

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
28th Legislative Day
Tuesday, June 10, 2025

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

Prayer by Reverend Kerry Mansir, Christ Episcopal Church, Gardiner.

National Anthem by The Bipartisan Choral Ensemble, Augusta.

Pledge of Allegiance.

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

The SPEAKER: Announcement from the Chair as it relates to the work that we have before us for today. We have obviously the Calendar before us, we intend to work through that for as long as that will take. We do anticipate a number of Supplements that will have additional Divided Reports. This will sort of be the case every day from now on, where bills are continuing to be produced by the nonpartisan staff out of Committees. We will break at some point to caucus, for the partisan caucuses to meet to discuss those additional items that were not on the printed Calendar, we'll come back, and then the Chair intends to work until 10:30. We'll obviously have that question before the House at some point regarding working past the 9:00 o'clock hour.

The Chair would also inform the Body that the Chair will be assessing what things look like on Friday. If it's my determination that we will not be able to get done, we will not be able to complete our work on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday of next week, the Chair will have to consider having session on Saturday and Sunday of this week. The Chair intends to get our work done by June 18th. We need to be able to complete our work this week and next week. If we have to use Saturday and Sunday, we will. So, I hope folks will keep that in mind as we work through these bills this week and next week. I don't want to be here past June 18th, and I think from my conversations with Members of this Body, the consensus; maybe we can do a poll later; but my sense of the pulse of this Chamber is that no one wants to be here past June 18th. I certainly don't want to be. With that, we'll get our work started for the day.

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 792)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that Bill, "An Act to Change the Laws Regarding Real Estate Appraisers," H.P. 998, L.D. 1514, and all its accompanying papers, be recalled from the Governor's desk to the Senate.

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

READ and **PASSED** in concurrence.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Create a Stewardship Program for Electronic Smoking Devices and Related Products"

(H.P. 1004) (L.D. 1519)

PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-412) in the House on June 2, 2025.

Came from the Senate **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-412) AND SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-292)** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford moved that the House **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

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 Recede and Concur. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 393

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

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

ABSENT - Blier, Greenwood, Lanigan, Lavigne, Roberts, Skold, Underwood, Yusuf.

Yes, 74; No, 67; Absent, 8; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 67 voted in the negative, with 8 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the House voted to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

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

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

Representative **WARREN**: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to honor someone who has recently passed away and family members, friends and members of our community in Scarborough who are here today to honor their life and their service. And I want to speak briefly into the record to that loss, that tremendous loss.

"Whereas, the Legislature has learned with deep regret of the death of:

"Shannon Haley of Portland. Ms. Haley had an extensive career in public service and safety, working with the Town of Windham and Buxton Fire & Rescue before joining the Scarborough Fire Department, where she was promoted to Lieutenant. She was also a skilled paramedic and registered nurse. In addition to frontline work, she trained emergency services professionals at Southern Maine Community College. Ms. Haley had a dedication to mentorship and education and was widely respected for her courage, compassion and unwavering commitment to serving others. She will be long remembered and sadly missed by her family, friends and community.

"Therefore," on behalf of the Scarborough delegation, we ask that it be "Resolved, that we, the Members of the House of Representatives, pause in a moment of understanding and prayer to inscribe this token of sympathy and condolence to all who share this great loss and respectfully request that when the Legislature adjourns this date, it do so in honor and lasting tribute to the deceased." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 193)

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

June 6, 2025

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

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Title 5, MRSA, Part 8, Ch. 310-A, §3123, I have appointed the following to the *Advisory Council on Affordable Health Care*, effective immediately:

Maureen Hensley-Quinn of Scarborough as the member with expertise in health economics and research;

Randy Clark of Vassalboro as the member with expertise in health care delivery, health care management at a senior level or health care finance and administration;

Trevor Putnoky of Yarmouth, reappointment, as the member who represents purchasers of health care; and

Kevin Lewis of Winthrop, reappointment, as the member representing health insurance interests.

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

Sincerely,

S/Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 194)

**MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

June 9, 2025

Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
132nd Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Fecteau:

I am notifying you that, pursuant to 12 MRSA §683-A, I have forwarded to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry the following nomination made to the Maine Land Use Planning Commission by the Penobscot County Commissioners on June 5th, 2025:

Peter L. Pray of Millinocket

The County asks that this nomination to be considered to continue serving a new four-year term that begins July 8, 2025, which is scheduled to be filled by Piscataquis County.

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

Sincerely,

S/Suzanne M. Gresser

Executive Director

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 195)

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

June 10, 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 Committee has voted unanimously to report the following bill out "Ought Not to Pass:"

Taxation

L.D. 1781 An Act to Exempt from the Gasoline Tax Act Ethanol-free Gasoline Used by Vehicles Off-road

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (S.C. 521)

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

June 9, 2025

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

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Please be advised the Senate today insisted to its previous action whereby it accepted the Minority Ought Not to Pass Report from the Committee on Housing and Economic Development on Bill "An Act to Protect Recipients of Public Assistance from Housing Discrimination" (H.P. 665) (L.D. 1036) in non-concurrence.

Best Regards,

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (S.C. 522)

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

June 9, 2025

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

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Please be advised the Senate today insisted to its previous action whereby it accepted the Majority Ought Not to Pass Report from the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety on Bill "An Act Regarding the Required State of Mind Relating to the Threatening Display or Carrying of a Concealed Weapon" (H.P. 752) (L.D. 1147) in non-concurrence.

Best Regards,

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (S.C. 523)

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

June 9, 2025

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

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Please be advised the Senate today insisted to its previous action whereby it Indefinitely Postponed Bill "An Act Regarding Labeling of Genetically Engineered Food Products" (H.P. 832) (L.D. 1257) and all accompanying papers in non-concurrence.

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 Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-315)** on 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)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York

LIBBY of Cumberland

PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

MURPHY of Scarborough

CARLOW of Buxton

CROCKETT of Portland

DODGE of Belfast

LYMAN of Livermore Falls

MITCHELL of Cumberland

SARGENT of York

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

Signed:

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham

BRENNAN of Portland

HAGGAN of Hampden

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-315).**

READ.

On motion of Representative MURPHY of Scarborough, the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED.**

The Bill was **READ ONCE.** Committee Amendment "**A**" (**S-315**) was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED.**

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-315)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-303)** on 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)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

MURPHY of Scarborough
CROCKETT of Portland
DODGE of Belfast
MITCHELL of Cumberland
SARGENT of York

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

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham
BRENNAN of Portland
CARLOW of Buxton
HAGGAN of Hampden
LYMAN of Livermore Falls

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-303)**.

READ.

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

On motion of Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, **TABLED** pending the motion of Representative MURPHY of Scarborough to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report and later today assigned.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Prohibit Certain Provisions in Health Care Provider Contracts with Insurance Carriers"

(S.P. 666) (L.D. 1713)

Signed:

Senators:

BAILEY of York
BALDACCI of Penobscot
HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

MATHIESON of Kittery
ARFORD of Brunswick
BOYER of Cape Elizabeth
CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham
FLYNN of Albion
FOLEY of Wells
MASTRACCIO of Sanford
OLSEN of Raymond

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

Signed:

Representatives:

CIMINO of Bridgton
MORRIS of Turner

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

READ.

On motion of Representative MATHIESON of Kittery, the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-328)** on Bill "An Act to Support Families by Improving the Court Process for Child Protection Cases" (S.P. 628) (L.D. 1544)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth
BABIN of Fort Fairfield
CARUSO of Caratunk
HENDERSON of Rumford
LEE of Auburn
POIRIER of Skowhegan
PUGH of Portland
SATO of Gorham
SINCLAIR of Bath

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

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representative:

O'HALLORAN of Brewer

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-328)**.

READ.

On motion of Representative KUHN of Falmouth, the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-328)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-328)** in concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Promote Transparency in the Criminal Justice System by Requiring the Posting of Criminal Case Decisions"

(S.P. 710) (L.D. 1823)

Signed:
Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth
BABIN of Fort Fairfield
CARUSO of Caratunk
HENDERSON of Rumford
LEE of Auburn
O'HALLORAN of Brewer
POIRIER of Skowhegan
PUGH of Portland
SATO of Gorham
SINCLAIR of Bath

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-327)** on same Bill.

Signed:
Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

READ.

On motion of Representative KUHN of Falmouth, the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-310)** on Bill "An Act to Clarify Available Relief for the Protection of At-risk Children"

(S.P. 714) (L.D. 1832)

Signed:
Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth
BABIN of Fort Fairfield
CARUSO of Caratunk
HENDERSON of Rumford
LEE of Auburn
O'HALLORAN of Brewer
PUGH of Portland
SATO of Gorham
SINCLAIR of Bath

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

Signed:
Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representative:

POIRIER of Skowhegan

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-310)**.

READ.

On motion of Representative KUHN of Falmouth, the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-310)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-310)** in concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-575)** on Bill "An Act to Protect Health Care Workers by Addressing Assaults in Health Care Settings"

(H.P. 351) (L.D. 532)

Signed:
Senators:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox
CURRY of Waldo

Representatives:

HASENFUS of Readfield
ABDI of Lewiston
BUNKER of Farmington
LAJOIE of Lewiston
LOOKNER of Portland
MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-576)** on same Bill.

Signed:
Senator:

CYRWAY of Kennebec

Representatives:

ARDELL of Monticello
MCINTYRE of Lowell
NUTTING of Oakland
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

READ.

On motion of Representative HASENFUS of Readfield, **TABLED** pending **ACCEPTANCE** of either Report and later today assigned.

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act Regarding Telephone and Video Call Access in Detention and Correctional Facilities and Jails"

(H.P. 415) (L.D. 647)

Signed:

Senator:

CYRWAY of Kennebec

Representatives:

HASENFUS of Readfield

ARDELL of Monticello

LAJOIE of Lewiston

MCINTYRE of Lowell

NUTTING of Oakland

PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-599)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representatives:

ABDI of Lewiston

BUNKER of Farmington

LOOKNER of Portland

MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

READ.

On motion of Representative HASENFUS of Readfield, 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.**

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Resolve, to Study Ways to Improve Recruitment and Retention of Rural Emergency Medical Services Personnel Through Access to Health Insurance

(H.P. 1111) (L.D. 1676)

Signed:

Senators:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

CURRY of Waldo

CYRWAY of Kennebec

Representatives:

ABDI of Lewiston

ARDELL of Monticello

BUNKER of Farmington

LAJOIE of Lewiston

MCINTYRE of Lowell

NUTTING of Oakland

PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-598)** on same Resolve.

Signed:

Representatives:

HASENFUS of Readfield

LOOKNER of Portland

MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

READ.

Representative HASENFUS of Readfield moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Blue Hill, Representative Milliken.

Representative **MILLIKEN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't intend to Roll Call this one, but I just wanted to stand up a minute, because this was a bill sponsored by my Good Friend from Deer Isle and I want to wish her well. And also, I would like to say that it's an important issue, it's one that I intend to keep working on with her and for those of us who live in rural communities, who rely heavily on our volunteer fire departments and volunteer EMS programs, it behooves all of us, I think, to look at this issue and see how we can increase volunteerism for those vital programs for our communities. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Subsequently, 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.**

Majority Report of the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-586)** on Bill "An Act to Ensure Accountability for Repairs Conducted by Independent Repair Facilities on Motor Vehicles Under Warranty"

(H.P. 959) (L.D. 1467)

Signed:

Representatives:

GERE of Kennebunkport

COLLAMORE of Pittsfield

JULIA of Waterville

MALON of Biddeford

MINGO of Calais

ROBERTS of South Berwick

YUSUF of Portland

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

Signed:

Senators:

CURRY of Waldo

BENNETT of Oxford

Representatives:

EDER of Waterboro

GOLEK of Harpswell

READ.

On motion of Representative GERE of Kennebunkport, the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-586)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-586)** and sent for concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-570)** on Bill "An Act to Establish an Employer Tax Credit for Qualifying Child Care Costs"

(H.P. 1013) (L.D. 1555)

Signed:

Senators:

GROHOSKI of Hancock
BICKFORD of Androscoggin

Representatives:

CLOUTIER of Lewiston
CROCKETT of Portland
MATLACK of St. George
SAYRE of Kennebunk
SWALLOW of Houlton

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

Signed:

Senator:

TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:

LAVIGNE of Berwick
QUINT of Hodgdon
RUDNICKI of Fairfield

READ.

On motion of Representative SAYRE of Kennebunk, the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-570)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-570)** and sent for concurrence.

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(S.P. 776) (L.D. 1981) Bill "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Emergency Medical Services' Board and the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State" Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-325)**

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

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

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

ENACTORS

Constitutional Amendment

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish the State Auditor as a Constitutional Officer

(H.P. 681) (L.D. 1052)

(C. "A" H-527)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being a Constitutional Amendment, a two-thirds vote of the House being necessary, a total was taken. 67 voted in favor of the same and 66 against, and accordingly the Resolution **FAILED FINAL PASSAGE** and was sent to the Senate.

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

Emergency Measure

Resolve, Directing the State Board of Education to Amend Its Educator Credentialing Rules to Create a Pathway for an Industrial Arts Endorsement

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

(C. "A" H-515)

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 0 against, and accordingly the Resolve was **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

Resolve, to Expand Access to Oral Health Care by Studying Alternative Pathways for Obtaining a License to Practice Dentistry

(H.P. 1069) (L.D. 1615)

(C. "A" H-535)

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. 103 voted in favor of the same and 19 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 Increase the Total Amount of Credits Authorized Under the Maine Seed Capital Tax Credit Program

(S.P. 52) (L.D. 125)

(C. "A" S-75)

An Act Related to the Issuance of Subpoena Power to Entities Created by Executive Order

(H.P. 176) (L.D. 273)

(C. "A" H-567)

An Act to Increase the Property Tax Exemption Provided to Individuals Who Are Legally Blind

(H.P. 226) (L.D. 326)

(C. "A" H-524)

An Act to Protect Holders of Distressed Mortgages from Fraud

(H.P. 257) (L.D. 403)
(C. "A" H-557)

An Act to Provide Property Tax Relief by Increasing the Availability of the Property Tax Fairness Credit Based on a Resident's Age and Income

(H.P. 454) (L.D. 715)
(C. "A" H-525)

An Act to Increase Government Transparency in the Procurement of Goods and Services

(H.P. 543) (L.D. 857)
(C. "A" H-568)

An Act to Require Certain Notice Requirements for Whistleblower Protections

(H.P. 677) (L.D. 1048)
(C. "A" H-513)

An Act to Promote the Production of Natural Resources Bioproducts by Amending the Renewable Chemicals Tax Credit

(H.P. 850) (L.D. 1275)
(C. "A" H-547)

An Act Regarding Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Activities

(H.P. 852) (L.D. 1277)
(C. "A" H-551)

An Act to Establish the Community Schools Success Fund to Ensure the Implementation and Success of Community Schools Programs

(H.P. 867) (L.D. 1332)
(C. "A" H-517)

An Act to Require Insurance Coverage for Covered Dental Services Provided by Licensed Dental Hygienists

(H.P. 884) (L.D. 1361)
(C. "A" H-536)

An Act to Require Energy Efficiency Disclosure Statements for Certain Rental Housing in the State

(H.P. 963) (L.D. 1471)
(C. "A" H-554)

An Act to Exempt Wheelchair Adapted Motor Vehicles from the Sales and Use Tax

(H.P. 999) (L.D. 1515)
(C. "A" H-526)

An Act to Establish the Maine Eviction Prevention Program

(H.P. 1007) (L.D. 1522)
(C. "A" H-532)

An Act to Create a State Employee Compensation Stabilization Fund

(S.P. 623) (L.D. 1539)
(C. "A" S-287)

An Act to Allow a Legislator to Choose to Be Paid on an Annual Basis

(H.P. 1033) (L.D. 1575)
(C. "A" H-563)

An Act to Prohibit Carriers and Pharmacy Benefits Managers from Using Spread Pricing

(H.P. 1038) (L.D. 1580)
(C. "A" H-543)

An Act to Ensure Transparency in Consumer Transactions Involving Artificial Intelligence

(H.P. 1154) (L.D. 1727)
(C. "A" H-544)

An Act to Establish the Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics Education Matching Grant Program

(H.P. 1158) (L.D. 1740)
(C. "A" H-518)

An Act to Ensure Equitable Staffing Ratios Across the State for Career and Technical Education Programs in Areas with Smaller Student Populations

(H.P. 1183) (L.D. 1764)
(C. "A" H-514)

An Act to Require Health Insurance Carriers to Provide Contact Information for Employees Responsible for Negotiating Health Care Provider Contracts

(H.P. 1196) (L.D. 1785)
(C. "A" H-534)

An Act to Amend the Education Requirements in the Certified Public Accountant Licensure Laws

(H.P. 1200) (L.D. 1789)
(C. "A" H-533)

An Act to Prohibit Health Care Entities Providing Dental Plans from Requiring a Dental Provider to Charge Fees for Uncovered Dental Services

(H.P. 1205) (L.D. 1800)
(C. "A" H-546)

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.

Resolves

Resolve, Directing the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to Implement a Landowner Antlerless Deer Permit Gift Program

(H.P. 552) (L.D. 866)
(C. "A" H-521)

Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Review the Use of Abbreviated School Days

(H.P. 720) (L.D. 1098)
(C. "A" H-516)

Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Study the Feasibility of Ferry Service to Monhegan Island

(H.P. 791) (L.D. 1186)
(C. "A" H-540)

Resolve, Directing the Office of Procurement Services to Study Adapting the Procurement Process to the State Climate Action Plan

(H.P. 978) (L.D. 1494)
(C. "A" H-436)

Resolve, to Establish a Pilot Project to Facilitate the Inclusion of Economic Impact Statements in the Legislative Process

(H.P. 1108) (L.D. 1673)
(C. "A" H-562)

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**.

An Act Regarding the Approval of Transmission Lines

(H.P. 517) (L.D. 810)
(C. "A" H-410)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed.

On motion of Representative FOSTER of Dexter, was **SET ASIDE**.

On motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, **TABLED** pending **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED** and later today assigned.

An Act to Allow Expenditure of Maine Clean Election Act Funding for the Care of Candidates' Dependents

(H.P. 525) (L.D. 818)

(H. "A" H-62)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed.

On motion of Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, was **SET ASIDE**.

On motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, **TABLED** pending **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED** and later today assigned.

An Act Regarding the Voting Requirement to Extend the Date for Adjournment of the Legislature

(S.P. 663) (L.D. 1668)

(C. "A" S-215)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed.

On motion of Representative TUELL of East Machias, was **SET ASIDE**.

On motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, **TABLED** pending **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED** and later today assigned.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

HOUSE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (8) **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-465)** - Minority (4) **Ought Not to Pass** - Committee on **LABOR** on Bill "An Act to Reinvest in the Pension Funds of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System"

(H.P. 1243) (L.D. 1872)

TABLED - June 4, 2025 (Till Later Today) by Representative ROEDER of Bangor.

PENDING - ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT.

On motion of Representative ROEDER of Bangor, the Bill and all accompanying papers were **COMMITTED** to the Committee on **LABOR** and sent for concurrence.

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

SENATE PAPERS

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Direct the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands to Prevent the Use of the Term 'State Park' by Nonstate Parks"

(H.P. 715) (L.D. 1093)

Unanimous **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-350)** in the House on June 2, 2025.

Came from the Senate with the Bill and accompanying papers **COMMITTED** to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

The House voted to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

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

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act Regarding Court Security"

(H.P. 661) (L.D. 1032)

Minority (6) **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-467)** in the House on June 4, 2025.

Came from the Senate with the Majority (7) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY READ** and **ACCEPTED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

The House voted to **INSIST**.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Direct the Public Utilities Commission to Seek Informational Bids Regarding Small Modular Nuclear Reactors in the State"

(H.P. 243) (L.D. 343)

Majority (7) **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-285)** in the House on May 28, 2025.

Came from the Senate with the Minority (6) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY READ** and **ACCEPTED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

On motion of Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, **TABLED** pending **FURTHER CONSIDERATION** and later today assigned.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

HOUSE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (7) **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-561)** - Minority (6) **Ought Not to Pass** - Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act to Promote Responsible Outdoor Lighting"

(H.P. 1295) (L.D. 1934)

TABLED - June 9, 2025 (Till Later Today) by Representative MOONEN of Portland.

PENDING - Motion of Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report. (Roll Call Ordered)

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

Representative **SALISBURY**: Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker. Taking up where we left off yesterday, last evening, just to speak quickly about this bill.

Currently in Maine, light pollution is a growing problem. Eighty percent of North Americans can't see the Milky Way. Light pollution disrupts our sleep and negatively impacts human health. It harms bird migration, kills insects and disrupts animal reproduction. Thirty-five percent of all light is wasted, causing skyglow and wasting money. Glare from over-lighting causes safety problems. Last year's solar eclipse showed us that tourists will travel and spend for an experience they can't get at home.

Mainers still enjoy dark night skies, but for how long? Since the pandemic, Maine has increased development pressure, especially in rural areas. Modern LEDs are efficient but cause irritating glare. We are increasingly bothered by intrusive, overly bright lights. We need to travel to enjoy an experience that was once free. Now is the time to preserve our right to see the stars.

"An Act to Promote Responsible Outdoor Lighting," Sponsored by Representative Osher and Senator Guerrin, is a bipartisan, common-sense approach. It requires improvements to State, municipal and publicly funded projects to be dark-sky-compliant going forward. It allows, but not requires, towns to adopt ordinances regulating outdoor lighting. The Maine Office of Community Affairs will supply a model ordinance, and dark-sky-friendly fixtures and bulbs are readily available and save electricity. At least 12 Maine communities, including Greenville and Rangeley, already have outdoor lighting ordinances. At least 16 other states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico reduce outdoor lighting.

There's been a lot of work done on this bill to take into consideration what this bill can do, what this will help with communities. I really appreciate the work that went into this bill, and I encourage people to support it. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will remind Members not to refer to the actions of other Members from the Other Body to influence the debate in this Chamber.

The Chair advised all Members that it is inappropriate to refer to the potential action of the Office of the Executive or the other Body in order to influence the vote of the House.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Orono, Representative Osher.

Representative **OSHER**: Mr. Speaker and my Colleagues in the House, I'm proud to Sponsor this bill, and I urge your support.

If you've ever seen a nighttime satellite image of the United States, you may have been struck by how incredibly bright the eastern United States is. Ninety-nine percent of Americans live under light-polluted skies. When I moved to rural part of Hampden in 1999, I looked up and saw so many stars, and I thought we all did here in Maine. Two years later, I was able to find a house and move to Orono. That first night in town, I realized that not all Maine enjoyed dark skies. I couldn't see as many stars because our town has streetlights and brightly lit parking lots and some businesses that had lights at ground level that pointed upwards to illuminate their signs on their buildings. With each year, the amount and intensity of outdoor lighting has increased, and we've joined the 80% of North Americans who can't look up and see the Milky Way.

Other municipalities in Maine were also getting brighter with each year. That's because businesses and municipalities were switching to LEDs and the lower cost per bit of brightness allowed people to feel comfortable investing in more outdoor lighting. If this lighting trend continues, the light from municipalities in Maine will soon prevent so many of us from looking up at night and seeing the stars.

Why does it matter? Throughout our history, all life on earth has lived with and adapted to day-night cycles that included nighttime periods of darkness, but today many of us never experience truly dark nights. Research links nighttime artificial light to harmful human health effects ranging from sleep and mood disorders to metabolic disease and cancer. Just as it disrupts our human circadian rhythms, it also disrupts the natural rhythms of and causes harm to our wildlife and ecosystems, interfering with migration, reproduction and the predator-prey relationship, among other effects. Unnecessary outdoor lighting further harms our planet by wasting energy, contributing to climate change and wasting valuable resources.

Our dark skies are an incredible asset, one we should protect and expand on. Some Maine communities are already recognizing just how valuable our dark skies are. Already, 12 municipalities in Maine have lighting ordinances. Rangeley residents are seeking certification as a Dark Sky Community, knowing the designation will draw attention and visitors to the region. The Acadia Night Sky Festival draws hundreds of stargazers each year. In addition to the environmental and health benefits, dark skies have the potential to be a considerable economic driver for Maine.

The good news is that light pollution is both preventable and reversible, and there are a number of relatively simple ways to address it. LD 1934 was developed by following the guidance from Dark Sky International. This bill requires the State of Maine, our municipalities and grantees, whose projects are funded with public funds, to use responsible outdoor lighting. It requires that outdoor lighting installed or replaced after October 1, 2026, comply with standards intended to reduce the amount of unnecessary light emitted. Public outdoor lighting can't be too bright, it shouldn't go beyond where it is needed, it should be shielded and of a warm color. Non-essential lighting should be turned off late at night. The bill redirects Departments to adopt rules to implement the requirements and it contains several exemptions for airports, roads managed by the Department of Transportation, construction, emergency situations and ski areas. In addition, municipalities are encouraged to adopt local ordinances and the Maine Office of Community Affairs is charged with developing a model ordinances as resources allow them to do.

Our State and towns can lead by example, save electricity costs and attract visitors who want to see the night sky. This bill is reasonable and I ask for your support.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from East Machias, Representative Tuell.

Representative **TUELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before I proceed, I wish to pose a question through the Chair.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **TUELL**: So, last night, this debate started and I spoke once. Has that been reset?

The SPEAKER: Unfortunately, the Clerk had to go to the restroom. The Chair will consider the debate reset for the latitude of the Good Representative from East Machias.

Representative **TUELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I certainly will not repeat my speech from last night, although I did try to illuminate the matter considerably. But I did want to bring up briefly that every point I made in the speech was confirmed during previous debate; that this really is, I believe, this is an attempt by folks from more urban areas to impose; or to encourage, rather; their position on rural areas. And I believe that rural areas already believe that we're a national park, or that folks from other parts of the State have desired that we be a national park, and from everything I've heard this morning, that certainly has been proved out.

So, I would encourage folks to again to vote this motion down. There was a bill from the Representative from Hodgdon that the Committee unanimously rejected that actually affirmed a municipality's right to set its own light ordinances. And we rejected it, because towns already had that right. So, towns already have that right now, we certainly do not need this bill, we do not need any more tinkering or playing around or flicking of the light switches, if you will, and I would urge folks to vote against the pending motion and use the red light, not the green, because it does emit less light pollution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **FOSTER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I'm kind of triggered by this bill, and I would like to thank, first of all, the Sponsor and others for bringing up the fact that we already have municipalities that are taking care of this on their own, and I believe that this is a home rule issue, and this bill is completely unnecessary.

As a young lad, I can remember being at events in the town of Sangerville and driving home the three miles out to where we lived, and my father commenting that as they added a streetlight to that Route 23, that one day, you'll probably see streetlights all the way out to our house as things grow. Well, Mr. Speaker, today, those streetlights are gone, I think there may be one or two right in the town of Sangerville. And most of the rural communities in my area, that's what we're seeing.

Now, I say this bill is unnecessary. Back in the first decade of this century, we built the new school in Dexter, and the Maine Department of Education, in their requirements, we found that we, indeed, had to install lighting both for the parking lot areas and around the school building itself that took the night sky into consideration, that the lighting was more efficiently projected down into the parking lot in areas where it was needed. So, this is already being done in a lot of areas that where the State money is being spent.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I would tell that just a few years ago, when former Senator Davis and former Representative from Guilford, Stearns, were here with me, we were invited by the Appalachian Mountain Club to attend an event, a Dark Sky event. And the young lady who was in charge of that wrote us all a very nice email saying, come up and see the dark skies. Well, by the time; I decided not to read the email, and I responded that I wouldn't be participating; but by the time I got done telling her about my childhood, pulling into our driveway where there were no streetlights, sitting in the old Pontiac Catalina with the big windows, my sister and I in the back seat staring up at the Milky Way and other constellations and me dreaming about what it would be like to be in space, my mother and father sitting in the front seat; I assume they were looking at the stars, also; we enjoyed the dark skies, and we still do. I live in Dexter, a few miles out of town, and I can take my grandkids out and point out things to them in the night sky.

This is a completely unnecessary bill. Please leave rural Maine alone. And finally, as I told the young lady from the Appalachian Mountain Club, if you could please, please get the lights shut off on the wind towers that have been built over Bingham way, those of us in Abbott, those of us driving on the hills, going into Sangerville, those of us like Representative Stearns who have a camp on the eastern shore of Piper Pond that gets to look out at the night sky at night and see those nice blinking red lights out there. Please, please help us get back to our dark skies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **WHITE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I will be brief and try not to leave any puns.

I appreciate the Representative from the other side of the aisle recognizing my district: Greenville, the 100-Mile Wilderness, Piper Pond, as the Representative from Dexter mentioned. We do enjoy dark skies. We have had many awards granted to people in my district, the Appalachian Mountain Club has worked very diligently at this and it is a beautiful thing to be able to walk out, and for those of you that don't frequent rural areas, looking at the sky and seeing just a multitude of lights in the sky is incredible. And I, too, would love to see those red blinking lights eliminated when I drive up the hill at my house, I look 35 miles away and see blinking red lights now that were never there before just a few years ago.

But these things were all done and achieved by the local communities dealing with this. It wasn't always so, that the areas that I mentioned could enjoy the degree of dark skies that we enjoy now. That was done through local control, and it should be left at local control. We really don't need to be dictated from away. So, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Caratunk, Representative Caruso.

Representative **CARUSO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just need to speak up for my area, we are northern Somerset County, very rural. We enjoy dark skies. But it's also an issue of local, small, rural towns really hating mandates from Augusta telling us how we have to run our town. We converted our; just two years ago, we converted our streetlights to LEDs and it was a decision of our legislative body of our town and it was a debate on the town floor, so to speak. And we made that decision and that balance for public safety needs, people still wanting streetlights for public safety when they're walking, and also, people wanting no streetlights, because they want it even darker than it already is. But that was a local decision and on behalf of my area, I just wanted to voice that, and I oppose this. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Jefferson, Representative Farrin.

Representative **FARRIN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just have a couple quick things.

A few years back, my family hosted a Chinese high school student who stayed with us for a whole school year. On the first few clear nights, she went outside with us, and she stood in awe of the clear sky. This was a new sight for her. She lived in the city in China, and I don't think she really had seen the sky. We have something very unique here in Maine, and I think this bill is a great step in the right direction of keeping our skies clear. Thank you.

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

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just felt I should rise, since I was actually spoken about in an earlier speech. And so, I am opposed to this bill.

I had put in a bill similarly, doing two things and that was just to have information available for towns where they can find the information for lights to be shining down and shielded, because we have had many people move into the rural areas; I do represent 47 towns, it's a rather large district; and when they moved in, they were bringing forward thoughts from the areas that they moved in with. And so, there was conflict, and there is conflict right now between people who have lived in these areas their whole lives and for generations and newer people moving in that have ideas of what they feel their lives should be. And I

ended up asking the Committee to do my bill Ought Not to Pass, because Maine Municipal was putting information to go out to the municipalities, giving them the information that I wanted them to get.

So, in other words, the information that my bill was doing was to make sure that the municipalities knew, no matter how small they were, that they had the ability to put in this type of measure if they so chose, and also where this sort of lighting or shielding would be available. This is the information that I wanted to get out. I was in no way wanting to have any sort of information put out to the municipalities that they had to do this or that they had to put forth some sort of ordinance altogether. We are a local control State, and I think it's one of the most beautiful aspects of the way that our State is run. But more and more often, I'm seeing areas that choose to infringe on the rural areas.

Mr. Speaker, if people want dark skies and they live in a city, they can put ordinances in their city and they can remove those lights. They can have their skies as dark as they want. But to tell a rural community that they are not allowed to light up their skies for safety measures, for convenience or if an industry would want to move into my local communities and provide jobs, to have ordinances in place that would already be putting prohibitions that they would have to overcome; I'm not for that, Mr. Speaker. Our rural areas need to have businesses willing to move there, and this is one issue that I can see would be a problem for that.

So, I am opposed to the measure for those reasons. I understand our State has beautiful, beautiful night skies, but I do not believe it is for the legislative Body and for Members in other communities to tell other communities what they can and cannot do and what they need to implement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Orono, Representative Osher.

Representative **OSHER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is not a mandate, but this bill does request that the Maine Office of Community Action, MOCA, would make a model ordinance that communities could adopt, and that way, they would have the guidance.

I work my other job for many small communities, they do not have the staff to be able to develop ordinances that would help them to do the work of keeping skies dark or many other things. And so, this bill is not a mandate, but it does help those communities all around our State have the guidance because it encourages; it asks MOCA to do that.

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

Representative **CAMPBELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. This is local control, we can't be dealing with that.

High intensity lights, we do have a problem with high intensity lights. It's in all the new vehicles. They drive that light right through your head. I had a bill before the Transportation Committee, and in their wisdom, they decided there's nothing we can do about it. This is a danger, yet the Committee, in its wisdom, again, decided they couldn't do anything about it. This is not appropriate, it's a local control, maybe someday we can work on headlights.

The SPEAKER: 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. 394

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

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Bunker, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Cluchey, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Dill, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Frost, Gifford, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Mastraccio, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Runte, Schmiersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, Webb, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome, Mr. Speaker.

ABSENT - Brennan, Greenwood, Hasenfus, Lanigan, Underwood.

Yes, 66; No, 78; Absent, 5; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

66 having voted in the affirmative and 78 voted in the negative, with 5 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **NOT ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, on motion of Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook, the Minority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

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

SENATE PAPERS

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Require Minimum Pay for Reporting to Work" (S.P. 282) (L.D. 598)

PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-195) AND HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-471) in the House on June 3, 2025.

Came from the Senate **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-195) AND SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-301)** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford moved that the House **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

Representative DRINKWATER of Milford **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

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 Recede and Concur. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 395

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, 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, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, 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 - Greenwood, Hymes, Lanigan, Underwood.

Yes, 76; No, 69; Absent, 4; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

76 having voted in the affirmative and 69 voted in the negative, with 4 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the House voted to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

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

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Amend the Maine Death with Dignity Act to Ensure Access by Qualified Patients"

(H.P. 381) (L.D. 613)

Majority (9) **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-433)** in the House on June 4, 2025.

Came from the Senate with the Minority (4) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES READ** and **ACCEPTED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford moved that the House **INSIST**.

Representative JAVNER of Chester moved that the House **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

Representative MOONEN of Portland **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

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 Lowell, Representative McIntyre.

Representative **McINTYRE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Before you cast your vote, I'm just going to offer you a couple things, a couple thoughts.

I did some research on the Hippocratic Oath, and there's a portion of the current Hippocratic Oath that states the following: "Most especially must I tread with care in matters of life and death. If it is given me to save a life, all thanks. But it may also be within my power to take a life; this awesome responsibility must be faced with great humbleness and awareness of my own frailty. Above all, I must not play at God." Mr. Speaker, I offer this: all life is precious and every effort must be made to protect and preserve the dignity of the dying.

As the last son of Marguerite McIntyre, I was asked by my mother to serve as her health care proxy during her final months and days. There were very few good days towards the end, as her once-strong body weakened and her once-brilliant mind rapidly began to deteriorate. I prayed constantly for guidance and wisdom to help me figure out a way to ease her pain. I spoke with family members, I reached out to total strangers. I admittedly struggled, and only in the deafening darkness, when no one was around to see, I wept quietly while holding my mother's hand to try to offer some comfort. During the final hours, in her last barely lucid moment, she looked at me and said simply, 'Matthew, thank you.' Shortly thereafter, she passed away peacefully.

Mr. Speaker, her physicians were charged to manage the medical aspects of her condition. They did their job well. It was the duty of her son to maintain her dignity. And someday, I hope I will accept that I did my best. My decisions were guided by my heart and by my faith. They had nothing to do with the statutes of man. Mr. Speaker, we are overstepping our bounds with this legislation. Thank you.

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

Representative **COLLINS**: Good morning. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Gerda Weissmann Klein, Corrie ten Boom, Filip Müller, Elie Wiesel, Hansi Hirschmann. Just some of the names familiar with the Nazi killing machine while socialists were in power in Germany and overrunning Europe.

Reading stories from the Second World War, we asked, why didn't someone do something? I wasn't in a position to speak up when this law, the Death with Dignity Act, was originally passed in this building, but now I'm in a position to speak up. We are all in this Body in a position to speak up and slow down the roll to devalue life.

What is the value of life? My mother suffered a stroke in April of 2001 and lost her ability to swallow. She was fed nourishment through a feeding tube. Her doctor had suggested to my father that he should stop the feeding tube and allow my mother to die. Do we want doctors to determine what is in the patient's best interest? I probably don't need to say this, but my mother had a new doctor the next day. My mother was able to live another year and a half, spending time with our family, communicating as best she could with head nods and hand gestures. She lived.

The Book of Proverbs says, "If you show yourself lacking courage on the day of distress, your strength is meager. Rescue those who are being taken away to death, and those who are staggering to the slaughter, hold them back! If you say, 'See, we did not know this,' does He who weighs the heart not consider it? And does He who watches over your soul not know it? And will He not repay the person according to his work?"

What is the value of life, Mr. Speaker? My mother's life was priceless. Thank you.

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

Representative **ZAGER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. This is a difficult bill, as was the original bill that the 129th Legislature considered. People apply many different lenses to difficult bills. We have closely held beliefs, we have very powerful, poignant moments sometimes that help us decide how to vote on a bill. I have deep respect, profound respect, to everyone in this room, including those that I might come down on, on the other side of a particular issue, on this or the other side of the aisle. And this bill, LD 613, is not an exception to that.

I think it's important for us to remember a few things, because some things have been invoked in the course of debate on this issue. One is the Hippocratic Oath. There is no single Hippocratic Oath, Mr. Speaker. In the couple of centuries that have elapsed since the first one, attributed to Hippocrates himself, our notions of what is living, what is dying, what is a patient's authority and capacity has been informed by a lot of experience, research and understanding of, in greater detail, the human experience. The Hippocratic Oath that I took does not preclude this, because it is about empowering the patient, who has capacity, who has their own values, to be as much in control with their destiny as possible. Even in the throes of an experience like grave illness that leaves people feeling so powerless otherwise. To call this something that is reminiscent of the Nazis is a great disrespect, in my opinion, of what the Nazis actually did with regard to peoples' right to choose their destiny, Mr. Speaker. I respect that others may disagree on that. I would invite people to walk through Auschwitz and Birkenau and/or go to the U.S. Holocaust Museum and see if empowering the people that were the victims of the Nazis was central to their designs. But this bill, LD 613, is very different. It is all about empowering the people through a very, very clear set of guardrails, a system that has worked very well.

There's a lot more that can be said, and I don't know if I'm changing any minds, Mr. Speaker. But again, I simply have to convey what I think are pertinent things to consider as we all wrestle with what is a very, very difficult issue. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Farmington, Representative Bunker.

Representative **BUNKER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I promised as a freshman I would do more listening and less talking, but this one touches me and I'll have to speak just briefly to it.

I'm very touched by my colleagues who I hear a diagnosis on one side that are tragic, personal losses of family members on this side, and it brings back my memories from five and a half years ago when I was rushed into emergency surgery and had a removal of a tumor pressing against my brain that caused me great concerns as to what my final outcome would be. My neurosurgeon said, 'Steve, I've got good news and other news. The good news is the surgery was a success.' I said, 'well, that's great, lifts off my shoulders, what's the other news?' The other news is, this is a pathology report that says this is central nervous system lymphoma, CNS lymphoma. He says, 'the other news is, it's not curable at this point, and it has a likely 80% chance of returning and being more aggressive when it does.'

So, when people ask me how I'm doing, Steve, my retort is, 'I'm having a great day and every day's a bonus.' But when I came back to this particular piece of legislation, it harkened back to darker days, not wondering if, but when I might be placed personally in this decision. And I would say for those who have personal beliefs on this and would choose not to go down that path, I understand completely on that. But as a Legislature, I

would choose not to block other people's choice if they have to make that, and in concert with their loved ones in doing so. And the last thing I would want if I chose to do that and days turned darker quicker, I would not want to be trapped in a 17-day holding period just for the sake of this particular Statute. This offers an opportunity, in the most tragic portions of a person's life, to be able to be free to make those decisions themselves.

I have great trust and respect for my colleagues, I hope you never go down this trail for you or your loved one, but I hope this Statute provides that opportunity when it would need to be, and I hope us all to have a great next day. Thank you.

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

The Chair reminded Members to address their comments toward the Speaker.

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

Representative **BLIER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I wish I could tell you that I have a lot of knowledge on this particular bill, but I do not. I just rise, like most of you in this House who create legislation on experiences that you have had in your life, and that's how we make our decisions.

But as a middle-aged man, my grandmother had Alzheimer's, and I remember visiting her quite often in the old age home, just laying in bed with bed sores, and they would roll over to change her sheets or whatever and she would just moan. And she had died of starvation; she forgot how to swallow. And I remember the doctor saying they were going to intravenously feed her and my father was like, no, she's got a living will, we're not going to do that. And so, in my point of view, that particular incident was a great time to end life.

On another instance, I had another person that I know, not a particular family member, that was at the end of her life but still had something to give, but yet the children's relationship was not great, and they said, 'this is the button, mom, if you hit that several times, you just keep hitting it.' And she passed away that evening.

My question is, how important is life? We all are put on this Earth for one reason, and that is to give. We are here to serve people, because we are givers. You never know when the opportunity comes when you still have something to give, even at the end of life. And so, the struggle to fight for life should be more important than the struggle to end it, and that's where I'm not in favor of this bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from North Yarmouth, Representative Graham.

Representative **GRAHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is extremely difficult for all of us to consider, and I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for sharing their experiences of losing loved ones. Mr. Speaker, I sit on Health and Human Services, and I'm honored and blessed to be on that Committee. We heard moving testimony from people who've lost loved ones or those who really wanted to make this choice and weren't really able to.

My dad was a general surgeon in Bangor. He dedicated his entire life to caring for patients. From Washington County to Aroostook County, he got paid with crabmeat, quilts and clams. Dad was diagnosed with cancer at the age of 82, lung cancer. You see, he was a smoker; even though he was a surgeon, gave it up when my mom needed to give hers up. He was diagnosed with cancer, and he said, 'yup, moving on, no treatment.' He knew that he would likely lose that battle. But you see, Mr. Speaker, he had a choice at the end of his life. He knew. He was a doctor. He was able to say, 'I don't want further treatment,

I want help with the pain that I'm experiencing.' And his kids, all five of us, knew that and trusted that. My dad had the choice.

What we heard in Committee was people who suffered for 17 days. They had made the decision, they had made the decision with the assistance of two physicians who said, 'your death is imminent.' Mr. Speaker, I've had more people reach out sending messages, and do you know what they said? 'Bless you.' 'Thank you.' 'Thank you for your vote.' I kept getting them again and again and again and I was like, wow, I can't believe this. I feel strongly in the Committee process. We in HHS hear a lot of difficult stuff. Mr. Speaker, we need to pass this bill for people who really want to say, 'I need to say goodbye, I love all the people who are around me, but I need to have the choice to be able to say goodbye.' Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Brewer, Representative O'Halloran.

Representative **O'HALLORAN**: I wasn't planning on speaking today. As a person who watched their beloved great aunt, full of life, proud, extremely stubborn; I'm sure that surprises everybody here; she was always up for a good adventure. This strong woman lived the majority of her life alone, without indoor plumbing or a furnace. With her strong will, she split her own wood until her 80s with a PBR by her side. I sat there and watched this woman who lived a large life deteriorate and suffer in extreme pain as she struggled to breathe and drowned and gurgled in her own bodily fluids and nobody could prevent that from happening.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Livermore Falls, Representative Lyman.

Representative **LYMAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Members of the House. I'm going to try this, and if I fail, just shut my light off.

For all of us, death is imminent. We're all dying. I'd like to pose a question.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **LYMAN**: What gives any person in this Chamber the right to empower another person to take another's life? The right of life belongs to the individual, whatever their belief system is or their support system is, bottom line.

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

Representative **GEIGER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hadn't planned to rise, like so many others.

Many years ago, I had the incredible honor of being the director of what was then the State's largest hospice program. It was an incredible honor to walk the path of so many people who were facing those last days. I worked with an amazing team of nurses, chaplains and social workers. They did incredible work to heal both physical and spiritual wounds with so many people and their families. Those nurses did extraordinary work preventing the thing that people feared most, which was pain at the end.

I think as a society and as a culture, we owe every person that kind of privilege of having a team working with them, to be with them at the end, to reassure their family that they won't die in agony. I watched a lot of healing happen at the bedside. But I also watched other deaths that weren't as kind. That's where someone was stripped of every last bit of dignity. My husband was called to a community many years ago that had a recent suicide of a couple, and he was asked to facilitate a community meeting. And to his surprise, the most common question of the older people in that audience was, 'how did they do it? What did

they use? Because I want that. I want that choice when the time comes.'

Again, I think as a culture, as a society, as people who have a choice to bring love and compassion, we should wrap around each dying person the very best care we can give them. But I think we also have to honor their choice as they approach the end and help facilitate that as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **EDER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I have supported this concept for many years, but in the past couple of decades, I've been observing the program of medically assisted suicide in Canada and that has given me great pause. They're further down the road with this issue than we are, to the point where people in Canada have been applying for medically assisted suicide because they can't pay their bills. There was a woman, a veteran, who had been applying for a ramp for her house and the state offered her the option to choose medically assisted suicide because she wasn't getting her ramp for her wheelchair. That's eugenical. I'm afraid that's where this goes, and I can't support it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be brief. But here we go, playing God again, deciding life and death with a stroke of a pen, giving authorization.

I've listened to a doctor who has interpreted the Hippocratic Oath of 'first, do no harm' that death does no harm. I've listened to very personal, intimate details of loved ones' death. We all have a story. I lost my mother, I lost my sister, I basically watched them take them off feeding. I was the one that put the Q-tip and the water on their lips and let them breathe their last breath.

Mr. Speaker, being able to be a conscious decision to make this decision shouldn't be what we debate, what we decide. You often hear about 'it's not the legislator's place.' Well, the Legislature shouldn't be deciding life and death and giving a blessing to people to be able to do that. They're not in the right frame of mind. Life is precious. I choose life. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **ARATA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, the issue before us is not really that of assisted suicide, because that's already in Statute, but this bill goes too far. Perhaps the Statute needs to be changed, but to go from the existing waiting period to really zero waiting period? If you read the Amendment, it says the attending physician may waive any portion or all of the waiting periods required in this subsection, *et cetera*. That's just too much power to give to any one person. So, perhaps this Statute needs to be changed, but this is not the answer. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **LEMELIN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a Catholic, you understand that if I vote for this, I would be committing a sin of great matter, not because I belong to a church that lacks understanding and compassion, but because it's very easy to self-justify this bill with moving stories about the need for this bill to prevent suffering. If these people could possibly speak to the soul after death, they would realize that this person was not in favor of this bill and wish they could've come back and finished their suffering. The reason for the; until God himself calls them home.

Most people will not understand what I'm about to say, but it's the absolute truth. And that is that natural suffering, whether we like it or not, is actually a gift from God. It heals us. It gives us time to repent and to reflect on our lives and to realize that we need to humble ourselves and realize we're not in charge, that we're not in control. But we want to be in control so badly that we're willing to make the decision about someone's life or to let them make a decision when they're not really capable of doing it at the time, instead of allowing the Creator himself, who knows all things, to make that decision. This is a very hard concept to understand, and I get it, but it's reality. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Boothbay, Representative Stover.

Representative **STOVER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today reminds me of our dear friend, Lois Galgay Reckitt.

When we first passed this bill, Lois spoke eloquently about her father and how close they were and how much they loved baseball together and how much he suffered until his death and how it brought her to the place of supporting this bill. And tragically and sadly, we all still live with the loss of Lois in this room, and we watched Lois, she hid her suffering and she hid her illness and she trudged through as best she could like a champion, and I miss her every day and I'm sure many of you do as well. But what you may not know, and what I learned from Lois's service and from Lois's wife, Lynn Carter, is that two weeks before her untimely death, Lois went to her physician and asked to participate in the Death with Dignity program and her physician referred her to another physician, and she got an appointment for the next week. But Mr. Speaker, she did not live long enough for that appointment, but she had run out of her suffering and she was ready, she was ready to have a peaceful passage. And I wish that for Lois even today. I know she's looking down on us, and I would just ask my colleagues when you vote to think of Lois Galgay Reckitt.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Augusta, Representative Rollins.

Representative **ROLLINS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak to this issue, and I don't have any brilliant statements to make, I don't have any criticisms of this point of view or that point of view, only merely to say that I'm glad I live in a country where I could have choice. I think these are very personal family matters, I don't think they belong in a political debate other than set up guardrails where we can function with free choice and live under the terms of our family's understanding of reality. And I appreciate that, and I want to rise to support that.

The **SPEAKER**: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is to Recede and Concur. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 396

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

NAY - Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Cray, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Graham,

Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Jackson, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, 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, Wood S, Zager.

ABSENT - Abdi, Golek, Greenwood, Lanigan, Underwood, Yusuf.

Yes, 67; No, 76; Absent, 6; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

67 having voted in the affirmative and 76 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR FAILED**.

Subsequently, the House voted to **INSIST**.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Lodging Establishments from Providing Single-use Plastic Containers"

(H.P. 1289) (L.D. 1928)

PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-422) in the House on June 4, 2025.

Came from the Senate **FAILED OF PASSAGE TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-422)** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford moved that the House **INSIST**.

Representative **MORRIS** of Turner moved that the House **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

Representative **MOONEN** of Portland **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

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 Recede and Concur. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 397

YEA - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Crafts, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Farrin, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Roberts, Rudnicki, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, 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, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Mitchell, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

ABSENT - Gifford, Greenwood, Lanigan, Underwood.

Yes, 72; No, 73; Absent, 4; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

72 having voted in the affirmative and 73 voted in the negative, with 4 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR FAILED**.

Subsequently, the House voted to **INSIST**.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Expand Hydroelectric Development by Removing the 100-megawatt Cap"

(S.P. 163) (L.D. 371)

Report "A" (6) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY READ** and **ACCEPTED** in the House on June 9, 2025.

Came from the Senate with that Body having **INSISTED** on its former action whereby Report "B" (4) **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-277)** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford moved that the House **INSIST**.

Representative FOSTER of Dexter moved that the House **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on his motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

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 Recede and Concur. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 398

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, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmiersal-Burgess, Simmons, Sinclair, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, 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, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, 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 - Greenwood, Lanigan, Underwood.

Yes, 70; No, 76; Absent, 3; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

70 having voted in the affirmative and 76 voted in the negative, with 3 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR FAILED**.

Subsequently, the House voted to **INSIST**.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

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

SENATE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (7) **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-303)** - Minority (6) **Ought Not to Pass** - Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on 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)

Which was **TABLED** by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor pending the motion of Representative MURPHY of Scarborough to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

Representative LYMAN of Livermore Falls **REQUESTED** a roll call on the 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 Livermore Falls, Representative Lyman.

Representative **LYMAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Members of the House. I appreciate the opportunity to speak.

I'd like to express a frustration I have with a bill that; I sincerely believe its intent is good; however, I'm concerned with its actual impact. In my opinion, this bill invites racist feelings and bias. This bill also reinforces my belief that all bills should be considered blind. As lawmakers and representatives of the citizens of the State, we should not have our thoughts and opinions on a bill's credibility influenced by party or Sponsor positions. Hearing bills blindly would encourage a 100% assessment of a bill's content based on neutral considerations.

With that, I'm here to respectfully voice my opposition to this bill, not because I oppose the teaching of African American Studies; quite the opposite, it has been content that I taught in curricula I was involved with for years, because I fully support it as an essential part of Maine's educational system. However, this bill duplicates existing efforts, shifts responsibilities inappropriately and imposes unnecessary costs at a time when Maine is facing significant financial challenges.

African American Studies has been an official part of Maine's learning results since 2021. Our educators are already expected to integrate this content into their Social Studies curriculum and many school districts have made meaningful progress. The Department of Education also provides a dedicated resource page to assist teachers in this work. The infrastructure is in place.

This bill proposes the creation of a new Advisory Council, more than \$165,000 in ongoing annual appropriations and potential rulemaking authority for the State Board of Education regarding teacher certification. This raises several concerns. Obviously, fiscal responsibility. With the State facing budget pressures and recently passed legislation expected to increase the tax burden on Mainers, this is not the time to create new, ongoing costs for responsibilities that the Department of Education already manages. Our limited funds need to be prioritized. Let's send it to the classrooms and to the teachers. We have limited funds.

Of course, another one is governance overreach. The bill gives the State Board of Education a pathway to adopt certification requirements, but under the Maine Administrative Procedural Act, such rules must come from legislative action. Moreover, preparing teachers is a responsibility of the higher education institutions, not the State Board.

Local control and duplication is the third and final thing I will speak on. This bill imposes a statewide mandate that could undermine the autonomy of local districts. Educators and administrators closest to their communities are best equipped to implement learning standards. Creating a separate advisory structure adds bureaucracy and diverts resources from the classrooms. It's also worth noting that the Department of Education already has mechanisms in place to evaluate how well curriculum standards, including African American Studies, are being implemented. The provision in this bill requiring additional sampling and evaluation is redundant.

Importantly, the Minority Report recommending Ought Not to Pass is bipartisan. This opposition reflects shared concerns across party lines about cost, governance and duplication, not about the value of African American Studies, which we all recognize. To be clear, I support and have participated in the teaching of African American history and perspectives in Maine classrooms, but we must do it in a way that is practical, fiscally responsible and aligned with existing educational systems. This bill, while well intended, does not meet those standards.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully urge the House to vote against this bill and instead look for ways to support and strengthen the frameworks that we already have without adding unnecessary cost or bureaucracy. Thank you.

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

Representative **MURPHY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As my Good Friend, the Representative from Livermore Falls, said, this is already Maine law. It was enacted by the 130th Legislature, and this bill endeavors to fully implement and fund that effort that was begun four years ago by our colleagues in a former Legislature. It will provide staffing assistance; the DOE would provide staffing assistance for the advisory council, and it would also create more opportunities for educators to have professional development in an effort to improve their teaching of African American Studies in Maine Social Studies. As far as the preparation for future teachers, that would be a decision made by the State Board of Education, and this legislation gives them the opportunity, asks them to consider making this part of teacher preparation programs, but does not require them.

Overall, African American Studies will give Maine; well, will continue to give Maine students a more complete history of our State, a shared understanding of our nation's past and how the past influences the present. And prior to this legislation coming before us, it has not been fully implemented, nor has it been funded well, and so, students are not getting the full benefit of the law as it was intended. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **CHAPMAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As I talk to my constituents, they're more concerned about reading, writing, arithmetic. Our grades are very low, our school systems are performing very poorly and that seems to be the subject my constituents are worried about, not so much African American Studies. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: 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. 399

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mathieson, 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, Brennan, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmiersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Greenwood, Javner, Julia, Lanigan, Mastraccio, Underwood.

Yes, 74; No, 69; Absent, 6; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 69 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-303)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-303)** in concurrence.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-316)** on Bill "An Act to Establish the Maine Green Schools Network"

(S.P. 627) (L.D. 1543)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

MURPHY of Scarborough
BRENNAN of Portland
CROCKETT of Portland
DODGE of Belfast
MITCHELL of Cumberland
SARGENT of York

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

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham

CARLOW of Buxton

HAGGAN of Hampden

LYMAN of Livermore Falls

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-316)**.

READ.

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

Representative LYMAN of Livermore Falls **REQUESTED** a roll call on the 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 Livermore Falls, Representative Lyman.

Representative **LYMAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Right now, I may be questioning my own intelligence in rising to speak, for I don't feel like my words really matter, but here we go, anyway.

This bill means additional costs for the DOE, though the goal it's established and to administer the Maine Green School Network, and though it is stated that the cost can be absorbed, it is creating a statewide community of practice with ongoing educators and administrators for the purpose of sharing curricula instruction and assessment practices to community resilience and changing ecosystems. And I will repeat myself: this is already done. This curricula has been implemented and is continually evolving and will continue to.

Mr. Speaker, we need to recognize that the trained and professional educators are doing the job. It is not necessary to continue the creation of DOE positions and special education committees added to our State work. The work is being done by the professionals and will continue to be done. All the money given to these State positions and special interest communities should be, needs to be, directed to our students and those trained professionals working face-to-face with our children. In 2025 is an abundance of resources for teachers and education professionals to access and incorporate into the curriculum. This is ongoing weekly, potentially daily work, in schools throughout our entire State, even the country.

I don't tell my dentist how to do a job or other licensed, specially trained workforce people how to do their job. Let's do the same for our teachers and the incredible number of trained, certified and expert education professionals that already exist. Thank you.

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

Representative **MURPHY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Green Schools Coordinator position already exists within the Department of Education. This legislation authorizes the Department to develop a grant program to be administered through the network in furtherance in fulfilling of their duties. It supports environmental awareness and accountability, action through fostering youth leadership, supporting educators,

prioritizing research and advocacy and transformative policy. There is no fiscal impact to this. It authorizes the Department to create a grant program, but there's no funding attached to it.

The Green Schools Network would support professional development, school projects, incorporating traditional ecological knowledge and best practices for waste management, recycling, energy and water conservation, outdoor classrooms, transportation or health matters and it would develop common resources and trainings and metrics to support educators. This is about fairness for districts and educators across the entire State. It ensures that all schools, regardless of location or resources, can benefit from the sustainability opportunities and shared learning. So, if an administrative district in Madawaska is wondering how best to incorporate outdoor classrooms, through the network, they'll be able to contact a school district in Sanford and figure out best practices and how it worked well for them.

It's; again, no fiscal impact whatsoever; it just allows them to create the network. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: 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. 400

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, 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, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, 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 - Lanigan, Underwood.

Yes, 76; No, 71; Absent, 2; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

76 having voted in the affirmative and 71 voted in the negative, with 2 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-316)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-316)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Allow Employees Covered Under the Maine Retirement Savings Program to Elect to Enroll and Unenroll in a Payroll Deduction for an Individual Retirement Account"

(S.P. 511) (L.D. 1283)

Signed:

Senators:

BAILEY of York
BALDACCI of Penobscot

Representatives:

MATHIESON of Kittery
ARFORD of Brunswick
BOYER of Cape Elizabeth
CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham
MASTRACCIO of Sanford

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-307)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

CIMINO of Bridgton
FLYNN of Albion
FOLEY of Wells
MORRIS of Turner
OLSEN of Raymond

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

READ.

Representative MATHIESON of Kittery moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on her 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 Turner, Representative Morris.

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

This bill is really about trying to make sure that; to do this program the way that it should've been done to begin with. I've heard from multiple business owners that are concerned about the amount of time it takes to enroll someone in this program only to have them opt out, the amount of having to get their personal data and information together to submit and as well as some of the problems they've had with the merit program as far as being able to communicate with any issues that they may have. It causes a lot of lost time to the business in terms of trying to comply with this.

I think it's a good idea for people to have an opportunity to save money. We have this State program is one option that may be one that an employee may wish to use, but I think we would be better served to allow the employee to opt in rather than force them to opt out. I think that this is a fair compromise and a better one for the business community, that they will not have to continue with the administrative burden that comes with having to force their employees to be put into the program, only to have them opt out. It's true that many have chosen to continue to use the program, which is great, but there are many employees, and what I hear from business owners is the majority of their employees do choose to opt out, so, rather than making them

have to go through the process of opting out and the burden that that creates from a time-consuming perspective, we would be better off to make this into a truly voluntary opt-in program.

So, I would encourage this Body to reject the pending motion and support LD 1283. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Kittery, Representative Mathieson.

Representative **MATHIESON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This merit program was established in 2024. It's an extremely popular program. We learned in Committee that it takes approximately 15 minutes to register a business. I actually went through it myself; it's a very simple process.

Since this program was established in January of 2024, 2,500 businesses have enrolled, and 13,000 employees and \$11 million has been invested. We learned also that 20% of those 13,000 employees are under the age of 25.

This proposal, which would modify the program to an opt-in program, goes against all best practices in terms of workplace retirement programs. Under federal law, employers starting any type of retirement program must establish automatic enrollment. Merit mirrors this recommendation. Research shows people are 20 times more likely to save if they have a workplace retirement plan with an automatic enrollment.

We also learned in Committee that if we did move forward with this proposal, it would actually dismantle the program. The program providers, the administrators of the program, were very clear that they would not support the program if we did not have the automatic enrollment. We also learned in Committee from two other states, Hawaii and New Mexico, who have an opt-in program and to date, since 2020, they have not been able to procure a program administrator. The Executive Director indicated there would be likely no one willing to work with the State to administer this program.

This program is extremely cost-effective for our employees that have been enrolled. My husband is a financial consultant and he did school me on these basis points that we learned about in Committee. Two to 12 basis points is a very low cost for this fund. I encourage you to follow my lead and vote Ought Not to Pass. Thank you very much, 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. 401

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, 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, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmursal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout,

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

ABSENT - Fredette, Lanigan, Underwood.

Yes, 77; No, 69; Absent, 3; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

77 having voted in the affirmative and 69 voted in the negative, with 3 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-326)** on Bill "An Act to Establish the Criminal Records Review Commission in Statute"

(S.P. 126) (L.D. 259)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland

TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth

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:

BABIN of Fort Fairfield

CARUSO of Caratunk

HENDERSON of Rumford

POIRIER of Skowhegan

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-326)**.

READ.

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

Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan **REQUESTED** a roll call on the 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 Skowhegan, Representative Poirier.

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

This bill proposes to make the Criminal Records Review Commission a permanent fixture of Maine State government. With nearly 30 members, this is an expansion of government and permanency should not be taken lightly. Though the Fiscal Note is reportedly small, taxpayers are ultimately on the hook for the per diem rates and expenses for nearly 30 people. This bill

gives authorization to seek outside funding, which also raises questions about special interest influence.

We already have permanent mechanisms in place, whether it's the Chief Executive's boards and commissions, the Judicial Branch, the Judiciary Committee or case-by-case pardon and clemency review. These entities are capable and committed to addressing concerns. We owe it to the people of Maine to be thoughtful stewards of our trust and our resources. A nearly 30-member permanent commission is not the most effective or prudent way to deliver justice or reform. Thank you, Mr. Speaker

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Falmouth, Representative Kuhn.

Representative **KUHN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll just state briefly: This bill would make permanent a Criminal Records Review Commission. It would be an extension of the Criminal Records Review Committee, which has already been meeting for the past two biennium. It has a number of important duties, including reviewing laws, rules and procedures pertaining to criminal history record information in the State and, of course, any recommendations would come back to the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee for a thorough legislative process.

This bill presents a thoughtful, tested and structured means of exploring an important policy area, and I ask the Body to support the pending motion.

The SPEAKER: 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. 402

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer D, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, 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, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S.

ABSENT - Lanigan, Underwood, Woodsome.

Yes, 78; No, 68; Absent, 3; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

78 having voted in the affirmative and 68 voted in the negative, with 3 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-326)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-326)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-283)** on RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Require a Statewide Popular Election of the Secretary of State, the Treasurer of State and the Attorney General for 4-year Terms

(S.P. 188) (L.D. 455)

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot
MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

ADAMS of Lebanon
GREENWOOD of Wales
POMERLEAU of Standish
TUELL of East Machias
UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

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

Signed:

Senator:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook
COPELAND of Saco
FARRIN of Jefferson
MATLACK of St. George
ROLLINS of Augusta

Came from the Senate with the Minority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

READ.

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

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on the 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 Salisbury.

Representative **SALISBURY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, as I have done in previous Reports, I have passed the Majority Report but I am requesting that Members follow my light and vote against that measure. I will be voting against that measure as well.

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

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of the pending motion. I thank the Good Representative from Westbrook for pushing the Majority Report forward.

Just briefly, this is an Amendment that; this is a bill that would propose we put out the three Constitutional Officers to popular election, but doesn't begin until 2032. So, it gives a planning stage and process, so that nothing's being rushed. So, I encourage you to vote yes on the pending motion. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: 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. 403

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, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmursal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, Warren, 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, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

ABSENT - Lanigan, Underwood.

Yes, 71; No, 76; Absent, 2; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

71 having voted in the affirmative and 76 voted in the negative, with 2 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **NOT ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, on motion of Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook, the Minority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-577)** on Bill "An Act to Strengthen the Teaching of Wabanaki Studies in Maine Schools"

(H.P. 966) (L.D. 1474)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

MURPHY of Scarborough
CROCKETT of Portland
DODGE of Belfast
MITCHELL of Cumberland
SARGENT of York

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

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham

BRENNAN of Portland

CARLOW of Buxton

HAGGAN of Hampden

LYMAN of Livermore Falls

READ.

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

Representative LYMAN of Livermore Falls **REQUESTED** a roll call on the 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 Livermore Falls, Representative Lyman.

Representative **LYMAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Members of the House. I also rise in opposition to LD 1474.

There is no question that the history and contributions of the Wabanaki people deserve to be taught and understood by Maine students. That is why, for over two decades ago, the Legislature passed a law requiring Wabanaki studies in our schools. That is also why many schools across our State have incorporated these studies for years. That law remains in effect today, and this content is included in the Maine Learning Results. But this bill goes far beyond reaffirming the commitment. It makes permanent a State position, establishes contracts for advisors, expands professional development and introduces new certification considerations, all at an ongoing taxpayer expense, all at the State level, all potentially leaving local control out. At a time when our schools are already facing a severe educator workforce shortage, this is particularly concerning.

The State Board of Education is actively working with the field to strengthen the teaching profession and open new pathways to certification. Adding another mandatory requirement, particularly one that could become a graduation standard, risks creating yet another barrier for aspiring educators. That's the last thing we need when we're struggling to recruit and retain teachers across this State. We also have to consider whether this proposed graduation requirement is essential for every Maine student, and how we ensure that other cultural and ethnic groups who contributed to Maine's growth are also represented equitably in our curriculum.

We can honor Wabanaki heritage and ensure it remains part of student learning without expanding bureaucracy, without increasing costs or putting up new obstacles to entering the teaching profession. The bipartisan Minority Report offers a more measured and sustainable path. I respectfully urge a no vote on this bill. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Orono, Representative Osher.

Representative **OSHER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of this bill, and I'm the Sponsor. We teach our students Social Studies and History because we recognize that as citizens of the State and the country, we must learn the context of our past and present in order to create a more just society and to make informed decisions about the future.

When I moved to Maine in 1999 for a research and teaching faculty job at the University of Maine, my teaching load included a course entitled Soil and Water Quality. The development of the course curriculum was up to me. I was encouraged to share the science and include what I'd learned during my years of working as a soil scientist and watershed manager for the U.S. Forest Service. Immediately, I recalled that in each of the three national forests where I worked, the forest plans were developed without an understanding or appreciation for the indigenous people, their cultural traditions or their knowledge or the natural resources that they were stewarding. In each of those places, forest plans were being challenged, because of the omissions related to that cultural blindness.

In my job as a professor, it was essential that the students learning from me wouldn't make those same mistakes. I developed curriculum to include learning about the soil and water quality management practice by the Penobscots and partnered with the then-Director of the Penobscot Nation, Department of Natural Resources to create the lectures and hands-on learning opportunities, including river sampling, with the Penobscot team. I also organized a group of University of Maine faculty members and staff who were working to integrate Wabanaki history and knowledge into our courses. We were mentored by tribal representatives and staff from the University of Maine Wabanaki Center. We called our group a learning circle, and together, we embarked on integrating Wabanaki studies into courses across the University of Maine curriculum in English, in math, in history, education and Soil and Water Quality.

We all believed then and continue to believe now, over 20 years later, that here in Maine, it's essential that we all learn about and from the Wabanaki people. They've lived here for thousands of years, they've managed the land, they've created art and culture that is both distinct to their Nations and is also interwoven with the history and culture of those who have joined them here in this place. In 2001, the Honorable Donna Loring sponsored, and the Legislature passed, a visionary law requiring public schools to teach our students about the Wabanaki as part of Maine studies. Our learning circle group was ecstatic. The law required K-12 instruction to include learning about Wabanaki tribal governments and their relationships with the State and other governments, as well as the history, culture, territories and economic systems of the Wabanaki. The new law created the Wabanaki Studies Commission and authorized that Commission to meet through 2003.

Unfortunately, more than 20 years later, the teaching about our indigenous neighbors has not been effectively or consistently implemented in Maine's schools. In the intervening years, Maine students have continued to graduate with little or no education about the Wabanaki nations, to the detriment of all our students. Our children graduate having learned a Maine Studies curriculum that leaves out the knowledge of people indigenous to this place and Wabanaki young people continue to experience the feeling of being erased from the narrative describing their own home and history.

To fully implement the 2001 law, educators and administrators need better support and resources. LD 1474 would establish a Wabanaki Studies Specialist position at the Department of Education and support the inclusion of Wabanaki Studies in the parameters of essential instruction and graduation requirements. It would require the Department to provide funding both for work for the Wabanaki Studies Specialist and for contracted Wabanaki advisors and to create a process for school districts to assess funding to support implementation;

actually, some of that has been removed in the Amendment, we've reduced the bill, so that there's less of a Fiscal Note and also less work that would be done by the Department of Education. Finally, it would create education requirements and resources for Maine teachers.

I want to take a moment to speak not only to this bill, but also the bills; sorry, that's from my testimony in the public hearing. So, just let me say that I would love your support on this bill. I think that it's important for our K-12 education and I hope you'll follow my light.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Hampden, Representative Haggan.

Representative **HAGGAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in opposition to this. Obviously, not because it's not vital to be studying the Wabanaki in our State, which is what we are already doing; it's already established. I just would like to bring forth a couple of points with everything that we're passing at this point.

This is a \$300,000 Fiscal Note yearly that just is not needed at this point. We are teaching our kids about the Native American Studies. I just have a really hard time with the teacher shortage that we cannot certify teachers unless they are taught how to teach this subject, which many of them have been doing this for years. I also have another; a really hard time with making this a graduation requirement. That's not something that is really essential to all students, because they are learning. I just would feel that we're not doing a service to our students to require that for graduation. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Gorham, Representative Sato.

Representative **SATO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I stand in support of the pending motion, because I do believe that this history is incredibly important to teach in our Maine schools, K-12, but I also think that it is incredibly important that when we are working on these issues to teach this curriculum in our schools, that that curriculum is informed by the communities that they represent. And this bill builds on the work of 20 years of working on that curriculum that has been informed by the community of the cultures that it represents and that it teaches. Thank you.

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

Representative **CIMINO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Wabanaki Studies, African American Studies; I think these are all things that can be taught at the college level. When I went to the College of William and Mary, I had a major in Government, but I specialized in Middle Eastern Studies. It's not something I learned when I was in high school or in grammar school, it's something that I elected to take and specialize in when I went to college. And I'll tell you, I'm very grateful that I wasn't studying all these other things in the lower grades, because it afforded me the opportunity to study history, social studies, English, everything that I needed; math; everything I needed to be able to be accepted to a school like William and Mary.

And I think we need to be focusing our young people and having them pass. Our grades, our scores, our test scores are abysmal in this State, and we need to ensure; we have a duty to ensure that our school-age kids are going and they're getting accepted to excellent colleges. But at the rate we're going, they're not going to be, because they're learning about things that they shouldn't be learning about in the lower grades. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: 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. 404

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mathieson, 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, Brennan, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Mastraccio, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, 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 - Lanigan, Underwood.

Yes, 75; No, 72; Absent, 2; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 72 voted in the negative, with 2 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-577)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-577)** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-606)** on Bill "An Act Regarding the Department of Environmental Protection" (H.P. 326) (L.D. 497)

Signed:

Senators:

TEPLER of Sagadahoc
BRENNER of Cumberland

Representatives:

GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach
ANGELES of Brunswick
BELL of Yarmouth
OSHER of Orono
RIELLY of Westbrook

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

Signed:

Representatives:

CAMPBELL of Orrington

SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico

SOBOLESKI of Phillips

WOODSOME of Waterboro

READ.

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

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on her 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 Camden, Representative Doudera.

Representative **DOUDERA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this bill has to do with vernal pools. And vernal pools are temporary seasonal depressions that fill with water during wet periods and then dry out for part of the year. These pools are important for their role in supporting wildlife that has adapted to these unique conditions.

The bill before you, before all of us, calls for improving existing protections for only the vernal pools that the State has already deemed significant and thus are already afforded protection under the Natural Resources Protection Act. Based on data provided by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, these protections only capture 20% of vernal pools across the landscape. So, we're only talking about protections for a fraction of these important habitats.

So, LD 497 does these three things, Mr. Speaker. First, it establishes a 100-foot protection zone around each of these important pools. It does not remove the existing 250-foot terrestrial buffer already around the pools that developers are tasked with avoiding, but it rather reinforces protections for the areas that are closest to the pools. In our Committee work, State biologists confirmed that one of the best things we can do to protect the health of these pools is to limit disturbance to the 100 feet directly around the pools. Secondly, it reinforces that the existing 250-foot buffer protections should be afforded equal protection, no matter what property boundaries, as wildlife migrations don't adhere to our individual property lines. And third, based on feedback from State biologists, LD 497 also slightly adjusts dates related to the surveying of significant vernal pool habitat, because climate change is altering the timing of these seasonal patterns associated with the departure of the pools.

So, our Committee looked at this, we took a real balanced approach to this issue, ensuring that whatever changes to the protections we pursued would not impede the development of thoughtfully sited projects. But we're going to be having a lot of building happening in the State, hopefully, and, you know, vernal pools are critical to the survival of many of our State's endangered species. They're part of an ecosystem that supports much more wildlife, including birds and large animals such as moose. So, I ask the Body and you, Mr. Speaker, to please follow my light and vote for this important environmental measure. Thank you very much.

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

Representative **CAMPBELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. As I've mentioned before, I've had 50 years of enjoying, respecting and building the ultimate envelope, respectful of our environment. So, when I came to this Body 30-plus years ago, I learned about something new. It's called a vernal pool. And I learned from what I would consider the experts. Many remember Nick Bennett from NRCM, a renowned professor from the University of Maine, who was world-renowned on the value of vernal pools.

So, we've heard about the 200-foot circle, which is a circle. We've also heard that 25% of that circle is developable. Now, the pool itself, we've also heard, is full of water for a period of time in the year, goes to mud and then it dries in the summer. Those pools can be as big as your child's pool or 26 feet in diameter. It was interesting the amount of time I spent with these two experts to identify the value of a vernal pool. And of course, we all can understand when it's wet, it breeds critters; when it's not, it doesn't. So, when it's not is a significant amount of the year. So, my question of these two extreme experts was, well, what is the true value of the life of that critter? And after spending what I thought was hours in the backroom, the back of the Committee room, we all decided that the value to that critter is the upland, the migration from the wetness to the place they survive, they live; the value of that vernal pool is the upland.

So, come to this Session, we get to a point where we say we need another 100 feet. So, we've got the 200-foot circle, now we need another 100-foot circle, and my question of the Sponsor was, well, who came up with that 100-foot circle and why? Once an extensive response of word salad, I still didn't find out who or why we have that 100 feet. So, we asked the Department, can you explain why we need that 100 feet? Again, long explanations, but finally he decided that it was the canopy. The canopy within that 100 feet is the reason. So, my question was, well, isn't the true value of that vernal pool is to create a critter and then provide an opportunity for that critter to go and outlive or live out that critter's life, which is the upland? 'Oh, well, no, we really need that 100 feet.'

So, let's come back to the hours we spent in the back of the ENR room with the two professionals. So, okay, the value is the upland. So, let's preserve that upland, which is 750, 1,400 feet away from the vernal pool. Okay, that's a good idea. Okay, so, now we've got the real value. So, let's eliminate the 250 feet. Oh, no, we can't do that. So, we don't have the preservation of the true value, we've got the 250 feet. Now we come up with another circle, another 100 feet. Okay, so, that 25% is a quarter of a pie. So, now, we're protecting another 100 feet around that pool, and we just expanded that 25% well beyond that quarter piece of pie. So, what are we actually doing for those critters? We're diminishing their opportunity to get to that upland.

So, beyond the point we just keep adding circles, we haven't really respected the life cycle of that critter. This, to me, not knowing anything about vernal pools, is just creating another circle in something that really doesn't protect what's necessary for the life cycle of a critter. This is not necessary; this is created by someone, something, but it was never mentioned when the experts were teaching me about vernal pools. This is not necessary. I would recommend and I will never use 'follow my light.'

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bowdoinham, Representative Cluchey.

Representative **CLUCHEY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Colleagues of the House. It's probably fair to say that most people in this Chamber might be a little confused right now. There's a lot of talk about circles and this and that and I heard this and that, and it makes for a floor speech that might make you think, 'oh, gosh, this is too confusing, I don't have to; I should just not do anything, because clearly, it's all these circles and it doesn't make any sense.' Okay, well, I just want to come back to what is the goal of protecting vernal pools.

So, in this State, if you want to hunt a deer or a moose or any other sort of small animal like that; or a bigger; other small animals that can be hunted and regulated, you have to get a license, sometimes you have to get a tag, those are regulated. And so, how many you can harvest can be regulated. There are rules and protections in place for a lot of animals in this State. When it comes to a lot of the animals that live in vernal pools, we don't have any protections of those critters. The only protections we have for them is to protect their habitat: where they're born and where they can grow and get food and nutrients and then where they go sort of throughout their life cycle and then come back. All we can do is protect their habitat.

This State used to have a lot of really good, strong protections to support our vernal pools. Some of those have been rolled back. This bill attempts to add additional protections right close to where the actual pool is. So, creating this 100-foot protection buffer within this existing 250-foot buffer is extremely important, because it protects the area closest to the pool itself, which helps protect the water quality as the area closest to the pool is what contributes nutrients to the pool and filters pollutants. That is what we're trying to do with the 100-foot circle.

Yes, we also want to be protecting these sort of bigger upland areas. Amphibians do travel incredible distances, and when the Good Representative who was just speaking asked in Committee about, 'help us understand, how far do they go,' he gave a very long, scientific answer about, 'well, we know with this species, they go this far, and this species, they go this far,' and so, I can understand why eyes might glass over, but do not be confused, these recommendations are based in really strong, good science.

And while we would love to protect huge areas of land around these vernal pools, it's just not practical. So, what the Committee did was take a very balanced approach to try and protect those resources that were most important. And that's it, that's all I got. Thank you.

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

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let's see if I can do this here without making too much noise. I just have a question, because it was a concept draft and I'm playing catch-up right now in what this bill is about. And so, Section 3 says it provides when a vernal pool habitat has not previously been determined to be significant and the Department of Environmental Protection or the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife makes a determination concerning whether the vernal pool habitat is significant, the rule must provide that either Department may determine that the pool habitat is not significant if the vernal pool is located in northern Maine and dries out after filling and before July 15th or the vernal pool is located in southern Maine and dries out after filling and before July 1st.

So, I just have a couple of questions, and so, for the people on the Committee, I would appreciate if you can please give me a response to that, because I have concerns. The way I'm reading that is that areas that are not considered vernal pools now, the DEP or IF&W can go out and make a new determination, and so, is there anything within this bill where we will be having, you know, biologists go around and start marking areas? We have a lot of wetlands up in my district, and this is very concerning to think that suddenly, an area of someone's property could be declared to have a vernal pool and it changes the way that they can use it and if anybody can speak to that, I would truly appreciate it. 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've heard a lot of debate over my few years here. Some of the terms that have been thrown around; the this and that and the circle and the this and that and whatever. I have a question, Mr. Speaker, if I could ask it of the previous speaker. I've only been involved with vernal pools for a short time, 20 years. When have the requirements or protections of vernal pools been rolled back?

The SPEAKER: 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. 405

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eder, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, 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, Crafts, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmursal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Lanigan, Underwood.

Yes, 77; No, 70; Absent, 2; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

77 having voted in the affirmative and 70 voted in the negative, with 2 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. Committee Amendment "**A**" (H-606) was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-606)** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-604)** on Bill "An Act to Prohibit the Doxing of a Minor and to Authorize a Related Civil Action"

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

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth
BABIN of Fort Fairfield
LEE of Auburn
O'HALLORAN of Brewer
PUGH of Portland
SATO of Gorham
SINCLAIR of Bath

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-605)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representatives:

CARUSO of Caratunk
HENDERSON of Rumford

READ.

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

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on her 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 Falmouth, Representative Kuhn.

Representative **KUHN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Colleagues of the House. This is an important bill that provides a civil remedy for future incidents of doxing of a minor.

The Committee spent quite a bit of time defining what the doxing of a minor means and setting parameters around intent and conduct and effect, and I'd like to just share exactly what the basis of conduct is. So, 'doxing of a minor' means the intentional, knowing or reckless disclosure by a person of personal identifying information of a minor, when the person making the disclosure consciously disregards the substantial risk that the disclosure will cause, and in fact the disclosure either directly or indirectly does cause; a course of conduct directed at the minor or a close relationship that constitutes stalking; physical harm to the minor or a close relation of the minor; serious damage to the property of the minor or close relation or that the minor or a close relation of the minor reasonably fears for the minor's physical safety or for the safety of a close relation of the minor.

The bill further clarifies the role of photos that have been taken in a public place to provide guidance for courts enforcing this or interpreting this, and it provides that a photograph of a minor, including a photograph that was taken in a public place or that has previously been made available to the general public, when it's shown in combination with the minor's legal name, prior name, alias or date of birth, information about the minor's

relationship to a close relation or any item of information concerning previously identified personal information also constitutes doxing, and that is intended to clarify that existing in public or being photographed in public does not constitute a waiver of that minor's privacy. The bill further provides remedies including compensatory damages and punitive damages if the doxing was motivated by protected class status, and also if it was committed with malice or with intent to harm.

This bill imposes common-sense guidelines for the treatment of minors and provides important protections for a minor's privacy and safety here in our State, and I urge the Chamber to support the pending motion.

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

Representative **HENDERSON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I agree with, I'll say, 100% of what my good colleague from Falmouth had to say. And although the bill in front of us is the one that we have to speak on, I will speak about the things that are missing from this bill and that may or may not be found in a Minority Report somewhere on the same page.

Everything that the Representative from Falmouth said today, I agree with and I support. We do need these important protections, I support passing a bill that would protect and would create a provision in law to protect children from doxing. The only piece that I have some concerns with is that when it comes to the permission to use whatever images or the permission to share these images, whether it be online or to disseminate to other people, would be that it's the minor themselves that can consent to this alone. And I felt very strongly in Committee, as we worked this, the Committee had held; I believe it was four work sessions; a public hearing and four work sessions, and there was two Amendments offered at the final work session. And the one that's before you today is just the minor themselves can consent to it rather than having a parent involved. And that, to me, I found was relatively concerning, where, you know, potentially a seven-year-old or a nine-year-old could consent to their information being shared online. And although at times it feels as though that terms like 'parental rights' and 'parental consent' can be viewed as a four-letter word in this room, I think that, you know, parents' oversight of their children's online activity and their children's consent really proves as a very careful measure and an important backstop for children.

So, I would encourage my colleagues to vote down the current pending motion, and if there is a Minority Report that happens to be run and another Amendment that comes before the Body, I would encourage them to follow that.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Freeport, Representative Sachs.

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

I have been a Licensed Clinical Social Worker for almost 30 years. In my spare time, I volunteered for my community schools as a scout leader and coached kids for almost two decades, and I am well aware of the many challenges facing youth at this moment and the need for adults to be supportive as they navigate today's world.

So, in October 2023, I was contacted by a constituent and learned an adult in Maine was relentlessly targeting a student in Freeport, Mr. Speaker, through social media posts, website content and podcasts. This adult, who lived hours away from my community, posted repeatedly and negatively about this student and their family. The resulting coverage went not only national, but international. As a clinician, as a mom, as a human being, I was horrified.

So, I called the Maine Attorney General's Office to ask what recourse this family might have to hold this adult accountable for their actions and to stop what I described at the time as bullying and atrocious behavior of an adult directed towards a minor. At the time, I found that the word 'doxing' was nowhere in Maine Statute, as defined by; and the Good Representative from Falmouth talked about what that is. In fact, many other states do have criminal penalties for doxing and do not distinguish around a child, they just say a person should not be doxed.

It was unfortunate, Mr. Speaker, that this was not unanimous. The Report in front of you does not carve out any children as not being worthy of protection. The Report before you does not talk about consent at all. In fact, 'consent' is not within this Majority Report. It just shouldn't happen. Children should not be harmed. Over a thousand people testified on support of this bill from all over the State. Doxing is harmful, it is hurtful and no child should be subjected to it. I urge the Body to support the pending motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Pittsfield, Representative Collamore.

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I think the problem that I'm having with this, while I fully agree that we absolutely need to protect minors, I don't think we're doing enough work to prevent cyberbullying in our schools and in the public and all of that. I didn't know that that had a fancy word called 'doxing' next to it until most recently, but the part that bothers me about this is the way it's written, by law, I as a parent witnessing this am not able to bring that charge up against the person who has done this to my child, because it only says that a minor may bring this. So, the plaintiff has to be the minor bringing this forward for civil action, which also is a whole different issue, because I don't think asking for money is going to help recover this poor child who's been bullied. I had to fight my school for people who were bullying my child because he has a stutter. And that's not okay. And it was intentional, though intent is hard to prove and this says that you have to prove intention, but I as the parent have no right to protect my child who may have experienced this, and I do find that problematic.

I think the other thing, because intent is so hard to prove, the way this is described and defined in the definitions part of this bill is that intentionality, while you are intentionally posting a picture in a newspaper. So, it doesn't look like newspapers would be out of this, because it has to be for the first time. Even if it's public, even if parents have signed permission for photos of their minor to be taken, the intent of a newspaper to post an image of somebody winning a championship is there, because they are intentionally doing it, they are intentionally promoting a sport, they're promoting them as an athlete within that sport, and so that's a grouping. And their gender would be included in that, which is something that's in here, because many of our sports are men's soccer, women's soccer, women's track and field, all of our sports, with minor exceptions for, like, wrestling, have a gender attached to them. So, now we're looking at the potential of civil suits being brought against our newspapers.

So, I think that there's too many holes in this, and I really want to get it right, so, I can't support this one, but let's try again. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: 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. 406

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Babin, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, 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, 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, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Lanigan, Underwood.

Yes, 78; No, 69; Absent, 2; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

78 having voted in the affirmative and 69 voted in the negative, with 2 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-604)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-604)** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Require the Attorney General to Create and Update Biennially a Model Residential Lease"

(H.P. 1168) (L.D. 1750)

Signed:

Senator:

CARNEY of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth

LEE of Auburn

O'HALLORAN of Brewer

PUGH of Portland

SATO of Gorham

SINCLAIR of Bath

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-601)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senators:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

BABIN of Fort Fairfield

CARUSO of Caratunk

HENDERSON of Rumford

POIRIER of Skowhegan

READ.

Representative KUHN of Falmouth 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. The year I was born, the Legislature decided to direct the Attorney General to come up with a model lease for landlords to use. It's been updated from time to time but, sadly, the last time it was updated was 2021. And since then, we've passed laws. Just in the last Session, the Judiciary Committee worked on a total price disclosure where there's no hidden fees and, well, that's not anywhere in the lease that's on the website, there's no mention of lead disclosures or radon disclosures on the website. So, my bill is just asking for the Attorney General to update the lease, so that it could be in compliance with State law. It's pretty reasonable.

The AG testified against it, said while it was not exhaustive, it was good enough. I think compliance with State law should be the threshold for what we put out; it's the top link on Google when you Google 'landlord lease Maine.' And while I understand the Attorney General exists for consumers, tenants aren't the ones that furnish leases, it's the landlords that provide the lease and when all the associations in the State don't really recommend this lease for landlords, I think that's an issue.

So, big landlords, corporate landlords, they have their own leases, they have lawyers that they can use to make sure they have a tight lease. Small mom-and-pop landlords don't have that luxury. So, I think it'd be great to have one spot on the website with an up-to-date lease with radon disclosures and lead disclosures and with the total price disclosure. If we pass laws in this Body and nobody knows about it, how can they comply?

Again, this would help small landlords. There's inaccuracies in the bill, it says you have 30 days to give the security deposit back, that's not true, it's 21 when a tenant is at lease. So, there's protections that tenants aren't getting, because this lease isn't updated. That's a fundamental issue. It's perfectly reasonable to ask the AG to do their job and update that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Falmouth, Representative Kuhn.

Representative **KUHN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Colleagues. I'll just briefly reference that it is true there is currently a model lease online, most recently updated in 2021, and we heard testimony that although a few years old, it does remain a helpful and effective resource.

Moving forward to an updating process, we discovered that there's a mismatch between the task that's being requested and the agency being charged with it. Specifically, it calls for the Attorney General's Office to act as a neutral regulator of rental housing, which is not within the scope of duties of the Attorney General's Office. That is, in fact, an enforcement agency, and it is not in a position to draft a contract that regulates the rights and responsibilities of entities in a neutral fashion. That's just not what they do.

So, it's unnecessary because there is a useful resource online, it calls for duties outside the scope of the Attorney General's Office and it would require additional resources to have this ongoing process of review. So, for those reasons, the majority rejected the proposal. Thank you.

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

Representative **FREDETTE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, as someone who practices law in rural Maine, oftentimes you see all forms of a lease drafted by landlords; something they got offline, something they picked up at Staples; and oftentimes it leads to multiple problems. And oftentimes it leads to multiple problems, especially when you're in court, when the lease either says or doesn't say something it should say or it says it incorrectly. So, at the end of the day, oftentimes I have referred people to the model lease on the website, as the Good Representative from Poland had indicated, because it at least does provide them with a reference point on what they should be looking at to both notify the landlord and the tenant about what their rights are.

To me, this just sort of seems like a layup. I mean, we spend a lot of time and, frankly, we spend a lot of money hiring attorneys to represent tenants in court in eviction processes when leases are the subject of most of what the issues are about and oftentimes those leases are incorrectly done. And so, this doesn't seem to be like a high ticket, high time issue for the State to maybe provide a model lease. And so, I guess I just don't understand, again, you know, as the State government, we should be providing a service to people, particularly in this instance, in my mind, if you're in Portland and you're leasing a residence, Mr. Speaker, my guess is you probably have one of 3,000 attorneys that you can hire to draft your lease, will be a triple net lease that'll be 26 pages long. That's probably the model that you're going to see in Portland. Now, in Newport, Maine, it might be a one- or two-page lease. Again, sort of cabbaged off the internet that, you know, might be something from New Hampshire, may be something from Texas.

So, again, I, whether this passes or doesn't pass, I guess I don't see this as a heavy lift and this certainly would be something that would be helping tenants and landlords. Why aren't we doing something like this, rather than looking for excuses not to do it? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Caratunk, Representative Caruso.

Representative **CARUSO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very brief. I was Ought to Pass on this, because the Attorney General's Office has a model lease on the website, it's inaccurate, it's not up to date. If the State is going to put out information, it should be accurate, it should be up to date and that's why I was Ought to Pass. It's not a heavy lift. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Blue Hill, Representative Milliken.

Representative **MILLIKEN**: Yeah, why not. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I had turned my light off, I thought, but I'll rise in support of the bill and in opposition to the pending motion.

I am a landlord, and I think I have been directed, as the Good Representative from; I'm not really sure where Representative Fredette is from; to use the AG's drafted lease. I think it behooves us as a State, considering the housing situation we're in, to make it as easy as possible for landlords to rent their houses out. Some of us don't have access to high-power attorneys who can draft leases for us.

And the other thing I'd like to say is that I have continuously supported; thank you, the Representative from Newport; I have continuously supported many of the things that we've done in this Body to support people who are renters, to make sure that they are being treated fairly, and I think a really good and easy and common-sense way to communicate those changes in the law to landlords is by doing this draft lease for all of us to use and access.

So, I appreciate the moment, I'll be voting against the motion and I encourage you to follow my light. Thank you.

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

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

I think it's a responsibility of the State to provide an updated lease. We pass the laws that make it difficult for landlords to follow and for tenants to understand, and just want to point out that Pine Tree Legal gets a recurrent State funding of \$500,000 a year, but they also receive 43% of their funds from the State of Maine through four million dollars in grants and contracts. Just imagine the money that we could save by putting out a correct lease for them to follow, so that everybody knows these things before they sign it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to address what the Representative from Falmouth said. We removed the language around neutral. It doesn't even have to be neutral. We're just asking them; if you look at the Amendment, Mr. Speaker; by December 1, 2025, the Attorney General shall create and post on the Attorney General's publicly accessible website a model lease for residential property that complies with current State law, including disclosure and any document required to be attached to a residential lease. The Attorney General shall update the model lease biannually and post the revised model lease no later than December 1st of every odd-numbered year.

And we're asking them also to do it with existing resources, because I think it's reasonable. 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. 407

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Gere, Graham, Gramlich, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Mitchell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Terry, Webb, Yusuf, Zager.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardel, Arford, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Bunker, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Geiger, Gifford, Golek,

Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Hasenfus, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Julia, Kessler, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lookner, Lyman, Mason, McCabe, McIntyre, Milliken, Mingo, Montell, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pluecker, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Roeder, Rollins, Rudnicki, Sargent, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Supica, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, Warren, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome, Mr. Speaker.

ABSENT - Brennan, Crockett, Lanigan, Underwood.

Yes, 56; No, 89; Absent, 4; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

56 having voted in the affirmative and 89 voted in the negative, with 4 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **NOT ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, on motion of Representative KUHN of Falmouth, the Minority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-601)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-601)** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Majority Report of the Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-571)** on Bill "An Act to Support Maine's Agricultural Economy by Increasing Revenue from the Corporate Income Tax and Providing Property Tax Exemptions"

(H.P. 1250) (L.D. 1879)

Signed:

Senators:

GROHOSKI of Hancock
TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:

CLOUTIER of Lewiston
CROCKETT of Portland
MATLACK of St. George
SAYRE of Kennebunk

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

Signed:

Representatives:

LAVIGNE of Berwick
QUINT of Hodgdon
RUDNICKI of Fairfield
SWALLOW of Houlton
WHITE of Ellsworth

READ.

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

Representative RUDNICKI of Fairfield **REQUESTED** a roll call on the 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 Houlton, Representative Swallow.

Representative **SWALLOW**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in opposition to this bill.

This bill would increase the corporate tax rate 1.07% from 8.93% of the top tax bracket to 10% on income in excess of \$3.5 million in a taxable year. The revenue from this bill must be used to annually fund the distribution of dairy stabilization support funds. Any excess beyond that will go to other agricultural programs in a descending order as prescribed in certain dollar amounts.

At this point in time, 44 states have a corporate income tax rate. Three states have lower corporate tax rates than Maine, and only four states have higher corporate tax rates than Maine. If this bill were to pass, at income levels between \$3.5 million and \$10 million, Maine would have the highest corporate tax rate in the nation. Obviously, this bill will not affect a great number of corporations, but it will send a strong message about Maine and our standing on corporate taxes.

It's difficult to determine the opportunity costs of such a bill, but this bill is certainly not going to be a growth hormone for Maine. I appreciate the dairy and other agricultural programs' search for funding, but I believe we have milked these corporations enough. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Lewiston, Representative Cloutier.

Representative **CLOUTIER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, LD 1879 represents a critical investment in Maine's agricultural future without burdening our working families or small businesses. It proposes a modest 1.07% increase on corporate income over \$3.5 million, bringing the top rate to 10% for our State's largest corporations, not our small businesses or family farms. The revenue generated would be strategically invested to strengthen Maine's agricultural sector through several targeted initiatives.

As we know all too well, Maine farmers operate on thin margins while competing with large corporations and out-of-state producers. They face unprecedented challenges from climate change, market volatility and aging infrastructure. This bill provides critical tools to address these challenges head on. It represents sound fiscal policy that will strengthen Maine's agricultural sector, support rural communities, enhance food security and maintain working landscapes for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for your support of the pending motion and the overburdened farms and farmers across our State. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: 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. 408

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Cooper, Copeland, Crafts, Cray, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hall, Hasenfus, Hepler, Jackson, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, 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, Bridgeo, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Henderson, Hymes, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, 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 - Brennan, Crockett, Lanigan, Lee, Underwood.
Yes, 77; No, 67; Absent, 5; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

77 having voted in the affirmative and 67 voted in the negative, with 5 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-571)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-571)** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Majority Report of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Regulating the Testing of Adult Use Cannabis and Adult Use Cannabis Products"

(H.P. 1074) (L.D. 1620)

Signed:

Senator:

DUSON of Cumberland

Representatives:

SUPICA of Bangor

FAIRCLOTH of Bangor

FREDERICKS of Sanford

FROST of Belgrade

GRAHAM of North Yarmouth

HYMES of Waldo

MALON of Biddeford

TERRY of Gorham

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-582)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senators:

HICKMAN of Kennebec

TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin

Representatives:

BOYER of Poland

CHAPMAN of Auburn

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 anybody really doesn't want to learn about cannabis, now would be a good time to grab a coffee or use the restroom.

So, if the Body will indulge me, Mr. Speaker, I have an Amendment that I want to present afterwards. I can see Rob whispering; or assuming, maybe that's my paranoia; don't smoke.

So, what I'm looking to accomplish today is to move the limit on total yeast and mold for adult use cannabis from 10,000 colony-forming units to 100,000 colony-forming units. This is the number one reason that adult use retailers fail mandatory testing. It's not about pesticides they don't use, it's not about heavy metals that they've already tested their water supply, it's about this issue. And it's specifically affecting outdoor growers, mostly. Because of this limit, how low it is, we can't even really grow cannabis outdoors with the adult use cannabis laws and the testing regime that it is today. That's a fundamental problem. That's a problem if you care about the environment, that's a problem if you care about farmers; I mean, what indictment does that say about our whole food system if we can't grow cannabis outside, but we can grow everything else?

So, just for some context, Mr. Speaker: Florida, Michigan, New Jersey, Maryland, they all have 100,000 CFUs; Connecticut moved it in 2022 from 10,000 to 100,000. New York doesn't even have a limit. They say label it, but there's no pass or fail. So, we're so behind and so strict, and it's really hurting the folks that are trying to follow the rules and be in this market legally. Again, the usage of electricity on indoor cannabis is high, and outdoor can reduce that, I think up to 70%. So, there's, you know, efforts to expand and help with that, but this is what's needed.

So, I want to get rid of the audit testing part of the bill currently, and simply raise the limit to 100,000 colony-forming units. The Office of Cannabis Policy, they always quote the *American Herbal Pharmacopeia*, and what they say regarding cannabis is "the presence of microbials is typical for all natural products." And, that'll ice ya, huh? "It is important to note the microbial and fungal values do not typically represent pass or fail criteria. Rather they are recommended levels when plants are produced under normal circumstances and growing conditions. Individual herbs, such as mints, which have higher concentration of trichomes are prone to higher levels of molds than crops with fewer trichomes. As cannabis also possesses high concentration of trichomes, this may be a factor and recommended limits may require adjustment over time." Additionally, "higher levels of mold can also occur in seasons of heavy rain without undue damage to the crop." Sound familiar? And may justify a material exceeding the proposed limits as long as there's no visible damage to the plant or other qualitative specifications are met.

Basically, what they're saying there, Mr. Speaker, is if you can see the mold, don't use it, don't smoke. Kind of like what we do with our blueberries and grapes, right? If you see some mold, you set it aside and you eat the good ones. So, short of that, that's what we should be doing with cannabis. We should

be able to grow cannabis outdoors, right now we cannot, if we pass this, it will be a huge, huge step to bringing us parity with other adult use states and allowing our outdoor farmers to survive and thrive. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bangor, Representative Supica.

Representative **SUPICA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't disagree with anything that I've heard from the Good Representative from Poland. And why am I on the other Report and why have I voted this down, even though this is a bill that I believe I Sponsored and I supported, is because; well, first I just want to say that cannabis brings a lot of money to this State, and we're trying to set up new regulations for it and I feel like we don't respect the industry. Because it's really apparent when so many people just get up and walk out when we try to explain what's going on. And I understand we're tired, I get it, I get up and walk out all the time. So, I'm not trying to blame, but on the Committee, we have to dig into the science, and we are not scientists, and it's taken us years just to get to this point, to understand what the science is. And then, when we try to explain it to everyone and we spend hours just trying to figure out and trying to explain it to folks and, you know, we just see no interest, it's kind of heartbreaking, because in our Committee, we'll sit through hours of people coming to us, telling us how they're losing their livelihood because they've invested so much money into their farms or into their grows and how much testing is costing them and how they can't pass tests and so they can't use their crops, so they have to still pay the excise tax. There's so many issues in the adult use regulations. I truly, I know that we have too many regulations and we've created a really high bar for people to legally grow cannabis. And isn't that what we want? Legal grows.

We have, for the first time I've seen, a Committee of people who are coming closer together on some form of consensus, and that gives me hope. And that is why I chose to be on the Ought Not to Pass this time. We decided; not everybody, but a lot of us decided that this was going to be something that we were really going to dig into over the summer and try to work on and come back and bring something back to this Body that brings everybody to the table as best as possible. But it's true, we don't have a lot of outdoor cannabis. Our cannabis in Maine is grown primarily indoors, and we use so much electricity.

I just want to close with saying that I didn't run to write cannabis laws, I feel like I kind of inherited the policy, and sometimes it's a headache, but actually, it's an honor and it's a privilege, because I've been able to meet a lot of wonderful people, and I know that even though they're not all in the halls, they're all listening right now and they're begging us to make a better regulated system for them, so they can survive and that they can survive in Maine, because one day, it will become federally legal and when that happens, we will see the large corporate grows that we have here leave and they will go down south where there are longer growing seasons. And so, it is important that right now, we set up a system so that craft cannabis can thrive, much like we have craft beer.

So, I'm not on the Report of the; I'm on the Ought Not to Pass Report, but I'm standing to make a commitment to all of you and to the folks, to you, Mr. Speaker, that I will work on this and I will work to fight for craft cannabis in this State. Thank you.

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. 409

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arata, Archer, Arford, Bell, Boyer M, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Daigle, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Fredette, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Graham, Gramlich, Greenwood, Hepler, Hymes, Javner, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lance, Lee, Lemelin, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Parry, Perkins, Pluecker, Pomerleau, Pugh, Quint, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Tuell, Walker, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Beck, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Cloutier, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Dill, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Golek, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Hasenfus, Henderson, Jackson, Julia, Lavigne, Libby, Lookner, Lyman, Mason, Mathieson, McIntyre, Milliken, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Osher, Paul, Poirier, Roeder, Rudnicki, Sargent, Schmiersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Wadsworth, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Brennan, Crockett, Lanigan, Roberts, Underwood.

Yes, 76; No, 68; Absent, 5; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

76 having voted in the affirmative and 68 voted in the negative, with 5 being absent and 2 excused, 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** with the exception of matters being held.

Seven Members of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** report in Report "A" **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles and Traffic Law Governing Mandatory Driver's License Suspension for Refusing Testing for Drugs or a Combination of Drugs and Alcohol"

(H.P. 61) (L.D. 96)

Signed:

Senators:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox
CURRY of Waldo

Representatives:

HASENFUS of Readfield
ABDI of Lewiston
LAJOIE of Lewiston
LOOKNER of Portland
MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

Five Members of the same Committee report in Report "B" **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-580)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representatives:

ARDELL of Monticello
BUNKER of Farmington
MCINTYRE of Lowell
NUTTING of Oakland
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

One Member of the same Committee reports in Report "C" **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-581)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

CYRWAY of Kennebec

READ.

Representative HASENFUS of Readfield moved that the House **ACCEPT** Report "A" **Ought Not to Pass**.

Representative NUTTING of Oakland **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** Report "A" **Ought Not to Pass**.

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 Report "A" Ought Not to Pass. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 410

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, 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, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmiersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Brennan, Crockett, Lanigan, Underwood.

Yes, 73; No, 72; Absent, 4; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

73 having voted in the affirmative and 72 voted in the negative, with 4 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly Report "A" **Ought Not to Pass** was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Six Members of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** report in Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-578)** on Bill "An Act to Replace Participation Thresholds with Approval Thresholds in Certain School, Municipal and County Measures" (H.P. 1002) (L.D. 1517)

Signed:

Senator:

BALDACCI of Penobscot

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook

COPELAND of Saco

FARRIN of Jefferson

MATLACK of St. George

ROLLINS of Augusta

Six Members of the same Committee report in Report "B" **Ought Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

ADAMS of Lebanon

GREENWOOD of Wales

POMERLEAU of Standish

TUELL of East Machias

UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

READ.

Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook moved that the House **ACCEPT** Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended**.

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

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in opposition to the pending motion. I think any effort to lower the thresholds for elections is a bad bill. I request a Roll Call.

Representative GREENWOOD of Wales **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended**.

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 Gorham, Representative Sato.

Representative **SATO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of the pending motion, because this bill would change the requirements for validity of proposed measures in certain school, municipal or county votes. It moves to an approval threshold rather than a participation threshold.

Specifically, it would retain the requirement for a certain level of support, but instead of measuring the required vote percentage based on both votes in opposition and in favor, this measure would adjust the requirement for participation to be measured by the number of votes in favor of a particular measure. This change encourages sincere voting over strategic voting, and it does so by no longer asking voters to consider if they need to abstain from a vote in order to defeat a measure. Since by voting in opposition, they would help a measure meet the validity threshold when otherwise it would've been void, even with majority support, should it not meet the participation threshold, rather than simply voting in opposition to defeat the measure. This bill would make voting in opposition to defeat a measure, which is more intuitive for voters, a reality.

While LD 1517 does cut percentages in half, it does not reduce the required level of support, because the percentage applies only to the votes in support of the measure, i.e. we're

moving from one threshold to a different type of threshold and the percentages are changing, so they equal the same number. And I would like to provide a hypothetical with some easy math, let's hope, to illustrate my point.

So, let's imagine a measure to amend a municipal charter in a municipality where 1,000 people voted in the last gubernatorial election. Under current Statute, 30% of 1,000, which equals 300 of those voters would need to participate for the vote on the charter amendment in order for the outcome of the measure to be valid. Charter amendments require a majority vote. This means that if exactly 300 voters participate, the measure would only pass if 151 of those votes are in support of the amendment. This bill would establish an equivalent approval threshold, 15% of 1,000 votes cast in the last gubernatorial election is 150. So, the vote would be valid with a minimum of 151 votes in support. And so, this bill doesn't actually reduce or increase, in reality, the implementation of how many voters are needed to vote in order for a measure to be valid, because we're moving from a participation threshold to an approval threshold. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 411

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mathieson, 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, 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, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Mastraccio, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, 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 - Adams, Brennan, Crockett, Lanigan, Underwood.

Yes, 73; No, 71; Absent, 5; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

73 having voted in the affirmative and 71 voted in the negative, with 5 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended** was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-578)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-578)** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Six Members of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** report in Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-583)** on Bill "An Act to Allow Participation in the Adult Use Cannabis Tracking System to Be Voluntary"

(H.P. 1107) (L.D. 1672)

Signed:

Senators:

HICKMAN of Kennebec

TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin

Representatives:

SUPICA of Bangor

BOYER of Poland

CHAPMAN of Auburn

FREDERICKS of Sanford

Six Members of the same Committee report in Report "B" **Ought Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representatives:

FAIRCLOTH of Bangor

FROST of Belgrade

GRAHAM of North Yarmouth

HYMES of Waldo

MALON of Biddeford

TERRY of Gorham

READ.

Representative SUPICA of Bangor moved that the House **ACCEPT** Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended**.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on her motion to **ACCEPT** Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended**.

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 Bangor, Representative Supica.

Representative **SUPICA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again, we are looking at some of the regulations that the adult use cannabis industry faces, and while the Title would have one believe that this bill would have no tracking, that is not the case. This just simply means that it would be optional for a person to have to engage in the system of Metrc, but it also directs the Department to create rules around a new type of system. So, it would create an alternative tracking system, but it would have a caveat that there needs to be some environmental standards, because currently, we contract with a third party, so, we make all adult use cannabis growers, sellers, anybody really in the business, have to contract with a program called Metrc, and then they purchase these little plastic tags that have numbers on them, and it's called 'from seed to sale,' from the seed to the plant to the sale to, you know, there's this little plastic tag number follows them all the way and it's a single use plastic tag. There's all kinds of issues with the program Metrc, one of them being the plastic tags. There's also a lot of labor, a lot of time and money that is used on it and this is another cost that is put on the producers, the adult use small businesses; even the large businesses.

But, so, it wouldn't get rid of tracking and tracing all together, it would just amend the system. And in my time on the Committee, Metrc has been a huge problem and we are finding ourselves at the RFP is now open, we're looking at other

vendors and this time, I thought it is right to stand up and say, I do not support the program Metrc, I do not want to create more plastic waste that gets dumped into our ocean, I believe that we can create a tracking system in State, I believe, I have faith in the people that work for the State of Maine to create a competent system, I'm hoping that they're able to do it. And so, I hope that you follow my light. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Biddeford, Representative Malon.

Representative **MALON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in respectful opposition to the pending motion, but first want to express my appreciation to my good friend from Bangor for how she has helped our Committee navigate the various cannabis issues that have been before us. It's a complicated issue, and we are, to note something she said earlier today, we are committed to really digging in over the offseason on matters of testing, which in my opinion are intrinsically connected to the question of tracking.

The Good Representative is correct that the bill as Amended would not entirely get rid of tracking, but I do not believe it is feasible at this time to ask the State to develop an alternative model for tracking in-house. One, because of cost, which I believe would be significant, and two, based on the experience in other states. Washington has been trying for a few years now to develop their own in-house system and it has not been working well, they've been struggling mightily. I have great faith in our State workers as well, but they would need to be properly resourced in order to do this correctly.

Tracking, for folks who are unaware, is very important, because it is the way in which you can intersect bad product from making it onto the shelves. And when we think about the issues of illegal grows and other examples of tainted cannabis getting onto the shelves in Maine, the tracking system we have, while far from perfect, has helped stop bad product from getting onto the shelves in the adult use market.

I share the Good Representative's concerns about Metrc, much of the industry does as well. There are many valid critiques about how Metrc has operated, although there have been reports about their user friendliness improving and about the system being a little bit more workable; although more work is needed.

The other thing I'll note is that I believe this measure is premature, both because of the conversations we're going to have this summer and also because the State is currently out to bid right now for who is going to operate their tracking system. And so, while they are out to bid, I do not think it would be a good idea for us to mandate a different way of setting up a tracking system. We want to see what they come back with and what safeguards are going to be in place for both consumers and the industry and work from there.

So, I would urge my colleagues to vote against the pending motion, and we will be addressing issues of cannabis regulation in full throughout the summer and the next Session. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bangor, Representative Roeder.

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I just want to say how much I'm enjoying the debate on this particular bill because it's very well-reasoned and nuanced, which just speaks to the Committee's in-depth research on this topic.

I rise in support of this motion because of one thing and one thing only: the fact that Metrc has proved problematic in other states. I want to point out in March of 2023, Metrc had a clerical error that nearly shut down 85% of Michigan's cannabis market. And in February of 2022, 10,000 Oklahoma cannabis

businesses sued Metrc because they felt that implementing Metrc would create a monopoly. That sort of belies the comment about the user friendliness of Metrc. They may be trying to improve it, but it seems like they're trying to dig out of a pretty big hole.

As somebody who is generally opposed to monopolies, I stand in support of this motion. Thank you.

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

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Metrc is not good for our State, it's a parasite, there's no other way to describe it. Imagine if the Good Representative from Caribou had to pay 40 cents to tag every cabbage plant in his field. And what if every jam maker and, you know, farmstand product had to have a tag and pay 25 cents for that tag so we had this chain of custody. It's a façade, Mr. Speaker.

The Good Representative from Bangor just described how Metrc is contributing to inversion and diversion out of State. Some of that Oklahoma and California cannabis is in Maine because of how bad they are at having guardrails and regulating the industry. In fact, there's a lawsuit right now, they're under litigation because a former vice president blew the whistle. He had concerns about what was going on and they should address it, about the customer service, the clunkiness and the diversion with the illicit grows. They fired him, Mr. Speaker. And so, yeah, he's a disgruntled employee, he's also a whistleblower, most whistleblowers are disgruntled employees. So, when you hear lobbyists in the hall talk about that, I just wanted some context.

And the same company; I'll spare the Body of laying out the timeline with the Office of Cannabis Policy and Procurement, but all that to say the Government Oversight Committee voted unanimously to vote in the appearance of a conflict of interest at OCP since the inception, it was a unanimous vote, the investigation is ongoing. All that to say is, you know, this isn't partisan, this isn't about cannabis people just trying not to have any regulations and having a free-for-all. Middle sized operators spent \$30,000 a year in subscription fees and plant tax to this private company. Mr. Speaker, why are we forcing our industries to waste their time and treasure to subsidize a private software company? This is nuts, and it does nothing to make us any safer. Look at the proliferation of the illegal grows in our State, and it's a joke. They don't test, they don't track, they don't pay taxes, but people are going out of business that are trying to follow the rules, Mr. Speaker.

And again, think about the environmental impact of all these plastic tags floating around that aren't recyclable, that are worthless, that that disgruntled employee, he actually had a QR code software company that could stop all this plastic waste. They bought him and they bought the technology, then they shelved it. Classic playbook of big corporations buying up competitions, competitors, so they don't have to compete. And the labor, the labor and the money, the labor; one of the smallest grows, he went back to medical because of the tax, because of this. He laid off two people. He didn't want to, but he had two people dedicated to using this Windows 95 Kafkaesque program that's cumbersome and clunky, it doesn't work, you can't go backwards, it freezes, there's no customer service.

And while the Representative, the Good Representative from Biddeford brings up contract renegotiations, we've had this contract for six years, there's a new RFP, three different vendors applied, we're in that process now that the dates closed. So, that's why I amended the bill, because this is a parallel track. This is a parallel track to the RFP to Metrc. If people want to use Metrc, fine, go for it. All I'm asking is the Office to come up

with some way to track cannabis for recall purposes that doesn't involve people paying a private company 40 cents a tag and 25 cents a label. It's extortion, it's a grift, I don't know what else to say. And we have an opportunity to provide an alternative, we have an opportunity to help the people that are asking for help and I hope folks follow this bipartisan Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from North Yarmouth, Representative Graham.

Representative **GRAHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I'm new to this topic, to this Committee, and I just want to say that I stand in opposition to the Ought to Pass as Amended because, as the Good Representative from Biddeford said, we're in the process, the Office of Cannabis Policy is in the process of putting out to bid this testing and tracking. If we say now, goodbye to this, to Metrc, which I agree has significant problems, from what I know.

And to the Good Representative from Bangor, our Chair, has worked diligently to help the new people on the Committee understand all of this and we, as a Committee, have decided to work very hard this summer into the fall to better understand all of these issues. And I just don't think at this point in time that we put forward this bill, fully understanding that the current system is not an adequate one and not a good one, but I think it's time to say not to pass this current motion and we will put our nose to the grindstone to work real hard to make the cannabis policies and the cannabis regulations much better. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bangor, Representative Faircloth.

Representative **FAIRCLOTH**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I first want to commend our Chair, the Good Representative from Bangor, in leading us to a pathway where we're going to have discussions over the offseason to address big issues in the cannabis market.

I do hope, right now, that we will take into account the opposition to this legislation from the Maine Public Health Association, Maine Medical Association, Maine Osteopaths, Maine Psychiatrists, Maine Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics. They are not expressing this opposition in a cavalier fashion. They have meaningful concerns. And it has to do with the unique nature that we have in this State with regard to our medical and our adult use market. It's unusual. It's unusual in the State of Maine compared to, frankly, all the other states that allow for legal cannabis that the significant majority are through the medical cannabis market, and that context is important. Because the fact is, there isn't the tracking and tracing in the medical market, which is the opposite of the way it is in most states of the Union.

I would respectfully submit that regardless of your opinion of any particular vendor, we should have a vendor that tracks, traces, tests in place and that we not lose that during any period of time, because in the medical market, we've seen significant problems that people legitimately have concerns about. Meanwhile, if we look at having a period over the summer to analyze these issues, we cannot respect and understand that these are very big issues. A *New York Times* investigation found that 18 million Americans themselves report symptoms of cannabis use disorder. Nearly eight percent of Mainers purchase cannabis in the medical use market. There was a study from the *New York Times* that said that a pediatrician in Midcoast Maine "sees teenagers so dependent on cannabis that they consume it practically all day, every day;" I'm quoting; "a remarkably scary amount" because the concentrations now are so much higher than people might remember from earlier

generations. They "see teens;" this is a Maine doctor; "see teens and young adults whose chronic use makes them miss out in important developmental markers like getting a driver's license or holding a job," things they call "failure-to-launch."

I'm not speaking out of any hostility to cannabis as a product; I think alcohol is more dangerous, but the potency of cannabis has dramatically increased and we have seen in the medical market, while there are many good providers and many good decent people who participate in that, the occupant of the Blaine House referred to the 'wild, wild west of medical cannabis,' and there's something to that.

Representative **BOYER**: Point of Order.

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

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill is about adult use cannabis.

On **POINT OF ORDER**, Representative **BOYER** of Poland asked the Chair if the remarks of Representative **FAIRCLOTH** of Bangor were germane to the pending question.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would ask the Member to redirect his comments towards the legislation before us related to adult use cannabis tracking system.

The Chair reminded Representative **FAIRCLOTH** of Bangor to stay as close as possible to the pending question.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **FAIRCLOTH**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I respectfully submit that if we are to 'lose the thread,' which I think would happen if this legislation were to pass, of having some appropriate tracking, testing; because the two are joined hand in hand, they work together; then we would put in jeopardy the adult market, which frankly is better regulated than is the medical market.

So, I'm merely respectfully asking that we follow the lead of consensus in this Committee and take the time over the summer for us to analyze the issues, have legitimate tracking and tracing in both markets and work together for something that we all can unite behind, as I've pledged to and as other members of the Committee have pledged to do. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bangor, Representative **SUPICA**.

Representative **SUPICA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I promise I will be very brief. I just wanted to give a little context that yes, there was a consensus about what we will do over the summer.

Four years ago, when I was first elected, the issue of Metrc was brought to my attention and at the time, I was told, 'there is nothing we can do because we are in a contract. There is nothing we can do because we are in a contract.' Now is the time where the contract can be up, next year we will be in a contract again. So, one thing I've noticed in government is that it keeps delaying, delaying, delaying, so, for this issue in particular, I felt that I needed to stand up and say that I do not support the system that we have been with; I don't support an overly burdensome, overly expensive system that produces a lot of plastic waste and also, I support the, as in the Amendment, I support the rules to be created for a tracking system implemented and administered by the Office in order to have recalls and to have tracking of the product. So, it will not be untracked, it will be tracked completely. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Sanford, Representative **Fredericks**.

Representative **FREDERICKS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Men and Women of the House. I urge your support of LD 1672.

This is a bipartisan bill. It was submitted because we have a big problem with our adult use tracking program, Metrc. Metrc is a defective and expensive software program. It allows for illicit diversion of cannabis, as is proven by Oregon's Metrc-tracked cannabis being sold in the black market in New York. Last year, Metrc's executive vice president identified this grave concern that Metrc software is faulty, it's defective, it's contributing to the diversion of cannabis. Metrc leadership marginalized those concerns and fired him. And you've heard he's launched litigation for this wrongful termination and is shining a national spotlight on the ability to manipulate Metrc's data and alter the tracking information for financial gain.

This bill allows for an alternate tracking system, similar to what Maine's Organic Farmers and Gardeners Association does for their Clean Cannabis program. A batch is numerically identified, harvest volume is recorded and a recall process established should it be warranted. And you've heard, expected in January, the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee is committed to research and deliberate on the testing and tracking standards founded in science, public health policy and free from the influence of corruption. This Resolve doesn't cancel Metrc's contract. It would still allow the adult use operators to use Metrc. But what it does is direct the Office of Cannabis Policy to come up with an alternative, one that doesn't force users into a faulty, costly and cumbersome system, the same system that costs 10s of thousands of dollars every year in non-recyclable plant tags, as the Representative from Poland said, every operator must pay the ridiculous prices of 40 cents a plant tag plus 25 cents product tag. This is on top of the monthly subscription fees.

If our State is going to mandate this software, it shouldn't subsidize the software at the expense of these small business owners. Please support the common-sense reforms of LD 1672 and protect Maine's home-grown adult use cannabis industry. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 412

YEA - Abdi, Adams, Albert, Ankeles, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Bagshaw, Beck, Bell, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Boyer M, Bridgeo, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Crafts, Cray, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Geiger, Gifford, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Hasenfus, Henderson, Hepler, Jackson, Javner, Julia, Kessler, Lajoie, Lance, Lavigne, Lee, Lemelin, Libby, Lookner, Lyman, Mason, Mathieson, Matlack, McIntyre, Milliken, Mingo, Montell, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Osher, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pluecker, Poirier, Pugh, Quint, Roeder, Rollins, Rudnicki, Runte, Sargent, Sato, Schmiersal-Burgess, Simmons, Sinclair, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Supica, Swallow, Wadsworth, Warren, Webb, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

NAY - Arata, Archer, Brennan, Bunker, Campbell, Copeland, Crockett, Daigle, DeBrito, Dhalac, Faircloth, Farrin, Foley, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Greenwood, Hymes, Kuhn, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, McCabe, Meyer, Mitchell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Pomerleau, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Sachs, Salisbury, Sayre, Shagoury, Skold, Stover, Terry, Thorne, Tuell, Walker, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

ABSENT - Lanigan, Underwood.

Yes, 97; No, 50; Absent, 2; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

97 having voted in the affirmative and 50 voted in the negative, with 2 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended** was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-583)** was **READ** by the Clerk.

Representative BOYER of Poland **PRESENTED House Amendment "A" (H-617)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (H-583)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-583) as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-617) 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**.

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-583) as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-617)** thereto and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

SENATE DIVIDED REPORT - Report "A" (11) **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-160)** - Report "B" (1) **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (S-161)** - Report "C" (1) **Ought Not to Pass** - Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Clarify Residency Requirements for and Provide Funding to the Maine School of Science and Mathematics" (S.P. 347) (L.D. 787)

- In Senate, Report "A" **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-160) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-226)** thereto.

TABLED - June 3, 2025 (Till Later Today) by Representative MURPHY of Scarborough.

PENDING - **ACCEPTANCE OF ANY REPORT**.

On motion of Representative MURPHY of Scarborough, Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended** was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-160)** was **READ** by the Clerk.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-226) to **Committee Amendment "A" (S-160)** was **READ** by the Clerk.

Representative MURPHY of Scarborough **REQUESTED** a roll call on **ADOPTION** of **Senate Amendment "A" (S-226)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (S-160)**.

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 Senate Amendment "A" (S-226) to Committee Amendment "A" (S-160). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 413

YEA - Boyer D, Chapman, Eder, Flynn, Foster, Frost, Hymes, Lance, Lemelin, Milliken, Walker.

NAY - Abdi, Adams, Albert, Ankeles, Arata, Archer, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Bagshaw, Beck, Bell, Bishop, Blier, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Cimino, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Copeland, Crafts, Cray, Crockett, Daigle, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faircloth, Farrin, Faulkingham, Foley, Fredericks, Fredette, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Gifford, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Hasenfus, Henderson, Hepler, Jackson, Javner, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lavigne, Lee, Libby, Lookner, Lyman, Macias, Malon, Mason, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, McIntyre, Meyer, Mingo, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Morris, Murphy, Nutting, 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, Wadsworth, Warren, Webb, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

ABSENT - Lanigan, Underwood.

Yes, 11; No, 136; Absent, 2; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

11 having voted in the affirmative and 136 voted in the negative, with 2 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly **Senate Amendment "A" (S-226)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (S-160)** was **NOT ADOPTED**.

Subsequently, **Committee Amendment "A" (S-160)** was **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-160)** in **NON-CONCURRENCE** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

HOUSE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (9) **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-456)** - Minority (3) **Ought Not to Pass** - Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** on Bill "An Act to Prohibit Mandatory Parking Space Minimums in State and Municipal Building Codes"

(H.P. 281) (L.D. 427)

TABLED - June 4, 2025 (Till Later Today) by Representative GERE of Kennebunkport.

PENDING - **ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT**.

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

Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield **REQUESTED** a roll call on the 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 Pittsfield, Representative Collamore.

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

This bill as amended prohibits municipalities from requiring a minimum number of parking spots for any residential, commercial or mixed-use development located within 0.25 miles of a transit stop. Also, the municipality is not allowed to require more than one off-street parking spot per dwelling unit for a development within a designated growth area. It also requires that a municipality must allow a developer to satisfy the municipal parking requirements through offsite parking agreements with existing parking facilities located within a quarter mile of the development site. Lastly, it gives the Governor's Office of Policy, Innovation and the Future all rulemaking authority to enforce this section as 'routine technical,' removing local and municipal voices.

While well intentioned, this bill fails to recognize the importance of required parking in municipalities, especially those with limited public parking or in areas where roads are congested, making parking on the street impracticable and potentially a safety hazard for first responders trying to answer calls in the area. My community recently had two very difficult fires to fight, one of them on a small side road that's already difficult for two cars to drive down. I hope we can prevent making this issue worse by voting down this motion and understanding that parking needs and street capacity and other items are for the municipalities to know better than us at the State level.

Mr. Speaker, municipalities may also need to consider the accessibility needs of potential housing. This bill could require a municipality to choose between following the State law or following federal Americans with Disabilities Act. I'm sure we are all aware that any housing development that uses federal dollars or plans to use subsidy for rentals must be fully accessible, and that includes parking for individuals with disabilities. This bill doesn't allow for an exemption for these specialty parking spots. Parking a quarter of a mile from your residence is not accessible and is certainly not an option for many Mainers.

Mr. Speaker, please vote down the pending motion and help prevent the unintended consequences that could come out of its passage. Thank you.

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

Representative **ARATA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also oppose this motion based on many years of experience managing commercial real estate. This bill requires municipalities to allow developers to make offsite parking agreements for when there's not enough parking capacity. But this is not a workable solution.

I actually had an offsite parking agreement with a neighboring property after the City of Yarmouth allowed that property to be developed, even though there weren't enough parking spaces for the tenants. And it was a disaster. The parking space business is very difficult. One must deal with the neighbors not moving for the plow truck, tenants parking in someone else's assigned space, with cars that are dripping fluids and with people leaving cigarette butts and trash on the lot, with the neighbors' tenants intimidating your tenants and with the neighbor not paying their parking lot rent or going out of business or into foreclosure.

There's also no way under the law to ensure that parking agreements will be continued in perpetuity. When the developer sells the building or loses it to foreclosure, if the new owner doesn't want to continue the parking agreement, then there's nothing you can do. Even if the neighboring property owner is cooperative, parking agreements are very stressful to enforce, because the only enforcement is to tow cars. And I'm a nice person, I don't like to tow cars. Understandably, people become irate when their cars are towed, and we have enough anger in the world already.

This bill puts landlords and tenants in a very difficult predicament. But the tenants of the new development are the ones who suffer the most, because their cars get towed. It costs them over \$200 and they'll be late for whatever they needed their car for; it could be work, medical appointments, going to class. These are the very people that this bill was intended to help, but it actually harms them. Most tenants in Maine need vehicles in order to get to work or school and to be upwardly mobile. Parking spots shouldn't just be available to the wealthy.

Now, I appreciate the good intentions of this bill, but I'm asking you to please oppose this motion. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Kennebunkport, Representative Gere.

Representative **GERE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, it's a fact of life in housing development that when we prioritize parking over housing for people in areas that are already designated by their communities as growth areas and centers of human activity, less housing is produced.

LD 427 lowers a barrier to creating the housing that Maine communities desperately need. It focuses these changes on areas that the municipalities have already designated for development and provides options for developers for siting parking in collaboration with nearby parking providers. Mr. Speaker, the bill does not require that developers violate the Americans with Disabilities Act, and nor does it require them to adopt parking agreements with other places. It merely offers that as an option.

In communities all over the country, reducing parking minimums and providing parking options has an immediate and dramatic impact on housing production. It reduces construction costs, it allows developers to allocate financing and other resources toward dwelling units for people rather than spaces for cars. It increases the use of public transportation, biking, walking; contributing to a more sustainable and environmentally friendly place. It maximizes land use for housing, increasing density and making better use of available spaces, again, in already designated growth areas. It leads to more vibrant communities that are people-centric, with increased foot traffic benefitting local businesses and contributing to economic growth. It allows developers, in collaboration with their communities, to decide the appropriate amount of parking based on market demand, leading to more innovative and tailored housing solutions. And in places where this is being done, people adapt. If you know any young people today, a lot of them aren't interested in owning cars and are very interested in alternative forms of transportation, and we heard many examples, Mr. Speaker, in Committee where removing parking minimums actually had the effect in Maine of increasing housing development.

Mr. Speaker, I often speak with Members of this Body who are interested in reducing the regulations that are making housing development more difficult and more expensive. This bill does just that, and I urge Members to support the pending motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **BLIER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to know how many people that come to the State House here every morning and park in the same exact spot that they park in every single day. And how often do you come here when you're a little bit late and your parking spot is full and you have to park in another country on the other side of the parking lot here. My point is, is this; there's nothing more important than a parking spot. People kill each other for a parking spot. So, to say that parking spots are not important is a fallacy.

I think that if we're trying to control, trying to create housing by reducing parking spots, I don't think that's a good direction. Everybody needs a place to park their car and I think that I'm opposing this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Pittsfield, Representative Collamore.

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to clarify a couple of items.

First of all, it doesn't 'allow' for somebody, a municipality to do this, it's a 'require.' The words are 'shall,' which means there isn't an option. The municipality shall not do this, they shall require, or be allowed, shall allow a developer who's already created a parking spot agreement with a parking garage. I'm thinking of Bangor, because it's the only place I know of that has a parking garage that's near me. And if they made an agreement with that parking garage, the municipality shall accept that as the minimum required designation. Although if this passes, they won't even be allowed to have designated parking spots, because the bus stop is right there and that would be within 0.25 miles, and so, they can't require it.

Now, I would love if Maine was more walkable and that I could bike places more, that I could hop on a train and come to Augusta instead of having to take my car down. I think that would be a great way to lower emissions. Instead, I bought a hybrid, because I wanted to lower the amount of money I'm spending on gas prices, but I have to have a car. There's not one person in this Body right now, with the exception of maybe two that get ride-sharing, who can be here without a car. And if you can, I applaud you for being able to walk the number of hours that it would take for you to get to here. Even in Bangor, downtown Bangor, they are trying to call that a walking city. It's not a walking city because the busses stop at five o'clock, and I can tell you, they stop at five o'clock on the dot. Down in Portland, when I used to live in Gorham and had to transfer by bus from Gorham campus to the USM campus and then to my apartment on Congress Street, if I went there after seven o'clock, which oftentimes I had to, I had to walk the very dangerous streets through the Old Port to try to get to my apartment, so that I could actually be home safe, because the busses stop.

And so, we have to remember we are not a transit state, Mr. Speaker. I wish we were, because it would make things a lot easier, but we're not. This is preemptive before we can even have our walking cities. What this will do is actually prevent housing from being filled, because nobody will have their cars, or only rich can do it because they can afford to pay for stuff where they can park their cars. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Harpswell, Representative Golek.

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

And, you know, I just want to say a few things. You know, I have heard a lot of people say we must reduce the costs on building housing in order to get to affordable housing. And

minimum parking requirements inflate the cost of building new housing and reduce the number of units that can be built, making it impossible to get projects off the ground. Parking requirements are arbitrary and oftentimes mandate a higher than necessary number of parking spaces, consuming land that could otherwise be used for housing and preventing compact mixed-use infill. Developments of villages in downtown's parking minimums also cost the public in the form of extra infrastructure and loss of taxable revenue. Removing parking mandates will allow the private market to make better decisions about how best to use the land and save acres of underutilized land in central locations close to jobs and services.

Maine has a housing crisis. We need over 88,000 units of housing. And eliminating minimum parking requirements will enable more housing production in existing employment centers, growing the workforce while reducing vehicle miles traveled. And I just want to make a point that anybody who's ever done some construction knows that we have some areas in our State that will require that you have a parking space for every bedroom that you have. Which means you can end up using more of your land for parking than you actually have for housing. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: 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. 414

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Doudera, Faircloth, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roeder, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Bridgeo, Bunker, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Dill, Dodge, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Farrin, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Frost, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lajoie, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Mitchell, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Roberts, Rollins, Rudnicki, Schmiersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Terry, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Lanigan, Sargent, Underwood.

Yes, 63; No, 83; Absent, 3; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

63 having voted in the affirmative and 83 voted in the negative, with 3 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **NOT ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, on motion of Representative GERE of Kennebunkport, the Minority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (S.C. 524)

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

June 9, 2025

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Please be advised the Senate today insisted to its previous action whereby it accepted the Minority Ought to Pass as Amended Report and Engrossed Bill "An Act to Establish the Interdisciplinary Advisory Board for the State House Complex" (H.P. 1187) (L.D. 1776) in non-concurrence.

Best Regards,

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Report

Majority Report of the Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Requiring Not Less Than 90 Percent State Reimbursement for Residential Real Estate Property Tax Exemptions and to Establish a Minimum Homestead Exemption

(H.P. 731) (L.D. 1112)

Signed:

Senators:

GROHOSKI of Hancock
BICKFORD of Androscoggin
TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:

CLOUTIER of Lewiston
CROCKETT of Portland
FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor
LAVIGNE of Berwick
QUINT of Hodgdon
RUDNICKI of Fairfield
SAYRE of Kennebunk
SWALLOW of Houlton
WHITE of Ellsworth

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-607)** on same RESOLUTION.

Signed:

Representative:

MATLACK of St. George

READ.

On motion of Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston, 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** with the exception of matters being held.

ENACTORS

Emergency Measure

An Act to Advance the Maine Retirement Savings Program
(S.P. 141) (L.D. 355)
(C. "A" S-305)

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. 107 voted in favor of the same and 10 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

An Act to Ensure the Financial Stability of Behavioral Health Service Providers and Housing Assistance Providers
(S.P. 584) (L.D. 1443)
(C. "A" S-302)

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. 107 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 to Allow Nonprofit Organizations to Sell Progressive Sealed Ticket Games and to Offer Partner-assisted Beano
(S.P. 605) (L.D. 1490)
(C. "A" S-306)

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. 102 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.

Emergency Measure

An Act to Strengthen Housing Stability Services by Increasing Support and Outreach
(S.P. 751) (L.D. 1910)
(C. "A" S-322)

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. 85 voted in favor of the same and 54 against, and accordingly the Bill **FAILED PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED** and was sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

Resolve, Directing the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Examine Issues Related to Public Access to Privately Owned Lands

(S.P. 538) (L.D. 1308)
(C. "A" S-314)

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 7 against, and accordingly the Resolve was **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Acts

An Act to Require State-owned or Leased Buildings Occupied by 50 or More Executive Branch Employees to Have at Least One Automated External Defibrillator and One Bleeding Control Kit

(S.P. 414) (L.D. 984)
(C. "A" S-309)

An Act Regarding Fairness in Sentencing for Persons Based on Age

(H.P. 732) (L.D. 1113)
(C. "A" H-556)

An Act to Protect Residents Living in Mobile Home Parks

(S.P. 477) (L.D. 1145)
(H. "A" H-594 to C. "A" S-273)

An Act to Limit Corporate Use of the Visual Media Production Credit

(S.P. 608) (L.D. 1493)
(C. "A" S-313)

An Act to Create a Stewardship Program for Electronic Smoking Devices and Related Products

(H.P. 1004) (L.D. 1519)
(C. "A" H-412; S. "A" S-292)

An Act to Prevent the Introduction or Transfer of Invasive Fish Species in Inland Waters of the State

(S.P. 632) (L.D. 1548)
(C. "A" S-312)

An Act to Establish the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Prevention and Support Program

(H.P. 1112) (L.D. 1677)
(H. "A" H-512 to C. "A" H-442)

An Act to Ensure Data Reporting for Temporary Nurse Agencies

(S.P. 687) (L.D. 1769)
(C. "A" S-319)

An Act to Amend the Laws Affecting Insurance

(S.P. 720) (L.D. 1837)
(S. "A" S-278)

An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the State-designated Agency Advocating for Individuals with Serious Mental Illness

(S.P. 736) (L.D. 1866)
(C. "A" S-318)

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Elections

(S.P. 773) (L.D. 1977)
(C. "A" S-317)

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.

Resolve

Resolve, Regarding Certified Nursing Assistant Examinations

(S.P. 673) (L.D. 1720)
(C. "A" S-296)

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

An Act to Amend the Law Governing the Competitive Skills Scholarship Program and Establish the Community Workforce Connections Program

(S.P. 764) (L.D. 1956)
(C. "A" S-304)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed.

On motion of Representative DRINKWATER of Milford, was **SET ASIDE**.

The same Representative **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 Milford, Representative Drinkwater.

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Mr. Speaker, we currently offer an apprenticeship program. This bill expands the program in two ways. The program will now be open to a wider range of participants, including individuals who also hold a postsecondary degree that is no longer considered, quote, and this is in the bill, 'marketable.' The fund will be paying for participants' books, fees, stipends, child care and transportation, and it will be paid retroactively to the applicant from the day they applied.

The second part of the bill changes the name of the Peer Workforce Navigator Pilot Program to the Community Workforce Connections Program. There was a pilot program, and it was quite successful and now, they want to turn it into a permanent one. The expanded apprenticeship and workforce program outlined in this bill already fulfills the goals it proposes, offering a robust framework that addresses workforce development, training, access and participant support. The program prioritizes individuals from populations that may face significant barriers to employment and, Mr. Speaker, discrimination is already against the law, why are we giving special rights?

Finally, this program, which is funded by the unemployment paid in by employers, was approved by the business community many years ago. I question whether the business community understands the increase in spending. That money comes out of the unemployment trust fund. Years ago, the business community, along with the State, agreed that some of that money should be set aside to help people find reemployment. This program is expanding it rapidly, and we already have job centers with navigators to help people that are seeking employment. To help them, this new program allows navigators, which is a duplication of effort, which the Department of Labor already has. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bangor, Representative Roeder.

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I do, before I give my remarks, I do want to read the Fiscal Note here. "Allowing funds within the Competitive Skills Scholarship Program Fund to be used to support a newly established Community Workforce Connections Program within the Department of Labor will increase costs to the CSSP Fund

beginning Fiscal Year '25-'26. However, because the CSSP fund has sufficient budgeted resources to support the increasing cost, no additional allocations are required."

So, LD 1956 comes to us with a bipartisan Report from the Labor Committee. It advances the goals of so many of us in this Chamber. This bill addresses Maine's workforce needs and helps workers across the State find and keep good family-sustaining jobs through connecting low-income workers to peer-to-peer navigation services and increasing access to Maine Department of Labor's highly successful competitive skills scholarship program. At the public hearing, we saw a vast collection come together in support of LD 1956. To quote my colleague from South Portland, Representative Beck, it isn't every day that the Maine AFL/CIO, the Chamber of Commerce and MaineHealth stand together and testify in support of something. It's clear LD 1956 is an investment in both Maine people, Maine businesses and Maine's workforce. It does so without increasing any employer costs and with a negligible impact to the General Fund.

There are statistics that prove that the Peer Workforce Navigator Pilot Program was effective. We heard story after story from navigators themselves, from the people that they helped, and I want to point out that everybody from about the geographical middle of the State on up pointed to one peer workforce navigator in particular, I'm going to say her name here on the floor, Suzy Young. Because every time I turned around, I heard about how she helped someone. Someone told the story about a man who had been incarcerated, had a long history of unemployment, who had a job, who had found an apartment, he was trying to make good and then, there was an unexpected layoff, he got behind in his rent, everything was falling apart. Suzy stepped in, helped him apply for that unemployment for just long enough to get him back out into the workforce, pay his back rent. And Suzy is just one of those amazing peer workforce navigators.

We want to make this program permanent. It doesn't cost anything more. I think we want to make it permanent because it serves so many needs. We hear all the time about wanting to get people off the unemployment program, we hear all the time about expanding our workforce in Maine and needing to fill these important jobs. This is a way we do it, and we do it compassionately, with that peer-to-peer interaction where the person in need has somebody they can count on, somebody they can rely on, somebody there to listen to them and guide them through the process, which is something we all need at some point in our lives. Thank you.

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

Representative **SOBOLESKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen. As the Good Representative from Milford stated, this is funded through the unemployment insurance trust fund. If you look at that fund, through the years up until 9/11, it was running about \$400-450 million in it, just about what we needed. A little come in, a little go out, \$30-40 million a year. After COVID came, we've started putting \$100 million extra a year into that fund. In this current budget, they're budgeting \$250 million two years in a row, \$500 million to go into that fund, which already has \$700 million into it. It's bloated and overfunded right now. We spend approximately \$125 million a year in unemployment insurance claims, so, we don't need that extra money put in there. There are no guardrails on this, and it just seems like it's being used as a, you know, 'take whatever we need' type fund.

We've asked for that fund to be reduced, we've asked for the \$250 million, when the Department came into the Labor Committee to cut that down, but they don't seem to be willing to do it. So, it's overfunded, it's bloated and the money's coming out of there, and this program needs to have guardrails on it, which they have refused to do. 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. 415

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Cray, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hall, Hasenfus, Hepler, Jackson, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, 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, Daigle, Drinkwater, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Henderson, Hymes, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Ducharme, Gattine, Lanigan, Underwood.

Yes, 79; No, 66; Absent, 4; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

79 having voted in the affirmative and 66 voted in the negative, with 4 being absent and 2 excused, 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** with the exception of matters being held.

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(H.P. 60) (L.D. 95) Bill "An Act to Amend and Simplify Certain Wildlife Laws" Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-609)**

(H.P. 218) (L.D. 318) Bill "An Act Regarding School Funding and General Purpose Aid for Local Schools" Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-610)**

(H.P. 860) (L.D. 1325) Bill "An Act to Create Clarity in the Laws Regarding Property Tax Abatement Appeals" Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-608)**

(H.P. 1140) (L.D. 1705) Bill "An Act Regarding Adult Education Funding and Oversight" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-611)**

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

There being no objection, the House Papers were **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

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

(H.P. 48) (L.D. 84) Bill "An Act to Improve the Coordination of Health Care for Minors in State Care" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-614)**

(H.P. 575) (L.D. 889) Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Department of Health and Human Services" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-615)**

(H.P. 836) (L.D. 1261) Bill "An Act to Support At-risk Families by Establishing the Community Navigator Pilot Program" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-613)**

(H.P. 1137) (L.D. 1702) Bill "An Act to Amend Election Polling Place Candidate Restrictions" Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-612)**

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

There being no objection, House Papers were **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

ENACTORS

Acts

An Act to Require Minimum Pay for Reporting to Work
(S.P. 282) (L.D. 598)
(C. "A" S-195; S. "A" S-301)

An Act to Support Families by Improving the Court Process for Child Protection Cases
(S.P. 628) (L.D. 1544)
(C. "A" S-328)

An Act to Clarify Available Relief for the Protection of At-risk Children
(S.P. 714) (L.D. 1832)
(C. "A" S-310)

An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Emergency Medical Services' Board and the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State
(S.P. 776) (L.D. 1981)
(C. "A" S-325)

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.

Resolve

Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Review Personal Finance Course Offerings in Maine Schools and Implement a Teacher Training Program
(S.P. 454) (L.D. 1069)
(C. "A" S-315)

Was 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** with the exception of matters being held.

Acts

An Act to Establish the Criminal Records Review Commission in Statute
(S.P. 126) (L.D. 259)
(C. "A" S-326)

An Act to Establish the African American Studies Advisory Council and Provide Funding to Support African American Studies
(S.P. 491) (L.D. 1202)
(C. "A" S-303)

An Act to Establish the Maine Green Schools Network
(S.P. 627) (L.D. 1543)
(C. "A" S-316)

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** with the exception of matters being held.

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

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Request unanimous consent to address the House on the record.

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Wales, Representative Greenwood, has requested unanimous consent to address the House on the record. Hearing no objection, the Representative may proceed.

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's not very often that I'm not here, but I was late today.

In regards to Roll Call No. 393 on LD 1519, had I been present, I would have voted no. Roll Call No. 394 on LD 1934, had I been present, I would have voted no. Roll Call No. 395 on LD 598, had I been present, I would have voted no. Roll Call No. 396, LD 613, had I been present, I would have voted yes.

Roll Call No. 397, LD 1928, had I been present, I would have voted yes. I apologize to the Body for that absence, because that appears to may have turned the vote. On Roll Call 398, LD 371, had I been in my chair, I would have voted yes. And on the last one, LD 1202, Roll Call 399, had I been present, I would have voted no.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Reports

Six Members of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** report in Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-572)** on Bill "An Act to Increase the Transparency and Accountability of the Maine Information and Analysis Center"

(H.P. 273) (L.D. 419)

Signed:

Senator:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representatives:

HASENFUS of Readfield

ABDI of Lewiston

LAJOIE of Lewiston

LOOKNER of Portland

MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

Six Members of the same Committee report in Report "B" **Ought Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

CYRWAY of Kennebec

Representatives:

ARDELL of Monticello

BUNKER of Farmington

MCINTYRE of Lowell

NUTTING of Oakland

PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

READ.

Representative MOONEN of Portland moved that the House **ACCEPT** Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended**.

Representative NUTTING of Oakland **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended**.

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 Portland, Representative Lookner.

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

Here in Maine, we all very much value and respect our constitutional rights, our First Amendment rights of freedom of speech and peaceful assembly, and that is exactly what this bill is designed to protect. So-called 'fusion centers' such as the Maine Information Analysis Center are supposed to make us safer, but what we've seen in Maine and across the country is that when you give certain entities expansive surveillance tools, everything starts to look like a threat. Peaceful protestors become persons of interest, environmental activists get monitored like criminals and those faithfully exercising their rights enshrined in the First Amendment such as the freedom of speech and the right to peaceful assembly are subject to the watchful eye of anonymous authorities. To a person with a hammer, everything looks like a nail, and the MIAC has been swinging that hammer at the constitutional rights of Mainers. So, we need some oversight, and that's what this bill will provide.

We know from extensive leaked documents and from whistleblower complaints that the MIAC has been watching those engaged organizing to try to stop the New England Clean Election Corridor, they've been watching the Facebook page and posts of racial justice activists and they have been sharing a lot of that information with private corporations, such as Hannaford and Central Maine Power. If these private entities get access to this information, why shouldn't the public? To some extent. So, the MIAC claims we don't need this bill, that their internal oversight is sufficient and that their privacy officer keeps them in compliance with State and federal law. But when a State trooper has to file a federal lawsuit to expose illegal surveillance, when we learn that they're monitoring again Facebook groups and chatrooms, that's not oversight; that's a system that's not functioning as it should be functioning.

So, we need to increase transparency and trust between the public and the State's law enforcement. What this bill would do is create an independent auditor in the AG's office and it would require annual reporting to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety and make certain materials subject to public record. Those materials would be deidentified and unclassified information. So, just to give the public a little bit more of a window into what is happening at the Maine Information Analysis Center. These are common-sense measures that will actually improve public safety by rebuilding trust. Right now, when an agency is snooping on peaceful protestors while failing to on other issues, something isn't working. So, the choice is clear, we can continue with secretive operations that chill free speech, or we can pass LD 419 and bring some much-needed sunlight into MIAC's activities.

So, the question remains: if we continue funding this agency and it's not fulfilling its duties, what function does it serve? With this bill, we will get some much-needed answers to that question. So, I urge my colleagues to support this bill. The people of Maine deserve both safety and freedom, and this legislation helps deliver both. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 416

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

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Frost, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lyman, Mason, Mastraccio, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rielly, Rudnicki, Salisbury, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome, Mr. Speaker.

ABSENT - Cooper, Jackson, Javner, Lanigan, Libby, O'Halloran, Underwood.

Yes, 74; No, 68; Absent, 7; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 68 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended** was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-572)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-572)** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Majority Report of the Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-621)** on Bill "An Act to Expand Municipal Volunteer Program Eligibility Requirements in the Municipal Property Tax Assistance Laws"

(H.P. 194) (L.D. 294)

Signed:

Senators:

GROHOSKI of Hancock
BICKFORD of Androscoggin
TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:

CLOUTIER of Lewiston
CROCKETT of Portland
FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor
MATLACK of St. George
SAYRE of Kennebunk

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

Signed:

Representatives:

LAVIGNE of Berwick
QUINT of Hodgdon
RUDNICKI of Fairfield
SWALLOW of Houlton
WHITE of Ellsworth

READ.

On motion of Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston, the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-621)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-621)** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Majority Report of the Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Phase Out the Income Tax"

(H.P. 542) (L.D. 856)

Signed:

Senators:

GROHOSKI of Hancock
BICKFORD of Androscoggin
TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:

CLOUTIER of Lewiston
CROCKETT of Portland
FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor
MATLACK of St. George
QUINT of Hodgdon
SAYRE of Kennebunk
SWALLOW of Houlton
WHITE of Ellsworth

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-622)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representative:

RUDNICKI of Fairfield

READ.

Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative RUDNICKI of Fairfield **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. 417

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arata, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Osher, Pluecker, Pomerleau, 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, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, 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 - Cooper, DeBrito, Jackson, Javner, Lanigan, O'Halloran, Underwood.

Yes, 77; No, 65; Absent, 7; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

77 having voted in the affirmative and 65 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent and 2 excused, 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** with the exception of matters being held.

Majority Report of the Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-623)** on Bill "An Act to Exempt Diapers from Sales Tax" (H.P. 721) (L.D. 1099)

Signed:

Senators:

GROHOSKI of Hancock
BICKFORD of Androscoggin
TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:

CLOUTIER of Lewiston
CROCKETT of Portland
FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor
LAVIGNE of Berwick
MATLACK of St. George
QUINT of Hodgdon
RUDNICKI of Fairfield
SAYRE of Kennebunk
WHITE of Ellsworth

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

Signed:

Representative:

SWALLOW of Houlton

READ.

On motion of Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston, the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-623)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-623)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Expand the Use of Tax Increment Revenue for Affordable Housing by Adding Authorized Project Costs"

(H.P. 1098) (L.D. 1657)

Signed:

Senator:

GROHOSKI of Hancock

Representatives:

CLOUTIER of Lewiston
LAVIGNE of Berwick
QUINT of Hodgdon
RUDNICKI of Fairfield
SWALLOW of Houlton
WHITE of Ellsworth

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

Signed:

Senators:

BICKFORD of Androscoggin
TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:

CROCKETT of Portland
FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor
MATLACK of St. George
SAYRE of Kennebunk

READ.

Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative KUHN of Falmouth **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 Falmouth, Representative Kuhn.

Representative **KUHN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Colleagues of the House. This bill would expand the use of tax increment revenue for affordable housing by clarifying and adding new authorized project costs. This would include costs for the development, sale and purchase of affordable housing and also for the creation and administration of a municipal loan program or grant program to provide assistance to qualifying purchasers of affordable housing.

To offer some context: My community is in the process of creating a 48-unit workforce housing development. This housing is desperately needed in our area, where market rate home prices have vastly outpaced salaries. Among other problems, this disparity has led to difficulty in recruiting and retaining municipal employees and challenges bringing new folks into our community, thereby resulting in reduced school enrollment and additional municipal costs. In response, my community, like others, is using town-owned land in partnership with a local developer to build much needed middle-workforce housing. These units will be sold to individuals earning up to 120% of the region's median income and are intended to serve individuals who work in our and other nearby towns, such as public safety staff, teachers and private sector service workers.

This bill would allow tax increment financing funds to cover additional costs in connection with the development of affordable housing to make these projects more accessible for qualified buyers, such as by creating local loan and grant programs to assist with down payments and with closing costs. As with any other TIFF expenditure, these costs would be required to contribute to the economic growth or well-being of the municipality or to the betterment of the health, welfare or safety of the inhabitants of our municipality. It's my strong belief that the ability to recruit and retain municipal staff and to welcome new families into our community satisfies this goal.

Not every community will opt to adopt this kind of program, but it does provide one more tool in the toolbox for municipalities to address Maine's urgent housing needs, and I would ask the Members to vote in opposition to the pending motion.

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. 418

YEA - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Boyer D, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Cloutier, Collamore, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Milliken, Mingo, Montell, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, 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.

NAY - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Blier, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Campbell, Carlow, Cluchey, Collins, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Mitchell, Moonen, Murphy, 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 - Cooper, Jackson, Javner, Lanigan, Underwood.
Yes, 68; No, 76; Absent, 5; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

68 having voted in the affirmative and 76 voted in the negative, with 5 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **NOT ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, on motion of Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston, the Minority **Ought to Pass** 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** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(S.P. 325) (L.D. 767) Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Licensing of Certain Types of Establishments and Professions by the Department of Health and Human Services" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"** (S-332)

(S.P. 412) (L.D. 982) Bill "An Act to Establish Equal Tax Treatment for the Mi'kmaq Nation" Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"** (S-330)

(H.P. 538) (L.D. 852) Bill "An Act to Reduce the Property Tax Burden by Adequately Funding County Jail Operations" Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"** (H-636)

(H.P. 551) (L.D. 865) Bill "An Act to Require MaineCare to Reimburse for Lactation Services in the Homes of Eligible Persons" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"** (H-627)

(H.P. 596) (L.D. 931) Bill "An Act to Amend the Law Allowing Incarcerated Pretrial or Presentence Individuals to Be Credited Time for Participation in Voluntary Work Projects in a Jail" Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"** (H-637)

(H.P. 861) (L.D. 1326) Bill "An Act to Protect the Drinking Water for Consumers of Certain Water Systems by Establishing Maximum Contaminant Levels for Certain Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"** (H-628)

(H.P. 878) (L.D. 1355) Resolve, to Require the Office of Tax Policy to Study Taxation of Renewable Energy Infrastructure Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"** (H-624)

(H.P. 1036) (L.D. 1578) Bill "An Act to Require the Department of Health and Human Services to Review Disruption to or Removal of Health Services" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"** (H-625)

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

There being no objection, the Senate Papers were **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended** in concurrence and the House Papers were **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

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

An Act Regarding the Approval of Transmission Lines
(H.P. 517) (L.D. 810)
(C. "A" H-410)

Which was **TABLED** by Representative MOONEN of Portland pending **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

Representative FOSTER of Dexter **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 Dexter, Representative Foster.

Representative **FOSTER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Just a reminder, this is a chance here to continue the opportunity for you to represent your constituents, should a large transmission line be going through their backyard, in front of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee and the Legislature in regards to approval of that

line. Otherwise, they won't have that opportunity. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **KESSLER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have to disagree with the Representative from Dexter, that this is not the last chance, that there's the ability for citizens to reach out to their Representatives if there is an issue, like we have in the past. We've strengthened protections for landowners; we've improved the process. I am a person who voted in favor of the Referendum. I think this is a responsible bill, this is a bill where there has been an unusual convergence of approval of all interested parties in this, from the environmental organizations to the Associated General Contractors of Maine. There is little disagreement about the importance of this bill, so, please follow my light.

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. 419

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

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

ABSENT - Cooper, Jackson, Javner, Lanigan, O'Halloran, Underwood.

Yes, 74; No, 69; Absent, 6; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 69 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent and 2 excused, 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** with the exception of matters being held.

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

An Act Regarding the Voting Requirement to Extend the Date for Adjournment of the Legislature

(S.P. 663) (L.D. 1668)

(C. "A" S-215)

Which was **TABLED** by Representative MOONEN of Portland pending **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

Representative GREENWOOD of Wales **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 Wales, Representative Greenwood.

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I once again draw your attention to this legislation that is before us. It is a dramatic change in policy; it is a dramatic change in how we have bipartisanship, Mr. Speaker. This would allow extending session by a simple majority or one-party vote. I ask my colleagues across the aisle to consider there may be a chance when you're not in the majority and you want to work together. Extending legislative session should be a higher threshold, which it's been, it's been two-thirds. Mr. Speaker, I ask the Body to vote no on the pending motion. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from East Machias, Representative Tuell.

Representative **TUELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would concur with my good friend from Wales, and I would add that we find ourselves in a really strange place; not so much a strange, sadly, not strange; where the morale and the tension in this building is an all-time low. And I think if we could do nothing else, we could pass this bill; or we could vote Ought Not to Pass, excuse me, and reject the pending motion and keep things where they are today. I think there's a lot of water under the bridge this session, and we need to take a step back and calm down and cool off and reevaluate where we are. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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. 420

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, 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 - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cray, Crockett, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Lance, Lavigne, Lee, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmursal-Burgess, Simmons, Sinclair, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Cooper, Jackson, Javner, Lanigan, Underwood.

Yes, 73; No, 71; Absent, 5; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

73 having voted in the affirmative and 71 voted in the negative, with 5 being absent and 2 excused, 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** with the exception of matters being held.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Bill "An Act to Make Student Transfer Agreements Renew Automatically Except in Certain Circumstances"

(H.P. 141) (L.D. 218)

- In House, Majority (9) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS READ** and **ACCEPTED** on May 22, 2025.

- In Senate, Minority (4) **OUGHT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

TABLED - June 3, 2025 (Till Later Today) by Representative MOONEN of Portland.

PENDING - **FURTHER CONSIDERATION**.

The House voted to **INSIST**.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-618)** on Resolve, to Establish the Maine Home Energy Navigator and Coaching Pilot Program (H.P. 1311) (L.D. 1967)

Signed:

Senators:

LAWRENCE of York
GROHOSKI of Hancock

Representatives:

SACHS of Freeport
GEIGER of Rockland
KESSLER of South Portland
RUNTE of York
WARREN of Scarborough
WEBB of Durham

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

Signed:

Senator:

HARRINGTON of York

Representatives:

FOSTER of Dexter
MCINTYRE of Lowell
PAUL of Winterport
WADSWORTH of Hiram

READ.

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

Representative FOSTER of Dexter **REQUESTED** a roll call on the 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: 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. 421

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, 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, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, 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 - Cooper, Jackson, Javner, Lanigan, Underwood.
Yes, 77; No, 67; Absent, 5; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

77 having voted in the affirmative and 67 voted in the negative, with 5 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Resolve was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-618)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Resolve was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-618)** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Amend Certain Laws Regarding Abortions"

(S.P. 297) (L.D. 682)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland

TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth

LEE of Auburn

O'HALLORAN of Brewer

PUGH of Portland

SATO of Gorham

SINCLAIR of Bath

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-323)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

BABIN of Fort Fairfield

CARUSO of Caratunk

HENDERSON of Rumford

POIRIER of Skowhegan

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

READ.

Representative KUHN of Falmouth moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan **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 Hodgdon, Representative Quint.

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. LD 682 would return Maine's laws on abortions to where they were prior to the passage of LD 1619 from last session, except for a new provision permitting an abortion after viability in the event that a fatal condition is discovered in the unborn child.

American opinion on the timing or circumstances of availability of abortion still reflect a desire to lessen abortion in certain aspects. When asked which opinions most accurately reflected their own, a combined 60% of Americans and 64% of those who identify as Independents listed the following: That abortion should occur in the first trimester in cases of incest, rape or to preserve the life of the mother. As established under the passage of LD 1619, current law leaves the decision to terminate a pregnancy, even a full-term one, to the discretion of a woman and a single physician. This change goes far beyond what was needed to help the family in question and has made Maine the least restrictive state in the nation.

I would just like to share some information from our European allies. In the United Kingdom, abortion is permitted up to 24 weeks of pregnancy. There is no limit in cases where a woman's life is at risk or there is a serious fetal anomaly. In Ireland, abortion is allowed up to 12 weeks of pregnancy, but also allowed later if the fetus has a terminal condition or the woman's health is in danger. In Germany, a woman can only obtain a legal abortion within 12 weeks of conception if they submit to counseling and other restrictions. Germany is one of

12 European countries that requires women to undergo counseling or receive information before abortions. In Spain, unwanted pregnancies can be terminated for the first 14 weeks and up to 22 weeks for severe fetal anomalies. In Norway, women can obtain abortions for 12 weeks but can be permitted later if the mother's life is in danger or the baby has severe abnormalities. This will be expanded to 18 weeks beginning in June, so, this month. Denmark and Sweden have similar policies.

Mr. Speaker, I'm under no illusion that any of that information is going to change anyone's mind on this matter, but just from my beliefs and the beliefs of so many people that I represent, I would be remiss if I didn't stand up and speak on it. For the very reason that LD 1619 was put into play, this bill actually takes that into account, and then puts it back to where it was before LD 1619 came into existence. Maine's prior abortion law was more in line with consensus opinion on when abortion should be available, and this bill takes into account the accommodation for a fatal fetal anomaly, which was in fact the very stated reason for why LD 1619 was introduced. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Falmouth, Representative Kuhn.

Representative **KUHN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Colleagues of the House. This bill would repeal or amend certain portions of Maine law regarding abortion access that were previously addressed in the 131st Legislature and the majority of the Committee rejected the bill for multiple reasons.

First, the bill would add additional data collection requirements regarding abortion procedures. Current law requires data collection that is similar to the one that is in place for miscarriage data. The change proposed here would force providers to collect irrelevant and potentially stigmatizing information on topics like the person's educational level and their marital status. In addition, additional data collection can expose patients and clinicians to risks, such as when a prosecutor in a state where abortion care is banned seeks to prosecute patients and providers in states where it is not.

Second, the bill would establish criminal penalties for performing an abortion without a license or after viability. First, I want to be clear that performing an abortion without a medical license in the State of Maine is already a crime in current law. In other states, adding additional or elevated penalties has resulted in denial of care, because physicians are unwilling to take the risk of providing services when there is a possibility of prosecution. Moreover, in some of these communities, the laws have resulted in providers leaving the workforce because of these concerns, which result in less access to pregnancy care for everyone.

Finally, this bill would limit an abortion later in pregnancy only to when it is medically necessary to preserve the life or health of the mother or when the fetus is diagnosed with a fetal anomaly that will, with a reasonable certainty, result in the death of the child within three months after birth. In the Committee in both the 131st and 132nd Legislatures, we carefully examined the standard of care for abortion later in term. With respect to the health of the mother standard, this same statutory language has proven catastrophic in other states, where doctors have struggled to determine with certainty what qualifies as a medical emergency when the punishment for an error is jail time. In many cases, providers have sent women home to await an impending miscarriage without medical intervention, only to see them return to the emergency room hours or days later, so sick from infection that it sometimes cannot be reversed. The fetal viability standard is similarly vague, does not offer clear

guidance. The bill fails to recognize that estimations of viability are imprecise and can be inaccurate by up to four weeks. In addition, the phrase 'with a reasonable certainty' is so vague, as again to chill providers' willingness to treat their patients.

Finally, the language would remove the needed flexibility for a patient and provider to respond to the countless ways in which a pregnancy can be compromised. It's truly impossible for this Legislature to predict and provide for every scenario. Together, these vague requirements, coupled with the prospect of criminal penalties, will functionally eliminate access to critical care here in our State. I urge the Body to reject this proposal and vote in support of the pending motion. Thank you.

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

Representative **ARATA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, you know, nothing quite breaks my heart as much as when we discuss abortion in this Chamber. We work together here in this Chamber to support Mainers who are vulnerable, such as children, seniors and people with disabilities. And we disagree with how to go about this, but we all agree that this is a part of our responsibility. We agree that we value human life regardless of race, religion, gender, wealth, ability or age. And in spite of this agreement, the law says that the very youngest and most vulnerable among us, unborn babies, can be killed at will.

Under Maine law, a person is worthless the moment before birth and then magically becomes a human being moments later. Abortion isn't about women's rights. If it were, I might be sitting on the other side of the aisle. It's a question of whether we consider human life as intrinsically valuable. We've seen throughout history the horrors of what happens when human life isn't valued, when marginalized groups are seen as less than human. People are being told that they're merely a parasite that was allowed to live. With abortion so prevalent in our society, it's no wonder that there's an epidemic of crime, drug use, depression, anxiety and suicide. As one Democratic Senator said, that they're nothing more than a living abortion. It's no wonder that people are so terrible to each other and to themselves.

Now, I may not be able to change your vote on this bill, but I hope I cause you to stop and think about all the people throughout history who are disposed of like trash because they were not considered to be humans by society until people woke up and realized the truth. I hope that that shroud is lifted from your eyes and that you realize the truth of the injustice of abortion, because nobody is trash.

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

Representative **LEE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this bill puts the government back into the hospital room to invade upon the most difficult decision a woman may ever have to make. That is a decision that neither you nor I nor anyone in this room should be involved in. It's one she should make with her family, her God and her doctor.

The abortions that this bill seeks to restrict are not, despite the rhetoric we often hear, the product of irresponsibility or poor planning. They are the result of heartbreaking, excruciating decisions and situations where people fully prepared to be parents receive diagnoses that their very-much-wanted children will not survive. This bill would cause suffering and pain to people unnecessarily.

In addition to the invasion of the hospital room, this bill also requires that every abortion in the State of Maine be reported, and the details of that that are reported are the date and place the abortion was performed; the age, race, marital status and

level of education of the person on whom the abortion was performed; the method used to perform the abortion; the gestational age of the fetus when the abortion was performed and any other information required by the standard report form. We live in a time where information like this is being subpoenaed by Attorneys General from other states to prosecute women and their health care providers. Requiring that people share this information puts them in danger and puts us back in a place that I don't want to go.

I support women's health, and I support the motion of keeping the government out of women's health care decisions. Thank you.

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

Representative **PAUL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak for the child who has a heartbeat, fingers, toes and a fighting chance, but no voice.

LD 1619 stripped away the last protections for babies who can live outside the womb, allowing abortion up to the moment of birth, based solely on a physician's opinion, without any requirement that the mother's life is actually in danger or the child is fatally ill. That is not health care. That is the quiet, clinical legalization of something deeply unjust and disturbing. This bill seeks to correct that.

Supporters of LD 1619 lean on fatal fetal anomalies. Heartbreaking, absolutely. But many of these diagnoses are wrong. Babies predicted to die often go on to live healthy, full lives. To take a chance on a healthy life and call the decision to kill reasonable is not reasonable. It is barbaric. Every life, no matter how small, is sacred and irreplaceable. Killing a viable baby under these pretenses is a grave moral failure. We have heard the testimonies from nurses who have held premature babies in their arms, from mothers who grieve abortions they were told would fix their pain, from citizens who ask us plainly: Are we really allowing children to be killed at nine months? Yes, we did, and it must end.

A society is judged by how it protects its most vulnerable. If a child in the womb is viable, living, growing and able to survive and we refuse to protect that life, then we have lost our way. This is not a political debate; this is a moral reckoning. Let us show courage, and let us choose principle over pressure and let us vote to stand at last for life.

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

Representative **CIMINO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. To my colleagues that are opposing LD 682, I just want you to think and thank your mothers that they did not –

Representative **SALISBURY**: Point of Order.

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

Representative **SALISBURY**: Just reminding the Member to direct questions to you and not to this side.

On **POINT OF ORDER**, Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook asked the Chair to remind Representative CIMINO of Bridgton to address the Speaker and not turn to the rest of the House.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would remind the Member to direct her comments through the Chair.

The Chair reminded Representative CIMINO of Bridgton to address their comments toward the Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **CIMINO**: Thank you. So, I would just suggest that you be very thankful to your mothers that they did not feel about abortion the way that you all do.

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. 422

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, 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, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmiersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Cooper, Jackson, Javner, Lanigan, Underwood.
Yes, 77; No, 67; Absent, 5; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

77 having voted in the affirmative and 67 voted in the negative, with 5 being absent and 2 excused, 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** with the exception of matters being held.

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(H.P. 1095) (L.D. 1654) Bill "An Act to Allow a Grace Period for the Payment of Excise Tax for Adult Use Cannabis Cultivation Facilities" Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-620)**

(H.P. 1266) (L.D. 1895) Bill "An Act to Require the Removal from a Property Tax Lien the Name of a Previous Owner Who Paid Prorated Property Taxes" Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-619)**

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

There being no objection, the House Papers were **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

ENACTORS

Emergency Measure

An Act to Prohibit the Sale of Potentially Intoxicating Hemp Products to a Person Under 21 Years of Age
(H.P. 1281) (L.D. 1920)
(C. "A" H-584)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed.

Representative STROUT of Harrington **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 Winter Harbor, Representative Faulkingham.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill. I'm proud of the Representative from Harrington for putting this bill in. I think it's a great bill to put this age limit on this product. I think it's reflected in the vote we just had, and I'd just like to see a good vote of support for this bill and the Representative's good work. 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.

This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken.

ROLL CALL NO. 423

YEA - Abdi, 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, Copeland, Crafts, Cray, Crockett, Daigle, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faircloth, Farrin, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Gifford, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Hasenfus, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lance, Lavigne, Lee, Lemelin, Libby, Lookner, Lyman, Macias, Malon, Mason, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, McIntyre, Meyer, Milliken, Mingo, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Morris, Murphy, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Osher, Parry, Paul, Pluecker, Poirier, Pomerleau, Pugh, Quint, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Rudnicki, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Schmiersal-Burgess, Shagoury, Simmons, Sinclair, Skold, Smith, Soboleski, Stover, Strout, Supica, Swallow, Terry, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, Warren, Webb, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - NONE.

ABSENT - Cooper, Jackson, Javner, Lanigan, Perkins, Underwood.

Yes, 143; No, 0; Absent, 6; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

143 having voted in the affirmative and 0 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Mandate

An Act to Provide That Spouses and Children of Corrections Officers Who Die in the Line of Duty Receive a Pension

(H.P. 733) (L.D. 1114)
(C. "A" H-597)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. In accordance with the provisions of Section 21 of Article IX of the Constitution, 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 0 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Acts

An Act to Authorize the Formation of Emergency Medical Services Districts

(H.P. 109) (L.D. 176)
(C. "A" H-596)

An Act Regarding Dam Repair

(H.P. 904) (L.D. 1382)
(C. "A" H-600)

An Act Extending the Statute of Limitations on Criminal Actions Involving Aggravated Sex Trafficking

(H.P. 936) (L.D. 1427)
(C. "A" H-602)

An Act Regarding Municipal Road Standards

(H.P. 1020) (L.D. 1562)
(C. "A" H-579)

An Act to Modify Certification Standards for Full-time Teachers in Public Charter Schools and Standards for Reissuance of Educational Technician Certificates

(H.P. 1029) (L.D. 1571)
(C. "A" H-569)

An Act to Require Reporting Regarding County Jail Boards of Visitors

(H.P. 1152) (L.D. 1725)
(C. "A" H-573)

An Act to Reduce Dental Disease and Ensure Access to Essential Preventive Dental Care Among Maine Children

(H.P. 1164) (L.D. 1746)
(C. "A" H-585)

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.

Resolve

Resolve, to Study Pathways for Tribal Law Enforcement Officers to Receive a Waiver for the Maine Criminal Justice Academy Basic Law Enforcement Training Requirement

(H.P. 1294) (L.D. 1933)
(C. "A" H-574)

Was 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** with the exception of matters being held.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-139)** on Bill "An Act to Adopt Eastern Standard Time Year-round"

(S.P. 13) (L.D. 4)

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot
BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representatives:

ADAMS of Lebanon
COPELAND of Saco
FARRIN of Jefferson
GREENWOOD of Wales
MATLACK of St. George
POMERLEAU of Standish
ROLLINS of Augusta
TUELL of East Machias
UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

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

Signed:

Senator:

MARTIN of Oxford

Representative:

SALISBURY of Westbrook

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

READ.

On motion of Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook, the Bill and all accompanying papers were **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED** in concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-633)** on Bill "An Act to Allow Municipal Fire Departments with Trained Personnel to Conduct Sprinkler Plan Reviews"

(H.P. 652) (L.D. 1005)

Signed:

Senators:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox
CURRY of Waldo
CYRWAY of Kennebec

Representatives:

HASENFUS of Readfield
ABDI of Lewiston
BUNKER of Farmington
LAJOIE of Lewiston
LOOKNER of Portland
MCINTYRE of Lowell
MILLIKEN of Blue Hill
NUTTING of Oakland
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

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

Signed:

Representative:

ARDELL of Monticello

READ.

On motion of Representative HASENFUS of Readfield, the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-633)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-633)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-629)** on Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Update Maine's Public Policy on Higher Education

(H.P. 1016) (L.D. 1558)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York

LIBBY of Cumberland

PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

MURPHY of Scarborough

BRENNAN of Portland

CARLOW of Buxton

CROCKETT of Portland

DODGE of Belfast

HAGGAN of Hampden

LYMAN of Livermore Falls

MITCHELL of Cumberland

SARGENT of York

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

Signed:

Representative:

BAGSHAW of Windham

READ.

On motion of Representative MURPHY of Scarborough, the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Resolve was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-629)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Resolve was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-629)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-626)** on Bill "An Act to Create Housing and Recovery Services for LGBTQIA+ Individuals"

(H.P. 863) (L.D. 1328)

Signed:

Senators:

CURRY of Waldo

BAILEY of York

BENNETT of Oxford

Representatives:

GERE of Kennebunkport

GOLEK of Harpswell

JULIA of Waterville

MALON of Biddeford

MINGO of Calais

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

Signed:

Representative:

COLLAMORE of Pittsfield

READ.

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

Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield **REQUESTED** a roll call on the 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: 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. 424

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, 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, 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, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Lance, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmiersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Adams, Brennan, Cooper, Gattine, Jackson, Javner, Lanigan, Lavigne, Underwood.

Yes, 75; No, 65; Absent, 9; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 65 voted in the negative, with 9 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-626)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-626)** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

SENATE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (7) **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-247)** - Minority (3) **Ought Not to Pass** - Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** on Bill "An Act to Establish the Manufactured Housing Community and Mobile Home Park Preservation and Assistance Fund"

(S.P. 433) (L.D. 1016)

- In Senate, Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-247)**.

TABLED - June 9, 2025 (Till Later Today) by Representative GERE of Kennebunkport.

PENDING - **ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT**.

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Pittsfield, Representative Collamore.

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is really a property owner rights bill.

This requires manufactured housing community developers to pay a \$10,000 tax or fee or whatever you want to call it per unit in their manufactured housing community. This is when they have a net worth of more than \$50 million. This is an additional tax that will be paid to the Registry of Deeds and placed into a newly created fund, which is created through this bill, the Manufactured Housing Community and Mobile Home Park Preservation Fund, which is designated to be used for co-ops of residents to buy their parks from property owners potentially in the future. This will not only increase the cost of housing development, but it will prevent, I believe, more companies from coming in and building more housing communities that are much needed.

I ask that you please follow my light and vote Ought Not to Pass. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Kennebunkport, Representative Gere.

Representative **GERE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I thank my colleague from Pittsfield for doing a great job explaining the bill.

We're making great progress in helping mobile home park residents, and we've talked about that before in this Chamber. We need additional action to address the unfortunate continued pattern of sales to corporate investors that are leading to huge

lot rent increases and potential displacement of hundreds of households in Maine. This bill would create an assessment, as described, upon the transfer of mobile homes. It will also create the Mobile Home Park Preservation Fund and that would help and assist in preserving mobile home parks and other forms of affordable housing. This assessment would serve as a disincentive for large investor buyers while supporting smaller entities, including Maine-based businesses' ability to purchase mobile home parks. As Amended, a fee would apply; I'm sorry; \$10,000 per home lot, and it will set out a process to collect that fee as through the normal course of business.

Mr. Speaker, we have the power in our hands to account for the cost to Maine people when parks are sold to out-of-state private equity investors and assure that the investors pay their fair share of those costs, not Maine people. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: 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. 425

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eder, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, 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, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Lance, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, 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 - Adams, Brennan, Cooper, Gattine, Jackson, Javner, Lanigan, Lavigne, Underwood.

Yes, 75; No, 65; Absent, 9; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 65 voted in the negative, with 9 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-247)** was **READ** by the Clerk.

Representative GERE of Kennebunkport **PRESENTED House Amendment "A" (H-639) to Committee Amendment "A" (S-247)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-247) as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-639) 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**.

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-247) as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-639)** thereto in **NON-CONCURRENCE** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

ENACTORS
Acts

An Act Regarding the Regulation of Significant Vernal Pools Under the Natural Resources Protection Act

(H.P. 326) (L.D. 497)

(C. "A" H-606)

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

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

(C. "A" H-604)

An Act to Establish an Employer Tax Credit for Qualifying Child Care Costs

(H.P. 1013) (L.D. 1555)

(C. "A" H-570)

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** with the exception of matters being held.

On motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, the House adjourned at 7:50 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 11, 2025, in honor and lasting tribute to Kurt W. Adams of Greenbush.