent to coordinate an online attack of a child, an attack that has not ceased, and to maintain that attack against the advice, the pleading and, ultimately, the formal request of your colleagues? This persists because of the intransigence, Mr. Speaker, of one individual, and that individual is not the Speaker of this House. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Sanford, Representative Lanigan.

Representative **LANIGAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really didn't plan on standing up, but I've kind of heard enough.

I think the last time we talked about this, the Representative from Falmouth mentioned, imagine if it was your child. Imagine if it was your child. Do you know what my children have been through because of the rhetoric that has come out of this Chamber, the media, the false accusations? I have lost my ability to represent my people in the situation of a Committee, there's been no vote on that. There's been a lot of

unprecedented things done in this Chamber this last session, and it's hurt a lot of people. My child, who's a senior in high school, who got to go to school and have his dad's name up on the board in Civics class, wondering if he should be eligible to be an elected official. When that same son knows who his father is and knows the situation with mental illness and other situations going on in the household. So, shame on all of us for playing judge, jury and executioner. Shame on us.

We're no better than anybody else in Maine. We are Mainers. We represent them. They elect us to represent them. I might not agree with what the Representative from Auburn has done, how she's posted, what it is, what the context is, but I live in America, freedom of speech. She has that right. If her constituents are not willing to have her represent them anymore, they will elect someone else, just like they would've elected someone else if I wasn't supposed to be here. Thank God for that one trash-can vote that I got. Okay?

So, let's be real. Let's stop the nonsense. We're playing games here; it's like a bad game of volleyball with no referee. It's back and forth, back and forth. I know that I've barely been able to hang my head in this Chamber. People that I called friends last session walk by me like they don't even know me. It's enough, guys, it's enough. We're here to do the work of the Maine people, we're not here to do the work of our party, we're not here to do the work of ourselves. You really think that, what, 180-something people in the whole State of Maine are all godly and intelligent, that we get to decide everything for everybody? No, our job is to listen. Our job is to listen and represent. And like the Good Representative from Winter Harbor stated, we have to do that with love and compassion and empathy, and we need to start doing it a little bit more.

People have their right to their morals, their standards and whatever they want to stand by at the end of the day. I know that I've been convicted already in this Chamber by half of you, I'm waiting for an Ethics Commission that still hasn't even moved the ball, allowing me to even begin to think about representing my people on a Committee. But that's okay, because I'm in the minority, right? That's okay, because you think it's the right thing to do. But I can tell you, the 10, 11, 12,000 people that I represent think it's horse manure. And again, they elected me. They elected me to do a job that I'm standing here today to do. And I'm asking all of you just to look inside your heart for once and just say, whatever with the party, whatever with all sticking together, kumbaya, let's just do what's right, let's get this Representative; not even the Representative, let's get the people of Auburn their voice back. It's the people of Auburn you're voting for; you're not voting for one individual. We're talking about a budget right now, we're talking about important stuff. Do you think those constituents, those people that live in that district; Republican and Democrat and Independent; don't want a voice here today? I can't imagine that's the truth, Mr. Speaker.

We just need to get together, we need to knock off the nonsense. You guys know who I am, I'm a pretty straight shooter, and like I said, you might not like what she had to say, you might not like the fact that she's not making the apology, the Good Representative from Auburn. That's her choice. Just like everybody has a choice, everybody wants a choice, everybody fights for choices for people. Let her have that choice. Let her constituents have that choice. And that's all I'm asking today, just open your mind up. You get more out of a parachute coming down than, you know, having a closed backpack.

So, Mr. Speaker, thank you so much for allowing me to speak, and I hope that we can do the right thing today and move the ball forward and work together as a unified Chamber like we

did a couple weeks ago with the budget. Let's do this, guys, let's just do it, let's move on. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Lowell, Representative McIntyre.

Representative **McINTYRE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, new colleagues, the new team that I have joined. It has taken me a tremendous amount of inner courage to stand before you for the first time with deep emotion. The first couple times were my tests; happy anniversary to my wife, happy birthday to my wife; trying to find my voice. I am new to this team, I am new to this State. I am not new to being a human with a heart.

I spent seven years wearing a uniform to defend my country, men and women, against the forces of hate. I put on a different uniform for two decades in a different capacity, protecting political leaders from the forces of hate. I did not intend to speak today until I heard another colleague use the word hate. And so, as we get ready to vote on perhaps one of the most important decisions that I know I will face, I offer you these words to an author that I cannot cite. Hate is like acid. It can not only destroy the vessel in which it is stored, but also destroy the object on which it is poured. When anger is relentlessly clung to and stored within oneself, it transforms into a corrosive acid that eats away at the container which houses it.

Mr. Speaker, I'm going on the record to say I'm going to have a difficult time trying to do an important job with people that possess hate in their vernacular, and without trying to impugn anybody's character or question their motives, I am concerned I may be surrounded by too many people with hate in their heart, and I do not know what to do. So, thank you, Mr. Speaker, for hearing me.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Buxton, Representative Carlow.

Representative **CARLOW**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The House is clearly presently engaged in a heartfelt discussion on the merits of the censure. This is maybe a healthy thing for the institution, but we are actively engaged in taking up the budget, and there is an institutional interest, which is why I made this motion, and perhaps allowing the Representative from Auburn to introduce her amendments and speak to them briefly on the floor, so that we may all make an informed vote on them. So, I would just raise a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **CARLOW**: Thank you. If this motion were to pass, would that apply only to today's session or to future sessions, and would that reverse the action the House took in censuring the Representative?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would respond to the Member that if this motion were to prevail, it would be suspension of the rule as it relates to the previous Ruling from the Chair from several weeks ago, moving forward. Not just for today.

The Chair recognizes the Representative from Hodgdon, Representative Quint.

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I sort of don't know where to begin, and I'm going to try to hold it together, so, my apologies beforehand.

I don't have social media at all, and so, I didn't know about any of this until, you know, I came in after the fanfare occurred. But I will say, Mr. Speaker, when we're talking about harm to children; and I'm hoping that this actually applies to this or that you all can see the connection enough, so that I will be allowed to continue, if people can allow me that. A couple years ago, a young lady in my district who has spent her whole life running, as well as two other ladies in the surrounding district; and I will say for the record, I am friends of the family of all three of these

ladies; were displaced on a podium by a biological male. And it wasn't a popular thing to be spoken about at that time, but I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that the vitriol has gone both ways. The way that these girls were treated for speaking out against it during this time was venomous, absolutely venomous. The *Portland Press Herald* applauded this biological male with his picture, wearing his school uniform, praising him for his accomplishments, while my girls, who I adore and are the sweetest people you could ever meet, were treated horribly.

So, Mr. Speaker, when I saw what happened with the post that the Good Representative from Auburn put forward, I was glad to see the conversation started. Because to me, it seemed that the only time someone has a problem with it is when someone who some people want celebrated isn't celebrated, and the consequence isn't what they were expecting, and that can be silenced, and that can be spoken to, but in the other situation, it is not. I can assure you; damage was done to these girls. So much so, that I have not spoken about this. And I have permission from their family to do so, to just say that someone in my district. Because one of the young ladies was so upset by this, that she said she didn't even want to hear the person's name, she didn't want to be put out in the public because it has ruined what should've been joy for her.

I made out a certificate for her, unbeknownst to everyone. It does have the State Seal, so, I'm sorry if you don't agree to this, congratulating her for placing first among biological females. Because this conversation wasn't even going on at the time, her mother asked that I leave the word biological female, not just say the girls' winner, but biological girl, because we weren't even having this conversation. So, I understand people are very upset. Well, so am I. We need to have this conversation, Mr. Speaker, which is why I asked earlier, with all of these Tabling motions or Indefinitely Postponing, if we are going to *sine die* and say that our work is done. Mr. Speaker, like, these two facts are not congruent. They cannot go together. One of them is a lie. And I truly, truly want to have this brought forward, because people have been hurt. And we're only talking about one biological male, from what I understand, who was hurt by this, but none of the biological females, who, once again, I know and I care for; none of this was ever discussed, because at that time, it wasn't the politically, I guess, acceptable thing to do, but it was politically acceptable to vilify them and their families so much so that they were silenced.

Thank you for allowing me to speak on this. Thank you to all the Members of the Body. I am more than willing to speak for however long the Good Representative from Auburn would like me to speak as a proxy for her, but I do believe that she should have her voice. Like I said, Mr. Speaker, I don't have social media, but if I had at that time, I don't know that I would've done differently and not spoken out so strongly on behalf of girls in my district that I care about. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Carmel, Representative Thorne.

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a lot of words written down in front of me that I won't say, and we won't belabor this point. I'd like to move the question.

Representative **THORNE** of Carmel **MOVED THE PREVIOUS QUESTION.**

The SPEAKER: The Chair would advise the Member, you are last in queue. I'm happy to put this motion to the Body, but you are the last Member in the queue to speak.

The Chair recognizes the Representative from Carmel, Representative Thorne. Does the Member withdraw his motion?

Representative **THORNE**: This is a prime example, Mr. Speaker. We do this all the time in the Legislature. We make motions, we withdraw them; we have words and bills, we amend them. We have bills that are in Statute, and we change them. Today, we're not doing that, are we?

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I withdraw my motion to move the question.

Subsequently, Representative **THORNE** of Carmel **WITHDREW** his motion to **MOVE THE PREVIOUS QUESTION**.

Representative **GREENWOOD** of Wales **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **SUSPEND** House Rule 401.11 for the purpose of allowing Representative **LIBBY** of Auburn to speak on the record.

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 to Suspend House Rule 401.11 for the purpose of allowing Representative Libby of Auburn to speak on the record. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 33

YEA - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, 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, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, 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, Wood S, Woodsome.

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

ABSENT - Dill, Hall, Kessler, Lookner, Lyman, Mason, Mathieson, Nutting.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 68; No, 74; Absent, 8; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

68 having voted in the affirmative and 74 voted in the negative, with 8 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the motion to **SUSPEND** House Rule 401.11 for the purpose of allowing Representative **LIBBY** of Auburn to speak on the record **FAILED**.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Fairfield, Representative Rudnicki.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Point of clarification, Mr. Speaker.

The **SPEAKER**: The Member may proceed.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: So, we just did this vote, and it was required a two-thirds to suspend the rules. But earlier, when I requested the amendments to be read, which is technically what we're supposed to do, and then, when you always say, you know, suspending the rules to do it and then you get an objection. So, I need clarification on that two-thirds vote on suspending the rules.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair would provide guidance to the Member that we suspend the rules for the purpose of reading of bills when we're referring bills to Committee. That suspension of the rule allows them to be moved in a block to the Committee of reference. When we're dealing with a reading of an amendment or a bill on the Calendar, outside of referencing, there is not a suspension of the rules, it's just dispensing of the reading that is in motion.

The Chair recognizes the Representative from Fairfield, Representative Rudnicki.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If I could get, at some point in the *Mason's* book where this type of thing is listed, I would certainly appreciate it. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair would inform the Member it's in House Rule 501.

A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Indefinite Postponement of House Amendment "I" (H-24) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 34

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

NAY - Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, 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, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Lance, Lanigan, Lemelin, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Sinclair, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Adams, Hall, Javner, Julia, Kessler, Lavigne, Lookner, Lyman, Mason, Mathieson, Nutting.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 73; No, 66; Absent, 11; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

73 having voted in the affirmative and 66 voted in the negative, with 11 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly **House Amendment "I" (H-24) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13) was INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

Representative **LIBBY** of Auburn **PRESENTED** House Amendment "K" (H-26) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13), which was **READ** by the Clerk.

Representative **GATTINE** of Westbrook moved that **House Amendment "K" (H-26) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13) be INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

Representative **MORRIS** of Turner **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** House Amendment "K" (H-26) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13).

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.

This Amendment would remove the State's energy goals; renewable energy goals. When you consider how expensive this is making energy in our State and when you consider that Maine is a very small State, which actually has a negative carbon footprint, it would seem ridiculous to continue to pursue these arbitrary goals. I would urge this Body to reject this motion and let's move to help Maine people with lower energy costs. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Indefinite Postponement of House Amendment "K" (H-26) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 35

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

NAY - Albert, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Lance, Lanigan, Lemelin, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, 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, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Adams, Arata, Ducharme, Hall, Javner, Kessler, Lavigne, Lookner, Lyman, Mason, Mathieson, Nutting.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 75; No, 63; Absent, 12; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 63 voted in the negative, with 12 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly **House Amendment "K" (H-26) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13) was INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

Representative LIBBY of Auburn **PRESENTED House Amendment "L" (H-27) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Skowhegan, Representative Poirier.

Representative **POIRIER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Amendment does prohibit institutions that allow a biological male to participate in a sport designated for female-only participation or allow a biological male to use a locker room or restroom designated for female use from receiving funding from the State.

Mr. Speaker, we can address this issue now and comply with Title IX law, instead of wasting taxpayer dollars on lawsuits that can go on and on, when we obviously have budget work to do that needs that money more than a lawsuit. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Waterboro, Representative Eder.

Representative **EDER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of this Amendment, and on behalf of the girl dads in my district who want to protect girls in their sports and in their safe spaces from having to change in locker rooms with fully intact, self-ID'd biological males, and I ask that our government operations restore Title IX. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Fairfield, Representative Rudnicki.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Rather than taking half hour or so to have you vote to not read this, I'm just going to go ahead and read part of this Amendment, so that everybody is on the same page. Under Part UU, it would be; "Prohibited participation of biological males in female sports, prohibited access to locker rooms and restrooms designated for female use. An institution in the State that allows a biological male to participate in a sport designated for female-only participation or allows a biological male to use a locker room or restroom designated for female use may not receive funding from the State. For purposes of this section, 'biological male' refers to an individual's physical form as a male based solely on the individual's reproductive biology and genetics at birth." It's simple; keep biological boys out of women's private spaces. Simple as that. We should accept this Amendment moving forward. Thank you.

Representative GATTINE of Westbrook moved that **House Amendment "L" (H-27) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13) be INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

Representative MORRIS of Turner **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE House Amendment "L" (H-27) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13).**

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 Fairfield, Representative Rudnicki.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Indefinitely Postponing this; just want to remind you, all of our votes do matter, even procedural like this shows where you stand. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Hodgdon, Representative Quint.

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just rising again; I'm not going to repeat my same testimony, I actually don't know if I can handle it; but I would just like to say that I am in strong, strong support of this motion, and to House District 8, you all are definitely being heard and I will not be silent. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Indefinite Postponement of House Amendment "L" (H-27) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 36

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

NAY - Albert, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Lance, Lanigan, Lemelin, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, 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, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Adams, Arata, Archer, Collamore, Hall, Javner, Kessler, Lavigne, Lookner, Lyman, Mason, Mathieson, Nutting.
RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 74; No, 63; Absent, 13; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 63 voted in the negative, with 13 being absent and 1 vacancy, and accordingly **House Amendment "L" (H-27) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13) was INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

Representative LIBBY of Auburn **PRESENTED House Amendment "M" (H-28) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

Representative MOONEN of Portland moved that **House Amendment "M" (H-28) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13) be INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

Representative MORRIS of Turner **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE House Amendment "M" (H-28) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13).**

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 attended community college for a couple years when I was starting; it was because it was less expensive. I paid my own way. I don't think that it is a hinderance to require those that are seeking to go to college to have some skin in the game and have to pay their own way. There are options available through federal financial aid and others to help those that may not be able to pay. I don't think it is fair to expect taxpayers to pay for community college.

As the Good Representative from Buxton said earlier, it is not free community college, it is taxpayer-funded community college, and I think with the tough budget cycle that we have coming up and with the difficult decisions that have to be made, I don't believe we should continue to fund free community college. So, I would encourage this Body to reject this motion. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Sidney, Representative Collins.

Representative **COLLINS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to note, as we're talking about budget items today, that this Amendment would save \$12.5 million to the people of my district and the rest of the districts in this State. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The **SPEAKER**: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Indefinite Postponement of House Amendment "M" (H-28) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 37

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Jackson, Julia, Kuhn,

Lajoie, Lee, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Tuell, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

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

ABSENT - Adams, Arata, Collamore, Hall, Javner, Kessler, Lavigne, Lookner, Lyman, Mason, Mathieson, Nutting, Rana, Woodsome.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 75; No, 61; Absent, 14; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 61 voted in the negative, with 14 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly **House Amendment "M" (H-28) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13) was INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

Representative LIBBY of Auburn **PRESENTED House Amendment "O" (H-30) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

Representative GATTINE of Westbrook moved that **House Amendment "O" (H-30) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13) be INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

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.

Again, we are in a very difficult budget cycle. We're already, in this budget, spending more money than we're taking in, and I believe it is irresponsible to continue to fund positions that have thus far been unfilled. I think it would be fiscally responsible to end the funding of these positions and not allow the Executive Branch to fill them over the next two years. So, with that, I would request a Roll Call on the pending motion and urge this Body to reject it.

Representative MORRIS of Turner **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE House Amendment "O" (H-30) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13).**

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 "O" (H-30) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 38

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

NAY - Albert, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Lance, Lemelin, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, 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, Wood S.

ABSENT - Adams, Arata, Collamore, Drinkwater, Hall, Javner, Kessler, Lavigne, Lookner, Lyman, Mason, Mathieson, Nutting, Rana, Woodsome.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 74; No, 61; Absent, 15; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 61 voted in the negative, with 15 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly **House Amendment "O" (H-30) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13) was INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

Representative LIBBY of Auburn **PRESENTED House Amendment "P" (H-31) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Turner, Representative Morris.

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

Maine has one of the highest tax burdens in the country. Maine people do not have the income commensurate with that tax burden, and I believe we should be moving toward getting rid of our income tax to put us in a more competitive footing with those states that don't. States that do not have an income tax consistently show higher incomes and better opportunities for their citizens. And all one needs to do is look to our neighbors to the west in New Hampshire and see how not having an income tax has worked for them and their families and their workers over there. So, I would encourage this Body to support this Amendment.

Representative GATTINE of Westbrook moved that **House Amendment "P" (H-31) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13) be INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

Representative MORRIS of Turner **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE House Amendment "P" (H-31) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13).**

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 "P" (H-31) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 39

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

NAY - Albert, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder,

Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Lance, Lemelin, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, 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, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Adams, Arata, Collamore, Hall, Javner, Kessler, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lookner, Lyman, Mason, Mathieson, Nutting, Rana.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 74; No, 62; Absent, 14; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 62 voted in the negative, with 14 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly **House Amendment "P" (H-31) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13) was INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

Representative LIBBY of Auburn **PRESENTED House Amendment "Q" (H-32) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

Representative GATTINE of Westbrook moved that **House Amendment "Q" (H-32) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13) be INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

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.

This is something that, since I have submitted legislation around this, that I have heard consistently from Maine business owners and Maine families. This new 1% payroll tax that is coming out of their paychecks every single week, when they're in the height of winter and home heating season, is impacting their ability to be able to afford other things in their life. The real problem, as the Representative from Phillips spoke to earlier, people will not be able to draw on this until May of next year, at the earliest, possibly not until August. They're going to continue to pay this tax without having any opportunity to draw benefit, if they ever are able to draw a benefit from it. Some of the things that are most objectionable about this plan is the broad definition of family under the law that makes it very easy to take advantage of it. And the worst part of this law is that, beginning in 2028, a third-party administrator can levy the tax and raise the tax on Maine citizens without a vote of this Legislature, which is blatantly unconstitutional.

I would encourage this Body to reject this motion and let's get rid of this tax now. Maine people are tired of paying higher taxes and being the second-highest taxed State in the country. I urge this Body to vote against this motion, and I request a Roll Call.

Representative MORRIS of Turner **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE House Amendment "Q" (H-32) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13).**

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 Fairfield, Representative Rudnicki.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This particular Amendment and the paid family medical leave has been something that's been talked about specifically in my district quite a bit, because of what it's costing Maine taxpayers, especially Maine workers, and the fact that, you know; State workers who probably have the best insurance around, State workers who have a union to protect them and State workers who probably make sufficiently more money than the majority of Mainers, get theirs paid for. And that includes us, we get ours

paid for. That's not right. And if you're going to do it for one, then why isn't the State picking it up for the whole State? You think it's that important? Let the State pick it up for everybody, not just for State workers. And that's what's happening and that's why people are fed up with what we're doing and spending their money.

I urge you to go ahead and vote for the Amendment, but against the Indefinite Postponement, because once again, the majority party is making all the decisions for everybody in the State and it's not right. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Indefinite Postponement of House Amendment "Q" (H-32) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 40

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

NAY - Adams, Albert, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, 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, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Arata, Collamore, Hall, Javner, Kessler, Lanigan, Lookner, Lyman, Mason, Mathieson, Nutting, Rana.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 74; No, 64; Absent, 12; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 64 voted in the negative, with 12 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly **House Amendment "Q" (H-32) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13) was INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

Representative GATTINE of Westbrook **PRESENTED House Amendment "R" (H-33) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

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

Representative **GATTINE**: Mr. Speaker, this Amendment removes the emergency preamble and the emergency clause.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Arundel, Representative Parry.

Representative **PARRY**: Mr. Speaker, there is nothing on our tablet about this Amendment.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will make sure that it's distributed.

The Chair would advise Members the Amendment should now appear on your tablets. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Rumford, Representative Henderson.

Representative **HENDERSON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May I pose a question through the Chair?

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **HENDERSON**: I'd like to know when this Amendment was put in. Was that something that was put in before the deadline, or is that something that was put in today?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would answer in the affirmative, that the Representative from Westbrook submitted committee amendments before the deadline. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Arundel, Representative Parry.

Representative **PARRY**: I guess I'm confused. Why wasn't it on here already?

The SPEAKER: The Member would advise that House Amendments do not appear before the Body until they are signed by the Member and entered into the Clerk's system, but the Member submitted his amendments before the deadline.

Representative THORNE of Carmel moved that **House Amendment "R" (H-33) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13) be INDEFINITELY POSTPONED.**

Representative MOONEN of Portland **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE House Amendment "R" (H-33) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13).**

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 "R" (H-33) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 41

YEA - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, 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, Wood S, Woodsome.

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

ABSENT - Collamore, Hall, Javner, Kessler, Lanigan, Lookner, Lyman, Mason, Mathieson, Nutting, Rana.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 64; No, 75; Absent, 11; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

64 having voted in the affirmative and 75 voted in the negative, with 11 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE House Amendment "R" (H-33) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13) FAILED.**

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

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Please excuse me, Mr. Speaker, but it's been a long day and I'm very confused. Earlier today, I asked if it was an emergency, and now am I correct to assume we're going to remove the emergency preamble? Is that what we're voting on?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would answer in the affirmative. The House Amendment that's been presented by the Representative from Westbrook amends the Committee Amendment to remove the emergency preamble.

The Member may proceed.

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My concern is the hospital bills that were so important in the supplement; by removing this emergency, they're going to have to wait 90 days once this is enacted. Is that correct?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would inform the Member that without an emergency preamble, bills take effect 90 days after adjournment. The Member may proceed.

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Yesterday, we had a bill that would've put an emergency preamble on this and taken care of the hospitals immediately, and I'm disappointed that my friends on the other side of the aisle did not vote for the bill that would've paid the hospitals within a week. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Representative **GREENWOOD** of Wales **REQUESTED** a roll call on **ADOPTION** of **House Amendment "R" (H-33)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (H-13)**.

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**: I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, I was just going to request a Roll Call.

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

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When is adjournment?

The SPEAKER: Adjournment is up to the Body.

The Chair recognizes the Representative from Wales, Representative Greenwood.

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just heard from the previous speaker from Poland; he asked a question as to when adjournment was, and I'll direct Members' attention to the back page, page 44, of today's House Calendar, and it says statutory adjournment date is June 18, 2025. So, to answer the question of the Good Representative from Poland, statutory adjournment date is that day. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Adoption of House Amendment "R" (H-33) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-13). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 42

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

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, 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, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Hall, Kessler, Lanigan, Lookner, Lyman, Mason, Mathieson, Nutting, Rana.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 74; No, 67; Absent, 9; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 67 voted in the negative, with 9 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly **House Amendment "R" (H-33)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (H-13)** was **ADOPTED**.

Representative **GREENWOOD** of Wales **REQUESTED** a roll call on **ADOPTION** of **Committee Amendment "A" (H-13)** as Amended by **House Amendment "R" (H-33)** thereto.

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-13) as Amended by House Amendment "R" (H-33) thereto. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 43

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

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, 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, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Abdi, Hall, Kessler, Lanigan, Lookner, Lyman, Mason, Mathieson, Nutting, Rana.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 73; No, 67; Absent, 10; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

73 having voted in the affirmative and 67 voted in the negative, with 10 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly **Committee Amendment "A" (H-13)** as Amended by **House Amendment "R" (H-33)** thereto 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**.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Wales, Representative Greenwood.

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As you can see, I don't think this is the right process, so, I'm going to request a Roll Call.

Representative **GREENWOOD** of Wales **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-13) as Amended by House Amendment "R" (H-33)** thereto.

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 Winter Harbor, Representative Faulkingham.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Mr. Speaker, I just want to point out one more time how incredibly unfair this situation is. I mean, the expulsion of Representative Libby is not just affecting Representative Libby, it's affecting all of us. It's affecting the constituents of my district, because --

Representative **MOONEN**: Point of Order.

The SPEAKER: The Member will defer. The Chair will inquire as to the Representative from Portland's Point of Order.

Representative **MOONEN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The pending question is Passage to be Engrossed, so, comments on the floor should be about whether or not this bill should be Passed to be Engrossed. Thank you.

On **POINT OF ORDER**, Representative **MOONEN** of Portland asked the Chair if the remarks of Representative **FAULKINGHAM** of Winter Harbor were germane to the pending question.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will remind the Member from Winter Harbor that the pending question is Passage to be Engrossed. The comments related to this item should be directed towards the Passage of LD 609.

The Chair reminded Representative **FAULKINGHAM** of Winter Harbor to stay as close as possible to the pending question.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Mr. Speaker, I'm calling into question the validity of this vote. I'm calling it into question, because it's not just the constituents of my district or the constituents of China, or Madison, or Poland, or Buxton, or Monticello, or Madawaska or anywhere. It's when you combine them all with the constituents of Auburn that are being excluded out of here, you are diminishing all of our votes. And although today, maybe we're separated by more than a vote or two, the fact remains that this is a power trip that's happening, Mr. Speaker. It is wrong. It is an abuse of power of this Body to remove a vote of ours; of the whole Body, not even just this side, but the whole 151 of us --

The SPEAKER: The Member will defer. The Chair will remind the Member to direct comments as it relates to Passage to be Engrossed.

The Chair reminded Representative **FAULKINGHAM** of Winter Harbor to stay as close as possible to the pending question.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Mr. Speaker, the validity of this vote is in question. This Body does not have the ability to stop a duly elected Member from voting.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will remind the Member that we had a pretty lengthy debate this afternoon on suspension of Rule 401, Part 11. There was a vote of this Body. The pending question is Passage to be Engrossed. I would ask the Member to direct his comments to Passage to be Engrossed.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Mr. Speaker, I would just urge the Members, in all fairness, that while one of us is silenced, all of us are silenced. Vote no on the pending motion.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Passage to be Engrossed as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-13) as Amended by House Amendment "R" (H-33) thereto. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 44

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

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, 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, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Hall, Kessler, Lanigan, Lookner, Lyman, Mason, Mathieson, Nutting, Rana.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 74; No, 67; Absent, 9; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 67 voted in the negative, with 9 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-13) as Amended by House Amendment "R" (H-33)** thereto and sent for concurrence.

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

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 448)

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MARCH 2025 AS BLEEDING DISORDERS AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, bleeding disorders, which are distinguished by the inability to form a proper blood clot, are characterized by extended bleeding after injury, surgery, trauma or menstruation and can lead to significant morbidity and can be fatal if not treated effectively; and

WHEREAS, many individuals with hemophilia became infected with HIV and hepatitis C in the 1980s due to the contamination of the blood supply and blood products; and

WHEREAS, Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month will generate greater awareness and understanding of not only hemophilia but all inheritable bleeding disorders, including von Willebrand disease, which alone affects an estimated one percent of the U.S. population, or more than 3.2 million individuals; and

WHEREAS, Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month will foster a greater sense of community and shared purpose among all individuals with inheritable bleeding disorders; and

WHEREAS, Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month will elevate awareness of and engagement in the inheritable bleeding disorders journey for the general public, enabling the prevention of illness, unnecessary procedures and disability; 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 March 2025 as Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month.

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

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 476)

JOINT RESOLUTION DESIGNATING MAY 4, 2025 TO MAY 10, 2025 AS TARDIVE DYSKINESIA AWARENESS WEEK

WHEREAS, serious mental illnesses like bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder and schizophrenia often require treatment with antipsychotic medications for effective management, and antipsychotic prescribing rates continue to rise; and

WHEREAS, while prolonged antipsychotic use may be essential for the treatment of certain conditions, it is associated with tardive dyskinesia, or "TD," a condition marked by uncontrollable, abnormal and repetitive movements of the face, torso, limbs or extremities; and

WHEREAS, people at higher risk of TD include those older than 55 years, Black individuals, women, individuals with mood or substance use disorders, intellectual disabilities or central nervous system injuries and those with high cumulative antipsychotic exposure; and

WHEREAS, approximately 60% of the estimated 800,000 adults in the United States living with TD remain undiagnosed, and even mild TD symptoms can be stigmatizing and impair physical, social and emotional well-being, underscoring the urgency of early screening, detection and intervention; and

WHEREAS, the American Psychiatric Association recommends routine TD screening in their clinical guidelines for antipsychotic treatment, and individuals treated with antipsychotics or experiencing abnormal movements should consult their healthcare providers to assess TD risk, receive TD screenings and determine appropriate treatment together; and

WHEREAS, United States Food and Drug Administration-approved treatments for TD can provide options for symptom management and improved quality of life for many individuals living with TD; and

WHEREAS, the Maine Legislature can encourage TD screening education and awareness for health care providers, patients and care partners to help ensure patients prescribed antipsychotics receive care and support that aligns with clinical best practice, including regular TD screenings; 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 designate May 4, 2025 to May 10, 2025 as Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week; acknowledge the importance of early detection and intervention to improve outcomes for people living with mental health conditions and prescribed antipsychotics; and express our support for efforts to

raise awareness about the causes and symptoms of TD and the importance of routine TD screening.

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

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 478)

JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE ROLE OF IRISH IMMIGRANTS AND IRISH-AMERICANS IN THE AMERICAN WAR OF INDEPENDENCE

WHEREAS, in April 1775 at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts, the American War of Independence began with "the shot heard round the world," which continues to echo to this day. That war 250 years ago inspired Ireland and others in many nations to continue to struggle to be free and to choose their own destinies; and

WHEREAS, just a month later in May 1775, Maurice O'Brien of Cork in Ireland and his 5 sons struck the first blow against the British at sea. The O'Briens and a group of local fishermen in Machias Bay, Maine captured the HMS Margareta in a bold boarding action. When 2 more British warships were sent to reclaim the prize, the O'Briens and their neighbors captured them as well; and

WHEREAS, if the fights at Lexington and Concord were where the American nation was born, it was on June 17, 1775 at the Battle of Bunker Hill that the young American nation came of age; and

WHEREAS, at the heart of this fierce clash were the Fighting Irish and the names of Casey, Collins, Flynn and McGrath were among the names of the fallen. Among the New England militia who rushed to defend Boston Harbor were 176 Irish-born patriots and hundreds more who were children of Irish immigrants, many of whom had arrived as indentured servants; and

WHEREAS, seven Irish officers and dozens of Irish-American officers at Bunker Hill, including Colonel John Stark of New Hampshire, were among the heroes of the day, and among those who paid the ultimate price was Major Andrew McClary, born in County Tyrone, Ireland, who fought valiantly until his tragic death at the very end of the battle. McClary, the highest-ranking American officer killed that day, was the last to leave the battlefield; and

WHEREAS, another figure of Irish descent who played a key role in the revolution was Captain Ebenezer Sullivan. His brothers James and John went on to leave their mark on American history as well: James became governor of Massachusetts and John was a general who forced British troops to evacuate Boston, Massachusetts on St. Patrick's Day in 1776; and

WHEREAS, in December 1775, John Barry from County Wexford, Ireland, later known as the Father of the American Navy, was given command of the USS Lexington, the first commission issued by the Continental Congress. He would go on to receive Commodore Commission Number One from President George Washington; and

WHEREAS, the Battle of Bunker Hill and the shots fired at Lexington and Concord inspired Ireland to continue its struggle for independence, and its freedom and its peace were secured with the steadfast support of the United States of America; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, pause in our deliberations to honor the role of Irish immigrants and Irish-Americans in the American War of Independence.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.P. 754)

**STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0148**

March 14, 2025

Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Enclosed please find my official certification to the 132nd Legislature of the citizen initiative petition entitled "An Act to Require an Individual to Present Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting".

Sincerely,
S/Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State

**STATE OF MAINE
SECRETARY OF STATE**

I, Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State, hereby certify that written petitions bearing valid signatures of 86,904 electors of this State were addressed to the Legislature of the State of Maine and were filed in the office of the Secretary of State on January 6, 2025, requesting that the Legislature consider an act entitled, "An Act to Require an Individual to Present Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting".

I further certify that the number of signatures submitted is in excess of ten percent of the total votes cast in the last gubernatorial election preceding the filing of such petitions, as required by Article IV, Part Third, Section 18 of the Constitution of Maine, that number being 67,682.

I further certify this initiative petition to be valid and attach herewith the text of the legislation circulated on the petition's behalf.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State of Maine to be hereunto affixed. Given under my hand at Augusta on the fourteenth day of March in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-five.

S/Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State

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

Sent for concurrence.

Representative SUPICA of Bangor moved that the accompanying Bill "An Act to Require an Individual to Present Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting"

(I.B. 1) (L.D. 1149)

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

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May I pose a question through the Chair?

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: This bill being a Citizens' Initiative, needs to be dealt with before the end of the First Regular Session, according to the Constitution. Basically, if this bill gets referred to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs and we adjourn *sine die*, does that mean that the Committee cannot take action on the Citizens' Initiative?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would answer in the negative. The Member may proceed.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: So, then, this bill being referred to the Veterans and Legal Affairs can be taken up by the Legislature after the First Regular Session?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would answer in the affirmative, should LD 1149 be carried over to a subsequent session.

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 98)

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON MARINE RESOURCES**

March 6, 2025

Honorable Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry, Senate President

Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau, Speaker of the House
132nd Maine State Legislature
State House
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau,
Pursuant to Joint Rule 305.6, we are writing to notify you that LD 687, "An Act to Assert State Ownership over Ocean Waters up to 12 Nautical Miles and Submerged Lands and Marine Resources up to 24 Nautical Miles off the State's Coast and to Direct the Attorney General to Study That Ownership" has been automatically withdrawn.

Sincerely,
S/Sen. Denise Tepler
Senate Chair
S/Rep. Allison Hepler
House Chair

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The Following Communication: (H.C. 99)
**MAINE TURNPIKE AUTHORITY
2360 CONGRESS STREET
PORTLAND, ME 04102**

March 14, 2025

The Honorable Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

The Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0002

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau,
The Board of the Maine Turnpike Authority has voted to appoint Andre J. Briere as Executive Director. Pursuant to 23 MRSA 1964-A, the first appointment of an MTA Executive Director is subject to review by the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation and confirmation by the full Senate.

Enclosed you will find Mr. Briere's Legislative Questionnaire and resume as required for the confirmation. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,
S/Michael J. Cianchette
Chairman

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 100)

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

March 20, 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 following Joint Standing Committees have voted unanimously to report the following bills out "Ought Not to Pass.":

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
L.D. 498 Resolve, to Improve Standards for Animal Rescue Entities

Environment and Natural Resources
L.D. 231 An Act to Update the Solid Waste Management Hierarchy

L.D. 235 Resolve, Regarding the Operation and Future Capacity of State-owned Landfills (EMERGENCY)

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
L.D. 381 An Act to Enable Mortgage Portability and Promote Housing Affordability in the State

L.D. 409 An Act to Enhance the Mobility of Licensed Massage Therapists Across State Lines

L.D. 416 An Act to Enact the Dietitian Licensure Compact
L.D. 520 An Act to Ensure Choices in Health Insurance Markets by Modifying the Provisions of Law Governing Clear Choice Design Health Plans

Housing and Economic Development
L.D. 188 An Act to Permit the Sale of Motor Vehicles on Sundays

L.D. 445 An Act to Stimulate Housing Production by Increasing the Threshold Before Participation in the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code Is Mandatory

Marine Resources
L.D. 336 An Act to Change the Waiting List System for Commercial Lobster and Crab Fishing Licenses

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

READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (S.P. 459)

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

March 14, 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 March 14, 2025, 7 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 March 14, 2025, as follows:

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Land for Maine's Future Program and to Authorize the Use of Options to Purchase at Agricultural Value" (S.P. 458) (L.D. 1072) (Sponsored by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland) (Submitted by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry pursuant to Joint Rule 204.)

Education and Cultural Affairs

Bill "An Act to Require Personal Finance to Be Taught as a Separate Course in Order for a Student to Obtain a High School Diploma" (S.P. 454) (L.D. 1069) (Sponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative CROCKETT of Portland and Senators: RAFFERTY of York, BERNARD of Aroostook, NANGLE of Cumberland, Representatives: WOODSOME of Waterboro, CARLOW of Buxton, MURPHY of Scarborough)

Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Conduct a Review of the Implementation of Public Law 2021, Chapter 295 and Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Consult with School Administrators Regarding Developing a Plan for Community-based Crisis Receiving Centers (S.P. 456) (L.D. 1071) (Sponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Senators: TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland, RENEY of Lincoln, Representative: BOYER of Poland)

Health and Human Services

Bill "An Act Regarding Limits on Municipal General Assistance Programs" (S.P. 450) (L.D. 1066) (Sponsored by Senator BERNARD of Aroostook) (Cosponsored by Representative SMITH of Palermo and Representatives: DUCHARME of Madison, QUINT of Hodgdon)

Resolve, to Study a Medicaid Forward Plan for Maine (S.P. 455) (L.D. 1070) (Sponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Representative ARFORD of Brunswick and Senators: TEPLER of Sagadahoc, TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland, CARNEY of Cumberland, RENEY of Lincoln, Representative: FAIRCLOTH of Bangor)

Housing and Economic Development

Bill "An Act to Improve the Process for Mobile Home Owners to Purchase Their Mobile Home Park" (S.P. 451) (L.D. 1067) (Sponsored by Senator BRADSTREET of Kennebec) (Cosponsored by Senators: CYRWAY of Kennebec, MARTIN of Oxford, Representatives: DRINKWATER of Milford, COLLINS of Sidney)

State and Local Government

Bill "An Act to Allow the People to Elect the State Auditor" (S.P. 452) (L.D. 1068) (Sponsored by Senator BRADSTREET of Kennebec) (Cosponsored by Senator: HICKMAN of Kennebec, Representatives: BOYER of Poland, HENDERSON of Rumford, CARUSO of Caratunk)

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.

The Following Communication: (S.P. 468)

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

March 14, 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 March 14, 2025, 4 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 March 14, 2025, as follows:

Education and Cultural Affairs

Bill "An Act Regarding Unallocated Balances in a School Administrative Unit School Budget" (S.P. 466) (L.D. 1103) (Sponsored by Senator RAFFERTY of York) (Cosponsored by Representative MITCHELL of Cumberland and Representatives: DODGE of Belfast, SARGENT of York, HAGGAN of Hampden)

Health and Human Services

Resolve, to Raise Awareness of the Importance of Brain Health and Reducing the Risk of Dementia (S.P. 465) (L.D. 1102) (Sponsored by Senator GUERIN of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Senator: BENNETT of Oxford)

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Bill "An Act to Clarify the Requirements for Accessing Nonformulary Drugs and Drugs Used to Treat Serious Mental Illness" (S.P. 460) (L.D. 1100) (Sponsored by Senator BAILEY of York) (Submitted by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation pursuant to Joint Rule 204.)

Judiciary

Bill "An Act to Address the Limited Availability of Counsel in Courts to Represent Indigent Parties in Matters Affecting Their Fundamental Rights" (EMERGENCY) (S.P. 462) (L.D. 1101) (Sponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative KUHN of Falmouth)

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.

The Following Communication: (S.C. 149)

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

March 18, 2025
Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0002

Dear Speaker Fecteau:
In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A. §158 and Joint Rule 506 of the 132nd Maine Legislature, please be advised that the Senate today confirmed the following nominations:

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Housing and Economic Development:

- Simon Ferland of Bangor for appointment, to the Finance Authority of Maine,
- Michael J. Foley, Jr. of Cape Elizabeth for appointment, to the Finance Authority of Maine,
- William C. Tracy of Wales for reappointment, to the Finance Authority of Maine.

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Judiciary:

- Edward S. David, Esq. of Farmington for reappointment, to the Maine Human Rights Commission.

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Labor:

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

Best Regards,
S/Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE

Bill "An Act to Require Reporting of Sheltering or Aiding Missing Children"

(H.P. 755) (L.D. 1150)

Sponsored by Representative MASTRACCIO of Sanford.

Bill "An Act to Require Certain Mental Health Data to Be Included in Uniform Crime Reports"

(H.P. 792) (L.D. 1187)

Sponsored by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach.

Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York and Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, BRENNAN of Portland, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, DOUDERA of Camden, MCCABE of Lewiston, MEYER of Eliot, SACHS of Freeport, ZAGER of Portland.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Allow Gun Shops to Hold Firearms for Veterans of the United States Armed Forces and First Responders"

(H.P. 779) (L.D. 1174)

Sponsored by Representative WOOD of Greene.

Cosponsored by Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot, Senator HARRINGTON of York and Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, GREENWOOD of Wales, LAJOIE of Lewiston, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, POMERLEAU of Standish, WHITE of Guilford.

Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** suggested.

On motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Resolve, to Establish a Hybrid Juris Doctor Program at the University of Maine School of Law to Address Access to Justice in Rural Maine

(H.P. 767) (L.D. 1162)

Sponsored by Representative FREDETTE of Newport.

Bill "An Act to Foster Career and Technical Education in Maine Schools by Creating an Additional Pathway to Certify Industrial Arts Teachers"

(H.P. 768) (L.D. 1163)

Sponsored by Representative CARLOW of Buxton.

Cosponsored by Senator RAFFERTY of York and Representatives: CROCKETT of Portland, DODGE of Belfast, LYMAN of Livermore Falls, MURPHY of Scarborough, SARGENT of York, Senators: President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, LIBBY of Cumberland.

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 Prohibit Ownership of 6 Percent or More or Control of a Public Utility by an Entity Providing Aid to a Foreign Terrorist Organization" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 765) (L.D. 1160)

Sponsored by Representative CARLOW of Buxton.

Cosponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford.

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 to Expand Appliance Energy and Water Standards"

(H.P. 763) (L.D. 1158)

Sponsored by Representative BELL of Yarmouth.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, DOUDERA of Camden, OSHER of Orono, PLUECKER of Warren, Senator: TEPLER of Sagadahoc.

Bill "An Act to Create a Fund for Safe Disposal of Hazardous Fluids from Salvage Yards"

(H.P. 770) (L.D. 1165)

Sponsored by Representative CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham.

Cosponsored by Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc and Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, BRIDGEO of Augusta, DOUDERA of Camden.

Resolve, Establishing a 3-year Moratorium on the Installation or Reinstallation of Synthetic Turf and Requiring a Study of the Public Health and Environmental Risks of Synthetic Turf

(H.P. 782) (L.D. 1177)

Sponsored by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach.

Cosponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland and Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, DHALAC of South Portland, DOUDERA of Camden, KESSLER of South Portland, OSHER of Orono, RIELLY of Westbrook, Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, INGWERSEN of York.

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 Protect Access to Health Insurance Under the MaineCare Program"

(H.P. 756) (L.D. 1151)

Sponsored by Representative MORRIS of Turner.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Relating to the State's Background Check Center"

(H.P. 762) (L.D. 1157)

Sponsored by Representative SHAGOURY of Hallowell.

Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Bill "An Act to Expedite the Process Involving Municipalities That Illegally Move a Person to Avoid Responsibility for General Assistance Support"

(H.P. 783) (L.D. 1178)

Sponsored by Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook.

Cosponsored by Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, MOONEN of Portland, ROEDER of Bangor.

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 Expand the Right to Shop for Health Care Services"

(H.P. 757) (L.D. 1152)

Sponsored by Representative MORRIS of Turner.

Bill "An Act to Change the Professional Title and Identification of Physician Assistants to Physician Associates"

(H.P. 771) (L.D. 1166)

Sponsored by Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston.

Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and Representatives: CRAFTS of Newcastle, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, MEYER of Eliot, MORRIS of Turner, Senators: BAILEY of York, President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, RENEY of Lincoln.

Bill "An Act to Allow Chiropractors to Treat Dogs and Equids"

(H.P. 795) (L.D. 1220)

Sponsored by Representative FOLEY of Wells.
Cosponsored by Senator BRADSTREET of Kennebec and Representatives: FLYNN of Albion, MASON of Lisbon, MCINTYRE of Lowell, MORRIS of Turner, OLSEN of Raymond, POMERLEAU of Standish.

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.

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Businesses from Refusing to Accept Cash for In-person Payments"

(H.P. 764) (L.D. 1159)

Sponsored by Representative ROLLINS of Augusta.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BABIN of Fort Fairfield, SINCLAIR of Bath, SUPICA of Bangor, Senator: DUSON of Cumberland.

Resolve, to Create a Pilot Program to Assist Nonprofit Housing Developers in Rehabilitating Existing Aging Housing Stock for First-time Home Buyers

(H.P. 772) (L.D. 1167)

Sponsored by Representative MCCABE of Lewiston.
Cosponsored by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin and Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, BELL of Yarmouth, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, DEBRITO of Waterville, GEIGER of Rockland, SHAGOURY of Hallowell.

Bill "An Act to Make the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority Responsible for the Transfer and Development of State-owned Surplus Land"

(H.P. 775) (L.D. 1170)

Sponsored by Representative JULIA of Waterville.
Cosponsored by Senator CURRY of Waldo and Representatives: COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, EDER of Waterboro, GERE of Kennebunkport, GOLEK of Harpswell, MALON of Biddeford, ROBERTS of South Berwick, SACHS of Freeport, YUSUF of Portland.

Bill "An Act to Establish Minimum Safety Standards for the Construction and Use of Temporary Emergency Shelters"

(H.P. 784) (L.D. 1179)

Sponsored by Representative MACIAS of Topsham.
Cosponsored by Representatives: ARCHER of Saco, ARFORD of Brunswick, WEBB of Durham.

Bill "An Act Regarding the Designation of Short-term Rental Units as Commercial or Residential in Use"

(H.P. 786) (L.D. 1181)

Sponsored by Representative GERE of Kennebunkport.
Cosponsored by Representatives: DHALAC of South Portland, MALON of Biddeford, Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, CURRY of Waldo.

Bill "An Act to Ensure Rent-to-own Protections Apply to Mobile Home Park Tenants"

(H.P. 788) (L.D. 1183)

Sponsored by Representative GERE of Kennebunkport.
Cosponsored by Representatives: DEBRITO of Waterville, GOLEK of Harpswell, JULIA of Waterville, RANA of Bangor, ROBERTS of South Berwick.

Bill "An Act to Require Municipal Reporting on Residential Building Permits, Dwelling Units Permitted and Demolished and Certificates of Occupancy Issued"

(H.P. 789) (L.D. 1184)

Sponsored by Representative GERE of Kennebunkport.
Cosponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford and Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, DOUDERA of Camden, EDER of Waterboro, GEIGER of Rockland, MALON of Biddeford, MINGO of Calais, YUSUF of Portland, Senator: CURRY of Waldo.

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 Prohibit Persons from Providing Incentives to Customers for Opting Out of Paper Billing"

(H.P. 785) (L.D. 1180)

Sponsored by Representative CRAFTS of Newcastle.

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

On motion of Representative GERE of Kennebunkport, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Restore Complimentary Licenses to Hunt, Trap and Fish for Residents 70 Years of Age and Older"

(H.P. 776) (L.D. 1171)

Sponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor.

Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and Representatives: BISHOP of Bucksport, BRIDGEO of Augusta, DILL of Old Town, DRINKWATER of Milford, MASON of Lisbon, THORNE of Carmel, WOOD of Greene, Senator: GUERIN of Penobscot.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Require That Informed Consent for Abortion Include Information on Perinatal Hospice"

(H.P. 759) (L.D. 1154)

Sponsored by Representative PAUL of Winterport.

Cosponsored by Senator GUERIN of Penobscot and Representatives: COLLINS of Sidney, GRIFFIN of Levant, JAVNER of Chester, QUINT of Hodgdon, SMITH of Palermo, Senators: HARRINGTON of York, MARTIN of Oxford, STEWART of Aroostook.

Resolve, to Establish a Group to Study the Laws Governing the Guardianship of Adults and Ongoing Parental Rights of Parents of Disabled Adults

(H.P. 778) (L.D. 1173)

Sponsored by Representative BRIDGEO of Augusta.
Cosponsored by Representative HYMES of Waldo and Representatives: GUERRETTE of Caribou, ROLLINS of Augusta, SAYRE of Kennebunk, SHAGOURY of Hallowell.

Bill "An Act Regarding the Appointment and Payment of Counsel for Indigent Parents and Minors"

(H.P. 780) (L.D. 1175)

Sponsored by Representative KUHN of Falmouth.
Submitted by the Judicial Department pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Persons Under 18 Years of Age from Marrying"

(H.P. 790) (L.D. 1185)

Sponsored by Representative SUPICA of Bangor.
Cosponsored by Senator MARTIN of Oxford and Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, FAIRCLOTH of Bangor, JULIA of Waterville, MEYER of Eliot, MURPHY of Scarborough, PUGH of Portland, RANA of Bangor, Senator: INGWERSEN of York.

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Arrest and Detention for Civil Violations and Require an Attorney for the State to Determine Whether to Charge a Class E Offense as a Civil Violation"

(H.P. 794) (L.D. 1189)

Sponsored by Representative MOONEN of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland and Representatives: CARUSO of Caratunk, HENDERSON of Rumford, KUHN of Falmouth, LEE of Auburn, POIRIER of Skowhegan, SINCLAIR of Bath, Senator: TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act to Limit Sovereign Immunity for Schools and School Superintendents"

(H.P. 797) (L.D. 1222)

Sponsored by Representative PAUL of Winterport.
Cosponsored by Representatives: COLLINS of Sidney, HAGGAN of Hampden, LYMAN of Livermore Falls, MORRIS of Turner, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Enact the Passamaquoddy Fisheries and Workforce Development Act"

(H.P. 777) (L.D. 1172)

Sponsored by Representative DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe.

Committee on **JUDICIARY** suggested.

On motion of Representative KUHN of Falmouth, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding Employer Payments for the Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program"

(H.P. 774) (L.D. 1169)

Sponsored by Representative SOBOLESKI of Phillips.
Cosponsored by Senator MARTIN of Oxford and Representatives: BAGSHAW of Windham, DRINKWATER of Milford, GREENWOOD of Wales, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, QUINT of Hodgdon, SMITH of Palermo, WHITE of Guilford, Senator: HAGGAN of Penobscot.

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Prohibit the Legislature from Using Paid Family and Medical Leave Program Funds for Any Other Purpose

(H.P. 796) (L.D. 1221)

Sponsored by Representative DRINKWATER of Milford.
Cosponsored by Senator BRADSTREET of Kennebec and Representatives: DAIGLE of Fort Kent, DUCHARME of Madison, GRIFFIN of Levant, LEMELIN of Chelsea, MORRIS of Turner, SOBOLESKI of Phillips.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Provide for the Sustainable Management of Marine Resources and Create a Noncommercial Northern Shrimp License"

(H.P. 781) (L.D. 1176)

Sponsored by Representative EATON of Deer Isle.
Submitted by the Department of Marine Resources pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Change in Statute the Areas Represented by the Members of the Board of Trustees of the Cross Insurance Arena from Sets of Municipalities to the County Commissioner Districts of Cumberland County"

(H.P. 758) (L.D. 1153)

Sponsored by Representative ANKELES of Brunswick.

Bill "An Act to Ensure Appropriate County Government Operations Relating to the Position of Dedimus Justice"

(H.P. 760) (L.D. 1155)

Sponsored by Representative FLYNN of Albion.
Cosponsored by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec and Representatives: CIMINO of Bridgton, COLLINS of Sidney, GRIFFIN of Levant, POMERLEAU of Standish.

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Providing for the Popular Election of the Attorney General

(H.P. 766) (L.D. 1161)

Sponsored by Representative FREDETTE of Newport.
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 Amend the Law Regarding the Current Use Valuation of Certain Working Waterfront Land with Respect to Commercial Boat Yards"

(H.P. 773) (L.D. 1168)

Sponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor.

Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: BISHOP of Bucksport, FOLEY of Wells, PARRY of Arundel, SIMMONS of Waldoboro, TUELL of East Machias, 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 Allow Military Surplus Vehicles to Be Collected and Used in Patriotic Exhibitions and Parades"

(H.P. 761) (L.D. 1156)

Sponsored by Representative PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft.

Cosponsored by Senator BRADSTREET of Kennebec and Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, LAJOIE of Lewiston, MCINTYRE of Lowell, NUTTING of Oakland, Senators: BERNARD of Aroostook, CYRWAY of Kennebec, FARRIN of Somerset, HAGGAN of Penobscot.

Bill "An Act to Grant the Rockland Port District an Increase in Its Borrowing Capacity and Include Sustainable Aquaculture and Marine Industries in Its Charter"

(H.P. 787) (L.D. 1182)

Sponsored by Representative GEIGER of Rockland.

Cosponsored by Senator BEEBE-CENTER of Knox.

Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Study the Feasibility of Ferry Service to Monhegan Island

(H.P. 791) (L.D. 1186)

Sponsored by Representative CRAFTS of Newcastle.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Create Economic Opportunity for the Wabanaki Nations Through Internet Gaming"

(H.P. 769) (L.D. 1164)

Sponsored by Representative RANA of Bangor.

Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, MACIAS of Topsham, MINGO of Calais, ROEDER of Bangor, SATO of Gorham, Senators: HICKMAN of Kennebec, TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act to Include Harness Racing with Other Sports for Purposes of Sports Wagering" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 793) (L.D. 1188)

Sponsored by Representative COOPER of Windham.

Cosponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin and Representatives: CRAY of Palmyra, FROST of Belgrade, GUERRETTE of Caribou, HALL of Wilton, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

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

ORDERS

On motion of Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston, the following House Order: (H.O. 17)

ORDERED, that Representative Holly Rae Eaton of Deer Isle be excused Mar 11 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Ann Fredericks of Sanford be excused Mar 18 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Valli D. Geiger of Rockland be excused Mar 4 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Caldwell Jackson of Oxford be excused Feb 25 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Lucas John Lanigan of Sanford be excused Mar 4 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Michael Soboleski of Phillips be excused Mar 11 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Joseph F. Underwood of Presque Isle be excused Feb 4 for health reasons.

READ and PASSED.

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

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

In Memory of:

the Honorable Linda Rogers McKee, of Wayne. In 1972, Mrs. McKee settled in Wayne on a 102-acre homestead she and her husband Robert named "Plumgood Farm." Passionate about organic gardening, she was one of the first members of the Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association. She also served on her local and regional school boards and restored the historic schoolhouse in North Wayne, where she ran living history days. In 1980, she returned to her earlier career in teaching, first in Gardiner and finally at Winthrop High School. Mrs. McKee ran for the Maine Legislature in 1997 and won, going on to serve four terms representing Wayne, Winthrop and Fayette. She served as co-chair of the agriculture committee and was a prime sponsor of a "first in the country, first in the world," cross contamination bill, which aimed to hold corporations accountable for cross contamination of non-genetically engineered crops. She also introduced legislation that created a new citizens' center at the State House, a resource for empowering citizens with tools to lobby effectively and stand on a level playing field with paid industry lobbyists. A pianist and organist, she filled her home, church and community centers with music. Mrs. McKee will be long remembered and sadly missed by her family, friends and community;

(HLS 127)

Presented by Representative SHAGOURY of Hallowell.

Cosponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec, Representative MORRIS of Turner.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative MONTELL of Gardiner, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar. **READ.**

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Gardiner, Representative Montell.

Representative **MONTELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Colleagues of the House, I rise today to remember Linda Rogers McKee. Back then, she was Mrs. McKee; more than 40 years ago, when I was in high school. And many of my more studious peers in high school took world history, but I decided to take world cultures, and that made all the difference. She was a wonderful world cultures teacher and for the first time, I actually liked school.

So, I just wanted to pay tribute to her, and also back in the 118th Legislature, because I'm wicked old, I was the Clerk for Natural Resources and I walked through that door, and Linda Rogers McKee was on that Committee. So, we got to reconnect, and I got to tell her how much she meant to me. And I just wanted to let you all know that she was awesome, and she did a lot for the people of Maine and I was really proud to know her. Thank you.

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

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Report of the Chair-Pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2

Representative HEPLER from the Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** on Bill "An Act to Require a Person Operating a Watercraft for Recreational Purposes to Ensure All Passengers Under 13 Years of Age Wear Coast Guard Approved Personal Flotation Devices"

(H.P. 671) (L.D. 1042)

Reports a recommendation for a **CHANGE OF COMMITTEE**.

The Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

On motion of Representative HEPLER of Woolwich, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** and sent for concurrence.

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Change the Limits on Candidates' Communications with Voters at the Polls"

(S.P. 86) (L.D. 199)

Signed:

Senators:

HICKMAN of Kennebec
DUSON of Cumberland

Representatives:

SUPICA of Bangor
FROST of Belgrade
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth
GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach
MALON of Biddeford
TERRY of Gorham

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

Signed:

Senator:

TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin

Representatives:

BOYER of Poland
CHAPMAN of Auburn
FREDERICKS of Sanford
HYMES of Waldo

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

READ.

Representative SUPICA of Bangor moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative BOYER of Poland **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

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

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

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If we pass this bill, we can finally get rid of that awkwardness, Mr. Speaker, when a voter comes up to us and we're shaking hands at the gauntlet and they ask you, are you running for something? I'm not allowed to say that, you'll find out soon, look at the sample ballot. It's ridiculous. We're already on an honor system of not electioneering. If someone electioneers, there's going to be a complaint; we should at least be able to say what's on the sample ballot right behind us that says our party affiliation, what we're running for, I mean, it's silly. So, I would hope that we reject this motion and pass this bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 45

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

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, 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, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Cooper, Javner, Kessler, Lanigan, Lyman, Mason, Mathieson, Nutting.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 76; No, 66; Absent, 8; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.
76 having voted in the affirmative and 66 voted in the negative, with 8 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Eliminate Ranked-choice Voting"

(H.P. 157) (L.D. 234)

Signed:

Senators:

HICKMAN of Kennebec
DUSON of Cumberland

Representatives:

SUPICA of Bangor
FAIRCLOTH of Bangor
FROST of Belgrade
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth
MALON of Biddeford
TERRY of Gorham

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

Signed:

Senator:

TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin

Representatives:

BOYER of Poland
CHAPMAN of Auburn
FREDERICKS of Sanford
HYMES of Waldo

READ.

Representative SUPICA of Bangor moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative BOYER of Poland **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 46

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

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins,

Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Cooper, Javner, Kessler, Lanigan, Lyman, Mason, Mathieson, Nutting.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 76; No, 66; Absent, 8; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

76 having voted in the affirmative and 66 voted in the negative, with 8 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

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

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

ENACTORS

Emergency Measure

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Taste Testing of Wine and Malt Liquor to Facilitate Marketing by Wholesalers
(H.P. 165) (L.D. 262)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 113 voted in favor of the same and 5 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

An Act Making Unified Allocations from the Highway Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027
(H.P. 178) (L.D. 274)

(H. "A" H-22 to C. "A" H-14)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 112 voted in favor of the same and 2 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 100: Enforcement Procedures, a Major Substantive Rule of the Maine Health Data Organization
(H.P. 210) (L.D. 310)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 111 voted in favor of the same and 3 against, and accordingly the Resolve was **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 800: Uniform Reporting of Wholesale Acquisition Costs for Insulin, a Major Substantive Rule of the Maine Health Data Organization (H.P. 468) (L.D. 729)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 113 voted in favor of the same and 3 against, and accordingly the Resolve was **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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

Acts

An Act to Create Consistency in Retirement Service Benefits Deferral Under the Maine Public Employees Retirement System (S.P. 106) (L.D. 240)

An Act to Update the Laws Governing the Administration of the Animal Welfare Advisory Council (H.P. 208) (L.D. 308)

An Act to Change the Size and Composition of the Board of Directors of the Maine Health Data Organization (H.P. 413) (L.D. 645)

An Act to Protect Federal Home Loan Banks That Lend Money to Insurer Members That Become Delinquent (H.P. 459) (L.D. 720)

Were reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed, **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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

SENATE PAPERS

Resolve, Directing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Assess Its Current Meat and Poultry Inspection Programs (S.P. 487) (L.D. 1198)

Bill "An Act to Allow the Premiums and Gratuities Paid for Any Agricultural Events Approved by the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Be Considered in Apportionment of Stipends to Agricultural Fairs" (S.P. 502) (L.D. 1213)

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 Prohibit the Sale of Items Intended to Be Used to Inhale Nitrous Oxide for Recreational Purposes" (S.P. 489) (L.D. 1200)

Bill "An Act Regarding Residency Restrictions for Sex Offenders" (S.P. 504) (L.D. 1215)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Establish the African American Studies Advisory Council and Provide Funding to Support African American Studies" (S.P. 491) (L.D. 1202)

Bill "An Act to Provide Grants to Schools That Contract for Behavioral and Mental Health Services" (S.P. 492) (L.D. 1203)

Bill "An Act to Increase State Funding for the Campuses of the University of Maine System and to Raise the Minimum Hourly Wage for Employees of the System" (EMERGENCY) (S.P. 508) (L.D. 1219)

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

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

Resolve, to Study Opportunities for the Efficiency Maine Trust to Support the Promotion and Use of Modern Wood Heating (S.P. 501) (L.D. 1212)

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

REFERRED to the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Require the Department of Environmental Protection to Monitor Air and Water Temperatures Around Commercial Solar Energy Developments" (S.P. 496) (L.D. 1207)

Bill "An Act to Regarding Renewable Electricity Generation by Hydropower Projects" (S.P. 499) (L.D. 1210)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Ensure Timely Reimbursement for Providers of Child Care Services for Children in Foster Care" (S.P. 480) (L.D. 1191)

Resolve, Regarding the Development of a Medication Administration Training Program for Maine Youth Camps (S.P. 488) (L.D. 1199)

Bill "An Act to Improve Behavioral Health Crisis Services and Suicide Prevention Services" (S.P. 505) (L.D. 1216)

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 Increase the Commercial Insurance Reimbursement Rate for Ambulance Services"
(S.P. 481) (L.D. 1192)

Bill "An Act to Update the Maine Money Transmission Modernization Act by Removing Provisions of Law Regarding Unhosted Wallets" (EMERGENCY)
(S.P. 486) (L.D. 1197)

Bill "An Act to Support Direct Access Worker Employment by Removing Certain Employment Disqualifications"
(S.P. 493) (L.D. 1204)

Bill "An Act to Set Limits on Virtual Currency Kiosks"
(S.P. 494) (L.D. 1205)
Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** and ordered printed.
REFERRED to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Increase State Funding for Emergency Shelters"
(S.P. 479) (L.D. 1190)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Statutory Balance Limit on the Finance Authority of Maine's Loan Insurance Reserves for General Fund Transfers"
(S.P. 497) (L.D. 1208)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** and ordered printed.
REFERRED to the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Provisions of the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992 Governing Requirements for Self-insurers"
(S.P. 484) (L.D. 1195)

Committee on **LABOR** suggested and ordered printed.
Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** and ordered printed.
REFERRED to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Allow Certain County Commissioners Who Are Maine Public Employees Retirement System Members to Switch to the Legislative Retirement Program"
(S.P. 507) (L.D. 1218)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **LABOR** and ordered printed.
REFERRED to the Committee on **LABOR** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Require the Legislature to Elect Constitutional Officers and the State Auditor in Convention with an Open Ballot System"
(S.P. 482) (L.D. 1193)

Resolve, to Require the Towns of Kittery and York to Develop a Boundary Description
(S.P. 485) (L.D. 1196)

Bill "An Act to Designate the Second Congressional District 'Acadia'"
(S.P. 503) (L.D. 1214)

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 Phase Out Vehicle Excise Taxes and Implement a Fee for Infrastructure Funding Based on a Vehicle's Annual Mileage" (EMERGENCY)
(S.P. 483) (L.D. 1194)

Committee on **TAXATION** suggested and ordered printed.
Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** and ordered printed.
REFERRED to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Control Property Taxes by Increasing the Percentage of the Business Equipment Tax Exemption That Municipalities May Recover"
(S.P. 495) (L.D. 1206)

Bill "An Act Regarding Certain Definitions in the Sales and Use Tax Laws Affecting Rental Equipment and Automobiles Used in Transporting Goods"
(S.P. 500) (L.D. 1211)

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

Resolve, to Create a Working Group to Study the Safety and Use of Small Lightweight Vehicles on Maine's Roads and Highways, the Systems and Laws Governing Antique Vehicles and the General Improvement of Road Safety
(S.P. 498) (L.D. 1209)

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

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Change of Committee

Representative ROEDER from the Committee on **LABOR** on Bill "An Act Regarding Occupational Licensing Reform"
(H.P. 349) (L.D. 530)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**.

The Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.
Subsequently, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and sent for concurrence.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(S.P. 115) (L.D. 248) Bill "An Act to Rename the Administrator of the Office of Chief Medical Examiner the Director of Medical Examiner Operations" Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass**

Under suspension of the rules, Second Day Consent Calendar notification was given.

There being no objection, the Senate Paper was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** in concurrence.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 101)

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

March 20, 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 following Joint Standing Committees have voted unanimously to report the following bills out "Ought Not to Pass:"

Education and Cultural Affairs

L.D. 81 An Act to Foster Innovation in Maine Schools by Updating the Requirements of School Innovation Waivers

L.D. 360 An Act Supporting the Dirigo Reads Literacy Program

L.D. 543 An Act to Enhance Maine's Wildlife Conservation Efforts and Preserve Maine's Sporting Heritage by Requiring Hunter Safety Education in Schools

Health and Human Services

L.D. 480 An Act to Support Healthy Weight by Providing MaineCare Coverage for Certain Weight Loss Medications

Judiciary

L.D. 196 An Act Regarding Documents Obtained by Subpoena by the Government Oversight Committee

L.D. 410 An Act to Require Parental Consent to Withhold Life-sustaining Measures for a Minor or to Comply with a Do-not-resuscitate Order for a Minor

Taxation

L.D. 237 An Act to Increase the Percentage of Funds Provided to Municipalities Through State-Municipal Revenue Sharing

L.D. 256 An Act to Establish a Sales Tax Holiday for Purchases of Certain School Supplies for the Month of August

L.D. 283 An Act to Expand Local Revenues by Including Meals and Lodging Sales Tax Revenue Under the State-Municipal Revenue Sharing Program

L.D. 440 Resolve, to Study the Economic Effects of Instituting a Seasonal Sales Tax

Veterans and Legal Affairs

L.D. 811 An Act to Require a Municipal Public Hearing and Vote Before a Sports Wagering Facility May Be Established

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

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

The Following Communication: (S.C. 162)

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

March 20, 2025

Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0002

Dear Speaker Fecteau:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A. §158 and Joint Rule 506 of the 132nd Maine Legislature, please be advised that the Senate today confirmed the following nominations:

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Judiciary

- The Honorable Darcie N. McElwee of Scarborough for appointment, as a Superior Court Justice,
- The Honorable Julia M. Lipez of Cape Elizabeth for appointment, as an Associate Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court.

Best Regards,

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Report

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act Regarding the Disposal of Abandoned Human Remains"

(S.P. 117) (L.D. 250)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth
BABIN of Fort Fairfield
CARUSO of Caratunk
LEE of Auburn
O'HALLORAN of Brewer
PUGH of Portland
SATO of Gorham

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

HENDERSON of Rumford

POIRIER of Skowhegan

SINCLAIR of Bath

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**.

READ.

On motion of Representative KUHN of Falmouth, the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**.

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** in concurrence.

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

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

Representative **BOYER**: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to invoke Rule 501, "a paper may not be taken up out of its regular order. Business may not be transacted in the House after the hour of 9:00." I want to make sure that we don't go past 9:00 today. It's getting late.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would inform the Member that that rule cannot be invoked. The time is 8:10.

Representative **BOYER**: Point of Order.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Poland and inquires to his Point of Order.

Representative **BOYER**: Parliamentary inquiry. At what time would be the appropriate time to invoke that rule? 8:59?

The SPEAKER: The appropriate time is 9:00 p.m.

Representative **BOYER**: And 9:01 would be too late?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would answer in the affirmative. The Member will defer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Poland, Representative Boyer.

Representative **BOYER**: And what would be your disposition if we're at ease, for example, at 9:01 or 9:00 or 8:59, then what?

The SPEAKER: The House will resume its work when the House returns. The House will resume its work when we reconvene.

ENACTORS

Acts

An Act Making Certain Appropriations and Allocations and Changing Certain Provisions of Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government

(H.P. 377) (L.D. 609)

(H. "R" H-33 to C. "A" H-13)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Fairfield, Representative Rudnicki.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to invoke Rule 501. Nowhere in that rule does it say you can only invoke it between 9:00 and 9:01. The rule actually says; it says, "business may not be transacted in the House after the hour of 9:00 p.m." Nowhere does it say between 9 and 9:01 as the only time we can invoke it. It is now 9:23. I'm invoking Rule 501. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would answer in the affirmative, it is 9:23, and the rule has been suspended by implication.

The Chair **RULED** that House Rule 501 had been suspended by implication.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: I would like a little bit of clarity on your last statement that there's been a communication.

The SPEAKER: The Chair informed the Body that the rule that has been referenced has been suspended by implication. We are doing business past 9:23.

Representative **BOYER**: Point of Order.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Poland, Representative Boyer, and inquires to his Point of Order.

Representative **BOYER**: You said by implication?

The SPEAKER: By implication.

Representative **BOYER**: Mr. Speaker, you and I had a back and forth that I was trying to invoke the rule at 8:15. There was no implication that we were okay with it. What would give you that idea? I would like to appeal the decision of the Speaker on this motion.

Representative **BOYER** of Poland **APPEALED** the **RULING OF THE CHAIR**.

The Chair ordered a division on **SUSTAINING** the **RULING OF THE CHAIR**.

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

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wish to speak to my motion appealing your decision, Mr. Speaker. I just don't understand for the life of me, you know, why we would have this in our rules. The majority party, to my understanding, gets to kind of dictate the rules of the House, and if we're going to make a mockery of the intent of this rule by saying that you need to invoke this rule at 9:00 on the dot, and if we're at ease, then, you know, you're out of luck, kid, sorry.

So, I don't think implication makes sense here. My understanding is that that would be kind of in order if this was a rule that our Body routinely ignored, but I believe this is the first time this session that we've been here in this hour, Mr. Speaker. So, I think it's out of order, I hope that we appeal the Ruling of the Chair, and I believe that we need two-thirds to suspend the rules after this rule's been invoked, so, I think that's how it should play out, we'll see if that's what happens. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Fairfield, Representative Rudnicki.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Mr. Speaker, I would like to see not only where in the rules; because it's not; where it says that you can imply or infer a two-thirds just because you played the game and waited until after 9:00 to bring us back from recess. Because that's what it is; it is the Democrat majority playing games with the rest of us in this Body on a regular basis.

Now, I've been here six years, and that's the one thing I've heard; oh, well, it's after nine, you can't; but nowhere in the rules does it say that. And because it's after 9:00, nothing ever good happens in this Body after 9:00 at night. We've shown it time and time again. So, Mr. Speaker, we need to have it in the rule. If you don't like the rule the way it is, you don't like it, because it does say 9:00, then change the rule. You have no problem changing it for everything else you want. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Hodgdon, Representative Quint.

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I pushed my button earlier because I was trying to get clarification of everything that is going on, and so, I am just watching this play out. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Carmel, Representative Thorne, and inquires to his inquiry.

Representative **THORNE**: I'm not clear on the question and the response of appealing the Ruling of the Chair. This is to appeal it. An appeal means we don't agree with it, correct?

The SPEAKER: Correct. The pending question is, if you are in favor of the Ruling of the Chair, you'll vote yes; if you're opposed to the Ruling of the Chair, you'll vote no. An appeal has been made; do you support the Chair's ruling or do you oppose the Chair's ruling is the question before us.

A vote of the House was taken on **SUSTAINING** the **RULING OF THE CHAIR**. 76 voted in favor of the same and 61 against, and accordingly the **RULING OF THE CHAIR** was **SUSTAINED**.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would inform the Body that the Ruling of the Chair is a majority vote. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Hodgdon, Representative Quint.

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I was just going to ask the clarification that the Good Representative from Carmel asked, and I did not push my button to agree with it afterwards.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Berwick, Representative Lavigne.

Representative **LAVIGNE**: I'm so confused right now. You know, honestly, I have no idea what I just voted for. But I guess my main question is, is this a two-thirds vote or is this a majority vote? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The pending question of Enactment is a majority vote. It's not an emergency measure. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Berwick, Representative Lavigne.

Representative **LAVIGNE**: I meant the appeal of the Chair vote.

The SPEAKER: The question of an appeal of the Ruling of the Chair is decided by a majority vote of the Chamber. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Fairfield, Representative Rudnicki.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Mr. Speaker, if you're following the rules that you have been spouting all day today, a vote of two-thirds is required if we're going to change the rule. Nowhere in that rule does it say 9:00-9:01. That rule says after 9:00 p.m. So, changing the rule requires a two-thirds vote, not

the Ruling of the Chair. It's a two-thirds vote, according to the rules. Thank you.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM** of Winter Harbor **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

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 Chelsea, Representative Lemelin.

Representative **LEMELIN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I need a little clarification before we move on.

So, I need to know moving forward what the rule is. So, none of this passes the sniff test. You indicated earlier today that it has to happen at 9:00 p.m. According to the rules, you were in error. It says after 9:00 p.m. We just did it after 9:00 p.m. and you said, no, you can't do that. So, for the future, I want the ruling, please, of when we can invoke this rule, at what time, because the rules doesn't say 9:00, so, we can't hear that, it says after 9:00. So, are we going to stick with the rules, or are we going to try to amend those rules? I need a ruling, please.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would inform the Member that the rule has been invoked in the past at 9:00 p.m., when the Body has been conducting its business. So, that is when the rule can be invoked. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Chelsea, Representative Lemelin.

Representative **LEMELIN**: Mr. Speaker, that's not the question I asked. I want a ruling for future. I understand what was proclaimed for the past, but that's not what the rules say. So, I would like the rule read for the record and then, I want to know specifically how we're going to move forward. Because if we're going to change the rules, we've got to change the rules, so, I would like the rule read, please.

Representative **LEMELIN** of Chelsea **REQUESTED** that the Clerk **READ** House Rule 501.

The Clerk **READ** House Rule 501 in its entirety.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Is that it for the ruling of the rule?

The SPEAKER: The Chair has provided a ruling, the Chair has responded to the Member, the Chair is recognizing the Representative from Winter Harbor, Representative Faulkingham.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Okay. Just for clarity, I mean, I'd be more than willing to move on beyond this rule, but we have been very strict adherence to the rules, especially in respect to the censure, and so, this does seem a little bit out of order for me, but I rise to speak in opposition to the pending motion, and I just want to bring up something that hasn't been brought up yet; a lot of people have raised great concerns why this budget is; I don't know what the words for this budget can be; a travesty, a sham. But here's a word that hasn't been mentioned today: program integrity audits.

Now, the reason why this budget was rushed to this point that we're at right now is because of a breakdown of the supplemental budget. And I think we've been thrown into chaos over the past week, when we actually proved that we could work together; I don't even know when that was, not that long ago. Right? And now, we're here at this point so suddenly and so quickly. And the reason why that supplemental failed on the one-inch line, after our counterparts in the Senate put it in the dead pile, which I find was very unnecessary to do that when it seems like everybody's in agreement that we want to get this out as an emergency measure. That's the goal here, that's what we're supposed to work towards, Mr. Speaker. And we continued to work towards that goal, but that bill broke down and

we got to this point. Now, during that whole time, we were very clear as Republicans about what we wanted. We were looking for fiscal responsibility. That's all it was, Mr. Speaker. We said very clearly that we don't want to sign a blank check. We want to pay the bill, but we don't want to sign a blank check. We want some fiscal responsibility.

Now, DHHS already does reviews, they're called program integrity audits. They do them over the people that bill MaineCare. I have seen one of the; just one of these program integrity audits that was leaked out of DHHS, it was for a nonprofit in the Portland area that had billed MaineCare for over \$3 million. When that audit was conducted, they had fraudulently billed over \$2.4 million. Eighty percent of that billing was fraudulent, Mr. Speaker. That was one. There are dozens of these. This system that we're writing a blank check to is full of fraud, and we're turning a blind eye to it. Many weeks ago, I went to the Chief Executive's office over what I thought was a meeting about the budget, and I was there to say that, yes, I believe that we can come together on a budget if you work with us. But we don't have access to all the information we need to properly work on a budget. I was asked if I was being lazy. I was asked why I don't hire more staff. Can I hire more staff, Mr. Speaker? No, I can't. I have what I've got, and I have access to the information I've got. But I put in the request in writing, in email, to the Executive Office, with a very long and detailed list of the information that I would like to have, so that we could properly write a budget and work on it. I've had no response to that. Within the last couple weeks, I've referred to these program integrity audits. I went to the Executive Branch; please provide these to me. I've seen just one that was leaked to the media, one that showed 80% fraud, \$2.4 million. That's more than the spruce budworm, in one fraudulent biller to our system.

We're not over here acting crazy; we're not over here trying to not pay the hospitals. We're trying to be responsible, Mr. Speaker. Why can't I get this information? How can you put this on us and expect us to participate and have a straight face, when we can't get information from the government that we're a part of? It's very difficult. I tried to salvage that budget by saying, why don't we do something like this? It's not even extreme. If someone's frauding us, 80% fraudulent, are we going to at least stop them from billing MaineCare? I can't imagine how much more of it there is, and we can't have one little shred of fiscal responsibility, Mr. Speaker.

As we move forward, when this vote is over, and I think everybody should vote no on this, because you're voting for this fraud, waste and abuse, if you do. Mr. Speaker, I ask you; please help me. Please work with me. Do what I can't do. I've asked for weeks, very detailed, written right out, I'll send it to you before the night's over. Help me get this information, so that we can be responsible and put a responsible budget for the people of Maine and stop letting us get ripped off. Program integrity audits; remember that. Vote no on the pending motion.

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

Representative **GATTINE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The hour is late, we've been here a long time today. Obviously, I am supportive of this action and hoping it will get broad support. I hold out no hopes with respect to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. I do want to respond a second to some of the things that I just heard.

In my experience, you know, for probably about 20 years of my professional career, I worked with states, trying to help them implement program integrity plans for their Medicaid programs. I probably worked in about 15 states, including Maine. Maine does a lot around program integrity, fighting fraud,

waste and abuse, making sure provider payments are correct. There's lots of programs and contractors and work done over in the Department of Health and Human Services, large investments in computer programming to make sure all that stuff is monitored in pretty much real time. I'd be happy to invite the Department to come to the Appropriations Committee sometime, as we're working through the next bill, and have them talk to us about the work that they do; I think it's significant, I think it's important. I actually had a bill in my first session in the 126th to have the Department do a lot more regular reporting around program integrity. It got all the way to the Chief Executive's desk and was vetoed, and we failed to override that veto here in the House. So, this is an area that I'm very interested in.

I do want to say that, as I've sat here and listened to this debate today and I've listened to the debates in the Other Body, and obviously I was listening to the debates as we talked about the supplemental; I mean, this is the First Regular Session. Any Member had the ability to put in any bill that they wanted. And I took a few minutes the other night and looked through the list of bill titles that were put in, and all these things that I'm hearing now that were so important to some of the Members; about implementing work requirements or capping enrollment or reducing enrollment by 10% or program integrity; I don't see any bills that I've readily identified on those topics put in by Members on the other side of the aisle and the Other Body. So, and now, we're being asked to hold up some very important work; work that, as we've talked about today, important to our communities, important to our school districts, important to our health care providers; for all these things that people could've put bills in on and we could've had public hearings on them, and now, we're being asked to do all these things without a public hearing, without any input from the public. And I think that's concerning to me.

I don't think these issues that have been raised are a good reason for us to hold up this very important bill that does very, very good things for Maine people, for all the reasons we've talked about today. I'm hoping that people will support this bill and move it forward, and again, we can address and talk about all these issues as we move forward in the session, down to the Appropriations Committee, maybe there's matters could be taken up in other Committees. But I really don't see holding up the work we're doing tonight based on what I just heard from the Representative from Winter Harbor. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Fairfield, Representative Rudnicki.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Having invoked Rule 501, I'd now like to invoke Rule 523, which is the dispensation of a rule of order. "A rule or order of the House may not be dispensed with unless two thirds of the members present consent to the dispensation." Again, here we are, pushing through without any regard to my side of the aisle. You made a Ruling, but I believe you're wrong in the fact that, under the Rules of the House, under 523, you cannot without a two-third vote of those present. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair has already made a ruling on the matter. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Chelsea, Representative Lemelin.

Representative **LEMELIN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to go on the record stating that the Clerk read the rule; the rule clearly says after nine. We did not adhere to that rule; the Chair was in error. I did not hear the Chair apologize for being in error, and that's disheartening, especially since the Chair requires people to apologize when they're in error. That rule was violated. It is crystal clear, after nine. The Chair said it has

to happen at nine, and if we need to play that back, that tape, I'd be glad to play it back. But Mr. Speaker, from now on, we need to adhere to that rule, because it's crystal clear after 9:00 p.m., and 9:20 was after 9:00 p.m., Mr. Speaker. So, I am going on the record that we violated that rule and that the Chair was in error by the definition that was read. Thank you.

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

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know that we're supposed to be voting on this, but I heard a little bit of swaying over here, and I would just like to respond to it for just a minute.

I put in a bill, LD 331, and you want to talk about this side trying to help the situation? Let me just read you the title to the bill, "Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Ensure Timely Reimbursement Under MaineCare Regarding Hospital Cost Reports." Couldn't be any more clear that we ought to pay them on time. Do you know what happened to that bill, Mr. Speaker? Your party voted not to pay the hospitals. So, don't say that we're not trying to be responsible over here. My bill said we ought to pay them, just like we're paying the nursing homes. We should pay them 75% of what's owed in 90 days, and then the 25% to follow.

Again, Mr. Speaker, this was just a bill to say, hey, we should pay our hospitals on time. The hospitals actually agreed with it. And again, Mr. Speaker, it's frustrating to know that we're trying to work together, this was not a partisan issue, this was just to pay the hospitals what they are owed. We saw a hospital close. They told us that they're running short of cash. My bill; we asked for an emergency preamble, and then to include what we promised them on the supplement, we could've had them paid within a week. Now, they have to wait for 90 days. So, please, don't accuse us of not trying to be part of the solution. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Carmel, Representative Thorne.

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be brief. I just wanted to respond to the Representative from Westbrook who asked why we didn't submit all these bills. A lot of us on this side of the aisle don't have the years and years and decades of budget experience like the Good Representative from Westbrook has. We had a tongue-in-cheek cheer today, because we're finally seeing some Divided Reports come out on the Calendar. I look at the first three Divided Reports that are on the Calendar: Ought Not to Pass, all supported by the Democrats; Ought to Pass as Amended, as proposed, Majority Report by the Democrats; and Ought Not to Pass in Veterans and Legal Affairs, as supported by all Democrats. Then I looked at the votes we've had tonight. Numerous bills; 76-66, 74-69, on and on. And I understand the Point of Order --

Representative **MOONEN**: Point of Order.

The SPEAKER: The Member will defer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Portland and inquires to his Point of Order.

Representative **MOONEN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. None of these comments seem to be relevant to whether or not this bill should be Enacted.

On **POINT OF ORDER**, Representative **MOONEN** of Portland asked the Chair if the remarks of Representative **THORNE** of Carmel were germane to the pending question.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would remind the Member to direct his comments towards the pending question, which is Enactment of LD 609.

The Chair reminded Representative **THORNE** of Carmel to stay as close as possible to the pending question.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **THORNE**: And Mr. Speaker, I will now shut up so we can vote again, and the majority party can win. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Passage to be Enacted. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 47

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

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Lance, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, 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, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Cooper, Javner, Kessler, Lyman, Mason, Mathieson, Nutting, Underwood.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 76; No, 66; Absent, 8; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

76 having voted in the affirmative and 66 voted in the negative, with 8 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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

Acts

An Act to Rename the Administrator of the Office of Chief Medical Examiner the Director of Medical Examiner Operations (S.P. 115) (L.D. 248)

An Act Regarding the Disposal of Abandoned Human Remains (S.P. 117) (L.D. 250)

Were reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed, **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would inform the Member that she did vote in the affirmative; but you did, so, you could request a Reconsideration if you'd like. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Fairfield, Representative Rudnicki.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Mr. Speaker, asking for a Reconsideration is a fool's errand based on what we're seeing and hearing right now, today, based on the Rulings you have already made and breaking the Rules of the House. Thank you.

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

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 519)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that all matters not finally disposed of at the time of adjournment of the First Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature in the possession of the Legislature, including working papers and drafts in the possession of nonpartisan staff offices, gubernatorial nominations and all determinations of the Legislative Council regarding after-deadline bill requests and policies, be held over to the next special or regular session, whichever occurs first, of the 132nd Legislature in the posture in which they were at the time of adjournment of the First Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature; and be it further

ORDERED, that any public hearing, work session, confirmation hearing or other meeting to conduct the business of the Legislature that is scheduled or authorized at the time this order is passed is hereby authorized to occur.

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

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Fairfield, Representative Rudnicki.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again, I would like to invoke Rule 501, that says we are not to conduct business after 9:00, and 523, that says it takes a two-thirds majority; but in addition to that, Mr. Speaker, according to the Maine Constitution, you are violating your oath of office. Your oath of office says, "I do swear, that I will support the Constitution of the United States and of this State, so long as I shall continue to be a citizen thereof. So help me God." And, "I do swear, that I will faithfully discharge, to the best of my abilities, the duties incumbent upon me according to the Constitution and laws of the State. So help me God." Mr. Speaker, you are violating this, because the Constitution says abide by the Rules of the House. The Rules of the House say that prior to the third Friday in January, that it takes a majority vote to change a rule. It does not say that you can change it willy-nilly after that; it says it takes a two-thirds majority while in session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Wales, Representative Greenwood.

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I present House Amendment "A" and I'd like to just briefly explain what it does.

House Supplement No. 9, which is what we're discussing now, indicates that all bills, policies, after-deadline bills, gubernatorial nominations that are in the possession of the Legislature, including its working papers, would be carried over to the next special or regular session, whichever occurs first.

Mr. Speaker, and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I suspect we're going to have a *sine die* moments from now. In preparing for that, I just think we need to be honest with the

Maine people that our work is truly done. When you adjourn *sine die*, you're indicating that we completed our work. Now, do I think we've completed all of our work? No. I mean, there's over 2,000 bills, I think 900 still haven't even been reported out. But I'm willing to accept the fact that we're done tonight, but I would just ask; and this is what this Amendment does; is that we carry over all of our documents to the Second Regular Session, which would begin on January sixth of 2026. The House Supplement does say that any public hearings, work sessions, confirmation hearings or other meetings to conduct the business of the Legislature that is scheduled or authorized at this time this Order is passed is still hereby authorized to occur. And I'm fine with that. Whatever is scheduled, let's finish it. But everything would be carried over to the Second Regular Session, which is really how it used to be done from one session to another. And I would ask for your support on this Amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Representative **GREENWOOD** of Wales **PRESENTED House Amendment "A" (H-34)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

Representative **MOONEN** of Portland moved that **House Amendment "A" (H-34)** be **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

Representative **GREENWOOD** of Wales **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE House Amendment "A" (H-34)**.

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 "A" (H-34). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 48

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

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

ABSENT - Arata, Archer, Cooper, Foley, Hall, Javner, Julia, Kessler, Lanigan, Lyman, Mason, Mathieson, Nutting, Pomerleau, Underwood.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 75; No, 60; Absent, 15; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 60 voted in the negative, with 15 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly **House Amendment "A" (H-34)** was **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE**.

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 Passage. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 49

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

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

ABSENT - Arata, Cooper, Foley, Hall, Javner, Julia, Kessler, Lyman, Mason, Mathieson, Nutting, Pomerleau, Underwood.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 75; No, 62; Absent, 13; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 62 voted in the negative, with 13 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Joint Order was **PASSED** in concurrence.

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

The Speaker appointed Representative MOONEN of Portland on the part of the House to inform the Senate that the House is ready to adjourn without day.

The Speaker appointed the following members on the part of the House to wait upon her Excellency, Governor JANET T. MILLS, and inform her that the House is ready to adjourn without day:

Representative CRAFTS of Newcastle
Representative MONTELL of Gardiner
Representative ANKELES of Brunswick
Representative EATON of Deer Isle
Representative RAY of Lincolnville
Representative PARRY of Arundel
Representative ALBERT of Madawaska
Representative MASON of Lisbon
Representative WHITE of Guilford
Representative BISHOP of Bucksport

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Point of Clarification.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Fairfield, Representative Rudnicki, and inquires to her Point of Clarification.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Could you tell me, on the *sine die*, will we be voting on the *sine die* issue, and if so, also able to speak on that before the --

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair would inform the Member that when the motion is made, it's a debatable motion and a Roll Call can be requested.

Subsequently, the Committee reported that they had attempted to deliver the message with which they were charged.

Subsequently, Representative MOONEN reported that he had delivered the message with which he was charged.

At this point, a message came from the Senate borne by Senator DUSON of Cumberland of that Body, informing the House that the Senate is ready to adjourn without day.

Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston moved that the House stand **ADJOURNED WITHOUT DAY**.

Representative GREENWOOD of Wales **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ADJOURN WITHOUT DAY**.

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 Wales, Representative Greenwood.

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We all just heard the Senator from Cumberland indicating that they've completed their work. Mr. Speaker, *sine die* normally occurs after we've done our work on behalf of the entire State of Maine. This year, June 18th is the statutory date for adjournment. The people back home, our friends and neighbors, sent us here to represent our communities, not just the communities represented by the other side of the aisle.

The traditional budget process requiring two-thirds support is designed to ensure that the priorities of both parties are reflected in the budget, not just the priorities of your side of the aisle, Mr. Speaker. Anything less than a two-thirds budget developed by the third Wednesday in June is a failure to do our job. Instead of working together on a bipartisan budget, maybe waiting a couple more weeks to hear from the Revenue Forecasting Committee, we're voting to pretend that our work is done here in March, not June. This vote today says that over 657,000 Maine people and their elected Representatives from over 450 Maine cities and towns cannot participate in this budget process; the process that spends their money.

Mr. Speaker, this is a sad day to be in Augusta. This is my fourth term. This is not how we should do our job under the Maine Constitution. Mr. Speaker, you have the power to fix this. We can fix this by not adjourning tonight. We can finish our work, we can continue to work towards a bipartisan budget and we can get that done before June 18th. Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in voting no on the pending motion.

After Midnight

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Sanford, Representative Lanigan.

Representative **LANIGAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just that, if we're adjourning without day and ending this part of the session, I just ask the Speaker to follow the House Rules and put me back on my Committee for the; if we do get called back by the Chief Executive. I'd really appreciate that. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Hodgdon, Representative Quint.

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would first like to read a definition. "To make an untrue statement with intent to deceive; to create a false or misleading impression." Are we done with our work, Mr. Speaker?

The statutory adjournment date listed in our House Calendar from today lists that adjournment date as June 18, 2025. I believe that the motions made earlier show on the record that we are, in fact, not done with our work and, in fact, this Body was told that there were no bills to confront some of the issues, apparently, in which we were trying to hold up the bill going forward. I would like to name a few bills, Mr. Speaker. "An Act to Require the State to Obtain Municipal Approval Before Placing Noncitizens in the Municipality," having to do with General Assistance, which is what we were speaking about earlier, Mr. Speaker. "An Act to Establish a 180-day State Residency Requirement for Receiving Municipal General Assistance," which we were speaking about earlier, Mr. Speaker. "An Act Regarding Limits on Municipal General Assistance Programs," Mr. Speaker, which we were speaking about earlier. I am either a sponsor or co-sponsor on these bills, and so, I would appreciate, before a Representative states that bills like this were in fact not presented, that they have their facts accurate, because I feel as though I was lied about by having that statement made by another Member, Mr. Speaker.

The Revisor's Office has over 900 bills not yet reported out. That would be bills from both parties, Mr. Speaker, on both sides of the aisle. I ask you again; are we done with our work, Mr. Speaker? Members of this Body have received Committee schedules for the bills to be heard and worked for next week. Are we done with our work, Mr. Speaker?

Now, let me go back to my earlier definition. "To make an untrue statement with intent to deceive; to create a false or misleading impression." This, Mr. Speaker; this motion before us is not an arbitrary guideline or a simple procedural vote. According to the *Merriam-Webster* dictionary, the motion before us at this moment is the very definition of a blatant lie.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're about to adjourn on my final First Regular Session of my four terms in the Legislature. It's by far been the shortest session of the Legislature that I've served in. And in my first term, there were 57 Republicans here. We passed a bipartisan budget that year. My second term, 67; my third term, 68; and today, 73 Republicans fill these seats; 50 votes shy of being the majority party, yet I have never felt the divide greater than I have today.

Every session I have come here to serve, I've put the people of my district and the people of Maine above everything, and that meant working with Democrats many times. My four terms here have been full of successes, even though we've been in the minority. That meant that I had to work with

Democrats. Many of the Democrats I've worked with are over there, many are gone. But it's still possible, Mr. Speaker.

This session, we didn't work hard enough. We didn't put the people of Maine first. We can do better, Mr. Speaker. So, when we do come back for another session, let's start fresh, let's show the people of Maine that we can work together and not be dysfunctional. Let's prove to the Maine people that this Body can still perform the way it's supposed to, put the Maine people first and work together. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Buxton, Representative Carlow.

Representative **CARLOW**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, everywhere I look, I see a society in decay; in total and erratic disarray. And I've come to the floor many times to defend this institution and its proper role in the moral order, against all varieties of encroachment. And each time, I have been defeated and confounded by the House's resignation to this most solemn, most cruel, most dangerous portent of doom. But nevertheless, I have come to the floor once again out of loyalty, not only to the institution and the men and women who breathe life into it, but also out of loyalty to this high and admittedly lofty aim; that government should be a discipline and not a dereliction. And against this creeping tide of cynicism and authoritarianism, I believe that this Body is not yet lost. We've not yet succumbed to these external pressures. Our institution is not beyond reclamation. Our spirit of duty has not been totally extinguished. But I think it would be a mistake to deceive ourselves into thinking that if we persist in this crude and evasive misadventure, that that is some mere failure in our duty; it's a mockery of our duty.

Mr. Speaker, we must not allow ourselves to become meek custodians of this place. We should be zealous of our unique constitutional mandate; we should be fiercely, fiercely protective of it. And I've been privileged to work with many, if not most of the people in this Chamber, and I don't think that there's a soul present who doesn't feel the same way. But votes like this; nothing is so central to the mission of why we're here. To adjourn without day? We're not finished. It's a gimmick. This Joint Order; contrived, pursued under, now the cover of night; does not strengthen the authority of the House, it undermines it. It does not resolve our disagreements, it deepens them. It's certainly not the product of statesmanship, but a tactical and distinctly inhumane calculus for which we will all be made the worse off.

And I'm somewhat captivated by this mystical specter of bipartisanship that we pledge ourselves to on the campaign trail and here on the floor on many occasions, and I think we need to renew ourselves to that ambition. I think we need to live by it in heart, in word, in deed. I remember my first year; my first, actually several weeks, when I was first selected, I made a particularly difficult vote. Lots of people were unhappy at me for it. But I know in that moment, I did what I thought was right. I followed my conscience, even though sometimes it gets me into trouble. And I would implore the House that, at this late hour and now the second day of this session, that we renew ourselves to this aspiration, that we show some courage, some grit in the middle of what admittedly is a difficult decision for a lot of people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Fairfield, Representative Rudnicki.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Last year, on May 14th, we received a letter from the Chief Executive Officer. And I'm going to read a couple of excerpts from that letter. Those of you that were here in the last session, the email came from Tom Abello, but from the Chief Executive Officer.

And this letter directly was relating to the 35 bills that this Body tried to jam down on veto day. But there's some really important information that she put in this letter that I believe directly affects what we're doing here today. So, I'm going to read those excerpts for you that I've picked out, but if anybody would like a copy of this letter, I would be happy to forward it or you can ask the Chief Executive's office.

But I will start with; she had two initial reasonings for not accepting those bills, but there's one that she said here that I want to, it's fundamentally; and I'll read it verbatim; "Second, and more fundamentally, I object to the Legislature enacting dozens of additional bills after the adjournment deadline – on a day reserved for the consideration of vetoes. The Legislature has great discretion when it comes to the manner in which it considers and enacts bills, subject only to constitutional limitations. In this case, however, it did not adhere to its Constitutionally directed adjournment deadline." Now, "the Maine Constitution requires the Legislature to enact statutory limits on the length of the First and Second Regular Sessions. The Legislature enacted such a Statute (3 M.R.S. § 2), which explicitly sets forth those limitations, providing that the second;" and it goes on to talk about the Second Regular Session and shall adjourn no more than the third Wednesday in April. Moving forward, "the Legislature did, in fact, adjourn on that particular day;" however, "at that time considered an order (S.P. 1007) adjourning until the Presiding Officers determine that there is a need to *conduct other business* or consider objections from the Governor. (emphasis added). The House of Representatives did not pass that Order with a 2/3 majority." Continuing, "if the Legislature wishes to extend the Session, it has two options available. It could either amend the adjournment Statute, which would require emergency legislation approved by 2/3 of each body, or comply with options that the Statute itself provides for additional time. For example, the Statute allows the Legislature to extend the session up to five legislative days if each body votes by a 2/3 majority to do so (it may do so two times), and provides that the '2nd regular session.'" So, it goes back; she's talking specifically about us not finishing or moving forward and just ignoring the Constitution, as far as I read this. And that's part of the problem here is we are ignoring. Further in her statement; "in this case, the Legislature complied with neither of these options. It never amended the adjournment Statute, and it never voted by a 2/3 majority to extend the session to conduct business. Instead, it simply proceeded to conduct other business on veto day." So, that had a lot to do with vetoes specifically, but there's a lot of precedence here. And another section of this letter says, "while there is some precedent for business being conducted on veto day, to our knowledge, that business has been very limited" and only occurs for certain things. Two-thirds of the House and the Senate vote for that. Again, we're going back to two-thirds to being able to change and make rules. The final paragraph; "Constitutional norms, no matter how inconvenient and even when they may be an impediment to achieving good policy aims, nonetheless provide important institutional safeguards. While well intentioned, the Legislature's decision to consider and enact dozens of additional spending measures on veto day without clear constitutional authority erodes longstanding norms and would create a destabilizing precedent that may be used for future legislatures to achieve aims not so desirable."

I look at that specifically in the light of a lawsuit that I was party to that, actually, the Supreme Court answered the lawsuit; we went in front of the Supreme Court earlier in May, they hadn't given us a decision until later, the decision was that there wasn't standing. It didn't say we were wrong in bringing the suit, because this Body shut down the Legislature just like we're trying to do tonight, ahead of time. Take into consideration what we are doing to the State of Maine that this is becoming the norm. This is not the norm. This is one party just making the decisions and not working with the other side.

We work well, in some of our Committees; there's some Committees I hear are not as well, but the Committee that I'm on, we work well together. We've had some bipartisan issues and that type of thing, and for the Legislature or for the Speaker in general here to make arbitrary decisions, whether it's a violation of rules, the Constitution or what, we are being derelict in our duty as Representatives. We are not representing the people of Maine right. And a lot of folks forget that we don't just represent our districts. We represent the whole State of Maine. And I bring that up because I'm a landlocked town, my district is landlocked, but I vote on lobster issues, I vote on issues that take place up in the County; has nothing to do with me, but we all vote on those type of issues. So, we have to stop thinking so narrowly that this is all about my district, whether it's Portland or your own district in Biddeford; it's not just about your district, it's about what's good for the State of Maine. This is not good for the State of Maine. This is divisive and; I'm losing the words even to what it is, because I cannot describe how frustrated and how obnoxious this is to continue to do this for now the third time. Three times. I'm losing track, sorry. But this is obnoxious for us to be doing this. Let's stay here, let's finish our work, let's do the work of the people of the State of Maine, not worried about getting called back. Because the Chief Executive should not be calling us back, because this is not an extraordinary circumstance anymore, because this isn't the first time you've done it. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Waterboro, Representative Eder.

Representative **EDER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise because it occurs to me; despite what I think of myself, I served here 25 years ago, I don't feel that old; but I sat on that side of the aisle, and back then, there was a lot more kinship, there was a lot more cross-politization. People roomed together, people drove together. It's kind of shocking to me here again some nearly 25 years later, that there's a pall over this place. I don't know if it was COVID times, I don't know what it is, but we made bipartisan budgets back then; I didn't know any better, I thought it's just what you did. And I would really like to see that spirit come back to this hallowed place and I don't think this helps. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is to Adjourn Without Day. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 50

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

NAY - Adams, Albert, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Henderson, Hymes, Lance, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S.

ABSENT - Arata, Cooper, Cray, Foley, Hall, Jackson, Javner, Julia, Kessler, Lyman, Mason, Mathieson, Nutting, Pomerleau, Underwood, Woodsome.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 75; No, 59; Absent, 16; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 59 voted in the negative, with 16 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the House adjourned without day at 12:26 a.m. Friday, March 21, 2025.