

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION  
5th Legislative Day  
Tuesday, April 8, 2025

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

Prayer by Pastor Ronald Stevens, Dexter Pentecostal Church.

National Anthem by Ronald Stevens, Dexter.

Pledge of Allegiance.

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

The Journal of Thursday, April 3, 2025 was read and approved.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

The Following Communication: (H.C. 128)

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

April 4, 2025

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under 38, MRSA, Ch. 3-A, §577-A, I am pleased to appoint the following to the Maine Climate Council, effective immediately:

*Maine Climate Council:*

Rep. Chris Kessler of South Portland, reappointment

Rep. Amanda Collamore of Pittsfield

*Buildings, Infrastructure, and Housing Working Group of the Maine Climate Council:*

Rep. Grayson Lookner of Portland, reappointment

Rep. Arthur Mingo of Calais

*Coastal and Marine Working Group of the Maine Climate Council:*

Rep. Dylan Pugh of Portland

Rep. Tiffany Strout of Harrington, reappointment

*Community Resilience Planning, Public Health, and Emergency Management Working Group of the Maine Climate Council:*

Rep. Julia McCabe of Lewiston

Rep. Amanda Collamore of Pittsfield, reappointment

*Transportation Working Group of the Maine Climate Council:*

Rep. Dan Ankeles of Brunswick, reappointment

Rep. Wayne Parry of Arundel, reappointment

*Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Maine Climate Council:*

Rep. Laurie Osher of Orono

Rep. Mark Babin of Fort Fairfield, reappointment

*Energy Working Group of the Maine Climate Council:*

Rep. Gerry Runte of York, reappointment

Rep. Nathan Wadsworth of Hiram

*Natural and Working Lands Working Group of the Maine Climate Council:*

Rep. Vicki Doudera of Camden

Rep. Dick Campbell of Orrington

If 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. 125)

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

April 8, 2025

Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Fecteau:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the following Joint Standing Committees have voted unanimously to report the following bills out "Ought Not to Pass:"

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

L.D. 133 An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Nuisance Dogs

L.D. 942 An Act to Safeguard Sustainable Food Sources Provided by Certain Maine Farmers (EMERGENCY)

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

L.D. 993 An Act to Require First Responder Training for Mental Health Crisis and Critical Incident Stress Recognition

Education and Cultural Affairs

L.D. 642 An Act to Provide Students in the University of Maine System Who Are Parents or Pregnant Individuals Priority Registration for Courses

L.D. 734 An Act to Promote Voter Registration for Students in Maine's High Schools

L.D. 817 An Act to Remove Restrictions That Prohibit School Administrative Units from Making Purchases Through Cooperatives

Energy, Utilities and Technology

L.D. 204 An Act to Reduce the Cost of Electricity by Removing the 100-megawatt Limit on Renewable Resources of Energy

L.D. 638 An Act to Create Equal Opportunity Access to Clean Energy by Removing the 100-megawatt Limit on Clean Energy Sources

L.D. 711 An Act to Facilitate the State Meeting Its Climate Goals While Protecting Farms

L.D. 801 An Act to Prevent Consumer-generated Electricity from Being Used by Anyone Other than That Consumer

Environment and Natural Resources

L.D. 1035 Resolve, to Study the Safe Disposal of Single-use Propane Canisters

L.D. 1073 An Act to Amend Provisions of the Maine Metallic Mineral Mining Act to Advance Health Equity and Improve the Well-being of Vulnerable Populations

L.D. 1122 An Act to Amend the Law Banning Single-use Carry-out Bags

Health and Human Services

L.D. 772 An Act to Assist Nursing Facilities in the Management of Facility Beds

L.D. 871 An Act to Exempt All Persons, Including Health Care and Emergency Services Personnel, from COVID-19 Vaccine Requirements

- L.D. 980 Resolve, to Create the Commission to Improve the Oversight of the Long-term Care System
- L.D. 1102 Resolve, to Raise Awareness of the Importance of Brain Health and Reducing the Risk of Dementia
- L.D. 1199 Resolve, Regarding the Development of a Medication Administration Training Program for Maine Youth Camps
- Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
- L.D. 902 An Act to Establish the Medical Debt Relief Program
- L.D. 1030 An Act Regarding the Reporting of Medical Debt on Consumer Reports
- L.D. 1031 An Act to Allow Time-share Associations to Charge Credit Card Surcharges
- L.D. 1055 An Act to Prohibit Discrimination in Access to Anatomical Donations and Organ Transplants
- L.D. 1064 An Act to Ensure Automobile Insurance Rates Are Maintained upon the Death of a Spouse
- Housing and Economic Development
- L.D. 845 An Act to Establish a First-time Home-buyer Program Administered by the Finance Authority of Maine
- L.D. 963 An Act to Standardize Subsidized Housing Application Forms
- L.D. 1190 An Act to Increase State Funding for Emergency Shelters
- Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
- L.D. 964 An Act to Change the Definitions of "Sunrise" and "Sunset" in the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Laws to Better Allow for Variations in Timing Across the State
- L.D. 1050 An Act to Allow an Adult Hunter to Transfer That Hunter's Antlerless Deer Permit to a Junior Hunter
- L.D. 1171 An Act to Restore Complimentary Licenses to Hunt, Trap and Fish for Residents 70 Years of Age and Older
- Judiciary
- L.D. 752 An Act to Strengthen Maine's Child Protection Laws by Limiting Contact with Violent Offenders
- L.D. 869 An Act to Give Grandparents Intervenor Status in Certain Child Protection Proceedings
- L.D. 994 An Act Regarding the Enforcement Provisions of the Law Governing Private Road Maintenance
- L.D. 1173 Resolve, to Establish a Group to Study the Laws Governing the Guardianship of Adults and Ongoing Parental Rights of Parents of Disabled Adults
- L.D. 1175 An Act Regarding the Appointment and Payment of Counsel for Indigent Parents and Minors
- Labor
- L.D. 941 An Act Requiring Employers to Disclose Wage Ranges in Job Postings
- State and Local Government
- L.D. 602 An Act Regarding the Notification Process for Competitive Bids
- Taxation
- L.D. 7 An Act to Increase the Homestead Property Tax Exemption for Residents 65 Years of Age or Older
- L.D. 570 An Act to Provide an Additional Maine Resident Homestead Property Tax Exemption Based on Income
- L.D. 658 An Act to Lower Property Taxes by Increasing the Homestead Property Tax Exemption
- L.D. 934 An Act to Provide 100 Percent of the Maine Resident Homestead Property Tax Exemption Amount to Seniors and Veterans

Transportation

L.D. 285 Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Amend Its Rules Regarding Seasonal Load Restrictions on Certain State and State Aid Highways (EMERGENCY)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

L.D. 636 An Act to Remove the Limit on Free Promotional Merchandise Bars and Restaurants May Accept from Vendors

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

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

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The Following Communication: (H.C. 126)

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

April 8, 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 Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs has approved the request by the sponsor, Representative Cloutier of Lewiston, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

L.D. 155 An Act to Make Menstrual Products Available in Certain Schools

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs has approved the request by the sponsor, Representative Fredette of Newport, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

L.D. 1162 Resolve, to Establish a Hybrid Juris Doctor Program at the University of Maine School of Law to Address Access to Justice in Rural Maine

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the Committee on Health and Human Services has approved the request by the sponsor, Representative Roeder of Bangor, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

L.D. 1362 An Act to Establish Parity in Funding Between Recovery Community Centers and Peer-run Recovery Centers

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs has approved the request by the sponsor, Senator Hickman of Kennebec, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

L.D. 368 An Act to Address Concerns Regarding Radiation Machines and Similar Equipment Used in the Cannabis Industry

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs has approved the request by the sponsor, Representative Supica of Bangor, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

L.D. 1381 An Act to Authorize the Secretary of State to Designate Law Enforcement Officers Employed by the Department of the Secretary of State to Investigate Alleged Violations of Election Laws

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

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

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The Following Communication: (H.C. 127)

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

April 8, 2025

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

Dear Clerk Hunt:

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

on April 3, 2025

The Honorable Roger J. Katz, Esquire of Brunswick for reappointment to the University of Maine System Board of Trustees.

Pursuant to Title 5, MRSA §12004-C, this reappointment is contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

The Honorable Chandler E. Woodcock of Farmington and the Honorable Donald Marean of Hollis for reappointment to the Maine State Harness Racing Commission.

Pursuant to Title 8 M.R.S.A §261-A these reappointments are contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

Sincerely,

S/Ryan D. Fecteau  
Speaker of the House

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

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

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

Representative **CARUSO**: Mr. Speaker and Fellow Members of the House, it's an honor to rise today to recognize the Valley High School girls' basketball team for their incredible achievements this season. With a perfect 22-0 record, they are the Class D State Champions. They averaged 72 points each game and gave up an average of only 27 points. They completed the last two seasons with a record of 43-1.

Valley High School serves Bingham, Moscow, Pleasant Ridge, Concord, Caratunk and a few students from Athens, Solon and Madison. Out of the 62 high school students, 14 are on the girls' basketball team, and they are all leaders in the school both academically and athletically. A special congratulations to senior captain Madeline Hill, who scored over 1,600 career points and led Valley to their first-ever Gold Ball. She's a McDonald's All-Star, *BDN* Honorable Mention All-State, Central Maine All-Star, Class D Outstanding Tournament Player and East-West All-Star. Liana Hartwell is a walking triple-double freshman, a Central Maine All-Star, Class D Outstanding Player and East-West All-Star. And Kirsten Bigelow, a junior, is an

East-West All-Star and Top 5 Conference Scorer. I also acknowledge their coaches. Head coach Gordon Hartwell is the 2025 Class D Coach of the Year and a long-time Valley Coach with 279 career wins. He was assisted by Assistant Coach Crystal Rollins, a middle-school English teacher, whose leadership has contributed to the team's success.

Mr. Speaker, these young women have not only brought pride to their school and community, but they are an inspiration to young girls competing for athletic success. Please join me in honoring and congratulating them on an unforgettable season.

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**PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE**

Bill "An Act to Promote Firewood Banks in Maine"

(H.P. 1010) (L.D. 1525)

Sponsored by Representative RAY of Lincolnville.

Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset and Representatives: BOYER of Poland, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, HASENFUS of Readfield, HEPLER of Woolwich, PLUECKER of Warren, SACHS of Freeport, SINCLAIR of Bath, STOVER of Boothbay.

Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** suggested and ordered printed.

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act to Require All State Agencies to Provide a Zero-based Budget Once Every 10 Years"

(H.P. 1006) (L.D. 1521)

Sponsored by Representative DUCHARME of Madison.

Cosponsored by Senator BICKFORD of Androscoggin and Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, FLYNN of Albion, HASENFUS of Readfield, MCINTYRE of Lowell, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, Senator: STEWART of Aroostook.

Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** suggested and ordered printed.

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act to Establish Statutory Deadlines for Processing Applications for Emergency Medical Services Personnel"

(H.P. 994) (L.D. 1510)

Sponsored by Representative FREDETTE of Newport.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act to Make the Professional Standards Board Responsible for the Educator Certification Process"

(H.P. 979) (L.D. 1495)

Sponsored by Representative MITCHELL of Cumberland.

Cosponsored by Senator RAFFERTY of York and Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, DODGE of Belfast, SARGENT of York.

Bill "An Act to Clarify the Amount and Use of Unallocated Balances in a School Administrative Unit Budget"

(H.P. 1003) (L.D. 1518)

Sponsored by Representative FROST of Belgrade.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor, HASENFUS of Readfield, ROEDER of Bangor, Senator: BRADSTREET of Kennebec.

Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** suggested and ordered printed.

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act to Study the Role of Natural Gas in an Equitable Clean Energy Transition for Maine and to Establish a Commission to Study the Establishment of a Just and Equitable Transition for Maine's Workforce"

(H.P. 997) (L.D. 1513)

Sponsored by Representative WARREN of Scarborough.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act to Require General Public Notification of Oil Terminal Facility Transfer Activities"

(H.P. 991) (L.D. 1507)

Sponsored by Representative BECK of South Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland and Representative: DHALAC of South Portland.

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

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

Sponsored by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach.

Cosponsored by Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc and Representatives: BELL of Yarmouth, BRIDGEO of Augusta, DOUDERA of Camden, OSHER of Orono, RIELLY of Westbrook.

Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** suggested and ordered printed.

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

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Resolve, to Maintain Access to Home and Community-based Services for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities, Autism Spectrum Disorder or Brain Injury (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 993) (L.D. 1509)

Sponsored by Representative STOVER of Boothbay.

Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: CRAFTS of Newcastle, DUCHARME of Madison, GATTINE of Westbrook, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, JAVNER of Chester, MCCABE of Lewiston, POIRIER of Skowhegan, Senator: RENY of Lincoln.

Bill "An Act to Improve Perinatal Care Through Expanded Access to Doula Services"

(H.P. 1008) (L.D. 1523)

Sponsored by Representative DHALAC of South Portland.  
Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland and Representatives: DEBRITO of Waterville, EATON of Deer Isle, MCCABE of Lewiston, RANA of Bangor, ZAGER of Portland.

Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** suggested and ordered printed.

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act to Protect Patients from Health Care Discrimination and Guarantee Access to the Lowest Available Cost for Care"

(H.P. 996) (L.D. 1512)

Sponsored by Representative MORRIS of Turner.

Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** suggested.

On motion of Representative MEYER of Eliot, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act to Ensure Ongoing Access to Medications and Care for Chronic Conditions and Conditions Requiring Long-term Care by Changing Requirements for Prior Authorizations"

(H.P. 980) (L.D. 1496)

Sponsored by Representative ZAGER of Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford and Representatives: DUCHARME of Madison, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, Senators: BAILEY of York, BRENNER of Cumberland, FARRIN of Somerset.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Primary Care Reporting by the Maine Quality Forum and to Establish the Primary Care Advisory Council"

(H.P. 981) (L.D. 1497)

Sponsored by Representative ZAGER of Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator BRADSTREET of Kennebec and Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, Senators: BAILEY of York, BENNETT of Oxford.

Bill "An Act to Extend the Time Frame for a Chiropractic Intern License"

(H.P. 985) (L.D. 1501)

Sponsored by Representative MOONEN of Portland.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BOYER of Cape Elizabeth, FLYNN of Albion, FOLEY of Wells, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, MATHIESON of Kittery, MORRIS of Turner, Senator: BAILEY of York.

Bill "An Act to Update the Requirements for Health Insurance Coverage of Prostate Cancer Screening"

(H.P. 986) (L.D. 1502)

Sponsored by Representative MOONEN of Portland.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BOYER of Cape Elizabeth, FLYNN of Albion, FOLEY of Wells, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, MATHIESON of Kittery, Senator: BAILEY of York.

Bill "An Act to Expand Direct Health Care Service Arrangements"

(H.P. 995) (L.D. 1511)

Sponsored by Representative MORRIS of Turner.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act to Establish the Maine Community Development Financial Institution Fund to Support Small Businesses, Rural Economic Development and Affordable Housing"

(H.P. 984) (L.D. 1500)

Sponsored by Representative SACHS of Freeport.

Cosponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland and Representatives: DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, DUCHARME of Madison, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, GERE of Kennebunkport, MALON of Biddeford, ROEDER of Bangor, Senators: RENY of Lincoln, STEWART of Aroostook.

Bill "An Act to Strengthen the Maine Development Foundation"

(H.P. 1000) (L.D. 1516)

Sponsored by Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, CROCKETT of Portland, GERE of Kennebunkport, JULIA of Waterville, SAYRE of Kennebunk, WALKER of Naples, Senator: GUERIN of Penobscot.

Bill "An Act to Establish the Maine Eviction Prevention Program"

(H.P. 1007) (L.D. 1522)

Sponsored by Representative RANA of Bangor.

Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York and Representatives: GATTINE of Westbrook, GOLEK of Harpswell, MEYER of Eliot, STOVER of Boothbay.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act to Change the Laws Regarding Real Estate Appraisers"

(H.P. 998) (L.D. 1514)

Sponsored by Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick.

Cosponsored by Senator BRADSTREET of Kennebec and Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, DOUDERA of Camden, DUCHARME of Madison, FLYNN of Albion, LAVIGNE of Berwick, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, O'HALLORAN of Brewer.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act to Create a Green Crab Only Wholesale Dealer License"

(H.P. 987) (L.D. 1503)

Sponsored by Representative GOLEK of Harpswell.

Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: EATON of Deer Isle, FARRIN of Jefferson, HEPLER of Woolwich, RIELLY of Westbrook, SIMMONS of Waldoboro, STROUT of Harrington, THORNE of Carmel.

Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** suggested and ordered printed.

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

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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)

Sponsored by Representative DOUDERA of Camden.

Cosponsored by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland and Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, BRIDGEO of Augusta, CAMPBELL of Orrington, HEPLER of Woolwich, OSHER of Orono, RIELLY of Westbrook, Senator: TEPLER of Sagadahoc.

Bill "An Act to Replace Participation Thresholds with Approval Thresholds in Certain School, Municipal and County Measures"

(H.P. 1002) (L.D. 1517)

Sponsored by Representative SATO of Gorham.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, DEBRITO of Waterville, DHALAC of South Portland, MURPHY of Scarborough.

Bill "An Act to Enhance Legislative Participation in the Governor's Exercise of Emergency Powers"

(H.P. 1009) (L.D. 1524)

Sponsored by Representative LEE of Auburn.

Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** suggested and ordered printed.

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act to Limit Municipal Impact Fees on Housing Development"

(H.P. 982) (L.D. 1498)

Sponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor.

Cosponsored by Senator BRADSTREET of Kennebec and Representatives: BOYER of Poland, CHAPMAN of Auburn, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, GERE of Kennebunkport, MINGO of Calais, MORRIS of Turner, Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, STEWART of Aroostook.

Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** suggested.

On motion of Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act to Revoke the Tax-exempt Status of an Organization That Fails to Report Sexual Assaults Committed by Employees, Board Members, Volunteers or Affiliates"

(H.P. 983) (L.D. 1499)

Sponsored by Representative MACIAS of Topsham.

Cosponsored by Representatives: OSHER of Orono, RAY of Lincolnville.

Bill "An Act to Support Small Businesses by Providing a Refundable Tax Credit to Certain Businesses to Offset Credit and Debit Card Transaction Fees"

(H.P. 988) (L.D. 1504)

Sponsored by Representative FARRIN of Jefferson.

Cosponsored by Senator RENY of Lincoln and Representatives: CROCKETT of Portland, FLYNN of Albion, ROLLINS of Augusta, SIMMONS of Waldoboro, STOVER of Boothbay, TERRY of Gorham.

Bill "An Act to Phase out the Sales and Use Tax"

(H.P. 989) (L.D. 1505)

Sponsored by Representative RUDNICKI of Fairfield.

Cosponsored by Representatives: CAMPBELL of Orrington, QUINT of Hodgdon, SWALLOW of Houlton, WHITE of Ellsworth.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Personal Property Tax Exemption for Individually Owned Personal Property"

(H.P. 990) (L.D. 1506)

Sponsored by Representative GREENWOOD of Wales.

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

(H.P. 999) (L.D. 1515)

Sponsored by Representative ARATA of New Gloucester.

Cosponsored by Senator BICKFORD of Androscoggin and Representatives: BISHOP of Bucksport, BRENNAN of Portland, COOPER of Windham, OLSEN of Raymond, SAYRE of Kennebunk, WOOD of Norway, ZAGER of Portland, Senator: RENY of Lincoln.

Bill "An Act to Reduce the Income Tax Paid by Volunteers for Mileage Reimbursements"

(H.P. 1005) (L.D. 1520)

Sponsored by Representative CRAFTS of Newcastle.

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Clarify the Law Regarding Tinted Windows in Motor Vehicles"

(H.P. 992) (L.D. 1508)

Sponsored by Representative SHAGOURY of Hallowell.

Cosponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec and Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, MONTELL of Gardiner.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

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

**SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR**

In accordance with House Rule 519 and Joint Rule 213, the following items:

**Recognizing:**

the Honorable Donald P. Berry, of Belmont, for his being selected as a recipient of the Maine Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association's "Rulers of the Games" recognition for his years of dedication to serving students. He is a longtime USA Track and Field Official and coached track and cross-country teams at Belfast Area High School from 1963 to 1998, including more than twenty-five State Champions. Mr. Berry also served in the Maine House of Representatives during the 118th, 119th, 120th and 121st Legislatures. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 171)

Presented by Representative DODGE of Belfast.

Cosponsored by Senator CURRY of Waldo.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative DODGE of Belfast, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

**READ.**

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Belfast, Representative Dodge.

Representative **DODGE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I rise today to share my congratulations to Coach Don Berry of Belmont for his recent accolades to honor years of dedication serving students.

Your time at Belfast Area High School coaching cross-country; 25 years leading the boys' track team and 39 years and counting as an official at local, State, regional and national track and field competitions; are all outstanding accomplishments that speak to your diligence and work ethic. Thank you, too, for your positive example of leadership as a coach and educator in the greater Belfast community. It is an honor today to stand in the House Chamber as your former student turned teacher turned legislator, to thank you personally for the academic rigor of your biology and chemistry classes that I and hundreds of students experienced oh-so-many years ago at Crosby Junior High, and then Belfast Area High School. Go Lions.

Thank you also for your four terms in this Body, representing constituents and serving the region and the people of the State of Maine. Congratulations, Coach Berry. Love you.

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

**In Memory of:**

Julia "Judy" Kahrl, of Arrowsic, Doctor of Philosophy in Adult Education, philanthropist and founder of Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights. Dr. Kahrl founded Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights in 2013 to help ensure that children and grandchildren have access to accurate and accessible reproductive health. Dr. Kahrl also worked with breastfeeding support agency La Leche League International, with Pathfinder International, the reproductive health charity founded by her father, Clarence Gamble, and with Planned Parenthood. In 2010, the Peruvian government recognized Dr. Kahrl with the Daniel Alcides Carrion Award for her work to reduce maternal mortality. Dr. Kahrl will be long remembered and sadly missed by her family, friends and community;

(HLS 170)

Presented by Representative HEPLER of Woolwich.

Cosponsored by Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc, Representative CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative HEPLER of Woolwich, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

**READ.**

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Woolwich, Representative Hepler.

Representative **HEPLER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to tell you a little more about the extraordinary Judy Kahrl, who at the age of 79 founded an extraordinary organization, Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights.

I first learned about this organization about eight years ago, when I was taking a women's leadership course and we spent one weekend in Bath. Bath's Route 1 was in the midst of a major downtown construction project and I overheard a classmate complain about it, because she had to drive through Bath to get to her job in Arrowsic. Arrowsic is a bridged island of about 450 people. No one goes to work in Arrowsic, so, I had to ask. She said, 'I work for Judy Kahrl and Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights; you know, GRR in Arrowsic.'

When I first visited Judy's house, I entered a big farmhouse kitchen to a beehive; one volunteer working with Judy planning some public event, another doing some bookkeeping, a few people making GRR buttons, others making colorful yellow scarves, still others designing and writing postcards. Lots of laughing, lots and lots of chatter and always with a sense of purpose. This was the office of the Grandmothers for Reproductive Rights. Some of our colleagues who have been around for a while remember getting their yellow postcards and then showing up in their yellow t-shirts and scarves to advocate for health care for women. I have never been prouder to represent this community and this woman. There was a matter-of-factness about how she went about her work, and she did it with humor, commitment and optimism, and it was key to her success.

She was also a good friend to many. One of the first stories she shared with me was her husband's untimely and sudden death, something that I had also experienced as a middle-aged woman. Judy had been a widow 10 years longer than I had, but it reminded me anew that these tragedies are forever etched in our psyches and never far from the surface.

Judy also posted near-daily photos of the sunrise over Fisher Eddy from her kitchen window. After months; it took me many months; I realized that I used those images to bear witness to the passage of the seasons as the sunrise marched across the horizon over the course of a year. Many of us are grateful for those images.

The Sentiment you heard expressed earlier provides a glimpse into Judy's other life experiences and accomplishments, which shaped who she was. She was honest and dedicated in her advocacy throughout her life. I will always find her an example of a woman who continued to stretch her world into unexpected territory and to bring others along with her. Thank you.

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

Representative **CLUCHEY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am honored today to be able to rise to tell you something that you might know about Judy Kahrl. She was a wonderfully supportive friend and boss to my friend, Kathy Tome, who started the Bowdoinham Food Pantry.

The pantry opened in 2013 and, on average, served a modest eight to 15 families each week. And we had been operating under a revenue of about under \$20,000 per year. When the pandemic hit, we immediately began serving 45 families per week. We had no idea how we were going to be able to feed people and then, out of the blue, a monstrous check showed up, and it was from Judy, along with the message, 'let us know if you need more help.' The relief that we felt in that

moment was enormous. Not only to know that we had Judy's financial support, but that her emotional support also. Since then, big checks have showed up every single year from not only Judy, but also her son, Ben, who's here in the Gallery with us today.

In the final days before Judy passed, she gave her largest donation and the greatest in the pantry's 12-year history. And this comes at the most important time in the pantry's history. Federal cuts to SNAP benefits, layoffs at the federal level, impending tariffs. Food costs are going to rise, and people will have less money. Judy's final gift will enable the Bowdoinham Food Pantry to meet the needs of the community in this moment of crisis. So, on behalf of the Bowdoinham Food Pantry Board of Directors, all of our volunteers and the community at large, I want to say thank you to Judy. We will be forever grateful to you.

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

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

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEE**

**Divided Reports**

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Remove State-imposed Referendum Requirements Regarding Nuclear Power"

(H.P. 369) (L.D. 601)

Signed:

Senators:

LAWRENCE of York  
GROHOSKI of Hancock

Representatives:

SACHS of Freeport  
GEIGER of Rockland  
RUNTE of York  
WARREN of Scarborough  
WEBB of Durham

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

Signed:

Senator:

HARRINGTON of York

Representatives:

FOSTER of Dexter  
MCINTYRE of Lowell  
PAUL of Winterport  
WADSWORTH of Hiram

**READ.**

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Point of Order.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Wales, Representative Greenwood, and inquires to his Point of Order.

Representative **GREENWOOD**: You said we're on 6-2, but the board says we're on 6-1.

The **SPEAKER**: We're on item 6-2.

Representative SACHS of Freeport moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative FOSTER of Dexter **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 Dexter, Representative Foster.

Representative **FOSTER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I think it's time that we understand where this nation; in fact, where a good part of the world; is moving. It's a long time since people stood and picketed and cheered when Maine Yankee was closed, we've come a long way since then and I believe that removing this referendum will help to 'grease the skids,' so to speak, as Maine looks; along with other states; at the future of nuclear power in the State of Maine. I ask that you follow my light. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **PAUL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in opposition to the pending motion and in support of LD 601, a bill that removes an outdated --

The SPEAKER: The Member will defer. I'm just going to wait for the Gallery to clear, so we can hear the course of debate.

The Member may proceed.

Representative **PAUL**: I'll start that again. All right, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in opposition to the pending motion and in support of LD 601, a bill that removes an outdated and burdensome referendum requirement currently blocking nuclear energy development in Maine.

This bill is about ensuring Maine's energy policy is driven by facts, science and economic opportunity, not arbitrary political hurdles. Right now, Maine law singles out nuclear power with a unique restriction. Any new nuclear power plant or nuclear waste facility requires a costly statewide referendum. No other energy source; not wind, solar, hydro or even fossil fuels; faces the same barrier. This artificial restriction creates an uneven playing field, propping up intermittent sources like wind and solar, capping hydro's potential and excluding a reliable, efficient option like nuclear. It's not equitable to artificially restrict one source while others get a free pass, and it stifles innovation and investment in Maine's energy sector.

The Governor's Energy Office agrees that nuclear deserves a closer look. On page 34 of the Maine Energy Plan, it states that we should design and establish a clean energy standard, a CES, that aligns with similar policies in New England, while introducing new classification for clean energy resources, including nuclear energy. Yet the referendum requirement stands in the way, preventing us from even exploring nuclear's potential. LD 601 would remove this obstacle, aligning Maine with practical, all-of-the-above energy approach that includes nuclear, among other sources. It seems that the Chief Executive's team has admitted by saying the quiet part out loud that focusing solely on wind and solar will not get us to Maine's ambitious climate goals. They are signaling that adjustments are needed and baseload nuclear is the grown-up in the room that can no longer be ignored.

Maine's families and businesses face some of the highest electricity rates in the nation. Up to 30% of our energy comes from expensive, unreliable imports from other states and Canada, leaving us vulnerable to price hikes and trade disruptions. We need stable, affordable options. Nuclear power delivers consistent energy 24/7, unlike wind and solar, which depend on the weather, or hydro, which faces capacity limits. It's not subject to fossil fuel market swings or foreign supply chains. By keeping nuclear off the table, we're limiting our ability to lower costs and secure our energy supply.

Nuclear isn't just about power, it's about people. Building and operating nuclear facilities would bring high-paying jobs to Maine, with workers earning 50% more than other energy

sectors. It would stimulate local economies, attract investment and reduce our reliance on imports. Meanwhile, wind and solar require vast land and costly infrastructure, with inconsistent output, while nuclear delivers baseload power with a smaller footprint. Why should we favor some sources and exclude others, when nuclear could transform Maine's economic and energy future?

Other states like Connecticut, Illinois and Wisconsin have shed outdated restrictions on nuclear energy, welcoming innovation and industry. Maine, however, lags behind. Our referendum rule hands the reins to politically charged special interest groups who drown out reason with megaphones and money, shaping public opinion before facts even get a fair shake. LD 601 would change that, putting decision-making where it belongs, with expert agencies and legislative oversight, not in the hands of well-funded lobbyists pulling strings. No one demands a referendum for a new wind farm or even a gas plant. Nuclear should not be the exception.

Opposition to this legislation is nothing more than opposition to the GEO's vision to explore all viable energy solutions. LD 601 does not force nuclear on Maine; it simply removes a barrier, so we can study the facts and make informed decisions. Whether you're focused on ratepayers or carbon mitigation, nuclear offers a solution worth pursuing. Maine's energy policy should reflect a practical mix of options, without arbitrary restrictions holding us back. LD 601 eliminates an unfair referendum requirement, opening the door to a clean, affordable, reliable and secure energy source. Let's remove this obstacle, gather the facts and build an energy future that works for all of Maine. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **SACHS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maine's current law does require a statewide referendum before any new nuclear power plant or nuclear waste facility can be constructed or before entering into interstate nuclear compacts. Maine people have insisted on this referendum not once, not twice, but three times. And it is not the debate about whether nuclear power should come to Maine or not; that is a different bill, Mr. Speaker.

The arguments around economic viability of this project is the reason for the referendum in the first place, and I quote the 1983 Statute: "The Legislature finds that construction of a nuclear power plant is a major financial investment which will have consequences for ratepayers for years to come. In the recent past, investments in nuclear power plants have caused severe financial strain on consumers and utilities alike. The Legislature finds there are many uncertain future costs associated with nuclear power plants, including the cost of low-level and high-level waste disposal, decommissioning and long-term care. These costs [will] be borne by consumers." Because of that, "this subchapter is to provide for citizen participation in any decision to construct a nuclear power plant within [the State]."

It was also noted, Mr. Speaker, in testimony that Maine Yankee waste, which was decommissioned in 1997, requires the presence of armed guards around the clock at an expense to taxpayers of \$10 million per year. Notably, this cost is borne by taxpayers, not the commercial operators of the nuclear plant, another demonstration of the extraordinarily long financial tail of these projects. It is for the economics that this was put into place, and I urge this Body to support this Ought Not to Pass Majority Report, so that the voice of the voter can stay strong. 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. 68**

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

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

ABSENT - Crockett, Gifford, Julia, Lanigan, Sayre, Underwood.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 81; No, 63; Absent, 6; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

81 having voted in the affirmative and 63 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act Concerning the Restoration of Electricity During Emergencies for Certain Medically Vulnerable Individuals Who Rely on Electronic Medical Apparatuses"

(H.P. 401) (L.D. 633)

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 Bill.

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** Report.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on her motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought 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 Freeport, Representative Sachs.

Representative **SACHS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you. This is a simple yet effective bill. Currently, Public Utilities Commission rules require that utilities file emergency response plans with six different items. This bill requires that included in those reports be a seventh component specifically concerning restoration of electricity during emergencies for certain medically vulnerable individuals. Utilities do a voluntary program, often called LifeLight, that is specifically intended to support these customers who have electronically life-saving support equipment or special needs, and does not discriminate of what kind of equipment that is. For customers who participate in this program, the utility will install a special seal to identify the customer's status, so they will notify them of a planned work outage that may interrupt service or during unplanned power outages, do outreach to these medically vulnerable customers. This is a prudent addition to the emergency response plan, and quote; as the utilities said; they are 'happy to do it.' I urge you to vote with the Majority Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bar Harbor, Representative Friedmann.

Representative **FRIEDMANN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of LD 633, "An Act Concerning the Restoration of Electricity During Emergencies for Certain Medically Vulnerable Individuals Who Rely on Electronic Medical Apparatuses." As the Representative from Freeport stated, this bill requires investor-owned utilities to include in their emergency response plans procedures for the identification of an outreach plan regarding customers who have a documented need for electricity for essential medical equipment.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is very important to my constituents. With the increasing frequency of worsening storms, there's been a parallel increase in extended power outages. Since 2015, statewide service interruptions have increased, the average length of service interruptions has gotten longer and the time it takes for utilities to restore service to ratepayers has also grown longer. Data collected by the U.S. Energy Information Administration shows that for calendar year 2023, Maine continued to have the worst electric system reliability in the country.

Mr. Speaker, when Hurricane Ida struck Louisiana, 80% of the deaths that occurred resulted from an inability to access electricity that could power life-saving medical apparatuses. According to Maine's Department of Health and Human Services, there are over 13,000 at-risk Medicare beneficiaries who depend on electrically powered medical apparatuses to live independently in their home in this State. Currently, LifeLight, the voluntary statewide registry of those on electrically powered medical apparatus, includes only 4,000; less than 4,000 of those 13,000 that we know rely on these devices. Mr. Speaker, to protect our most vulnerable individuals, I urge support for this bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Hiram, Representative Wadsworth.

Representative **WADSWORTH**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. During the public hearing, we were not briefed of any specific incidents of the utilities not

communicating power outages to customers who are dependent upon life-saving apparatus. What we did learn about, and just described from my friend from Freeport said, is that both IOU electric utilities are communicating really well with customers dependent on life-sustaining apparatus through this LifeLight program. The program allows utilities to notify customers of life-saving apparatus for planned and unplanned outages. To me, it's pretty unusual to enshrine the specific apparatus in law. Therefore, I believe the bill is not needed. More compliance equals more cost to all of us ratepayers. For these reasons, I oppose the pending motion.

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

Representative **SACHS**: Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker. I would just note; adding onto my Good Friend from Hiram; there is no fiscal note on this bill. As stated, it is adding to an already existing report just one more thing to make sure it's integrated with the emergency response plan. Thanks so much.

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

Representative **FOSTER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. As the Good Representative from Freeport mentioned in the beginning of her floor speech that this was a simple bill; I question that it's that simple.

We have concerns that there may be some issues with people that may be missed, devices that may be missed and possible liabilities. And that liability may fall back on ratepayers. It certainly will be an increased cost for ratepayers just to manage this extra part of the emergency plan that the utilities already have in place and which they follow. However, I do think it's very important that we protect and; the best we can; serve these customers that have these vulnerabilities, and I will simply say that the future will tell us whether we've done something here that is simple or not, and certainly the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee can revisit this in the future if the case is not that it's that simple. 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 Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

**ROLL CALL NO. 69**

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Babin, Beck, Bell, Bishop, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Carlow, Caruso, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, Daigle, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Ducharme, Eaton, Eder, Faircloth, Farrin, Faulkingham, Foley, Fredericks, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Javner, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lemelin, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mason, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Parry, Pluecker, Poirier, Pomerleau, Pugh, Quint, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Shagoury, Simmons, Sinclair, Skold, Smith, Stover, Strout, Supica, Swallow, Terry, Tuell, Walker, Warren, Webb, Wood P, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Chapman, Cimino, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Drinkwater, Flynn, Foster, Fredette, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Jackson, Lance, Lavigne, Lyman, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Perkins, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Soboleski, Thorne, Wadsworth, White J, White R, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Gifford, Julia, Lanigan, Paul, Sayre, Underwood.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 103; No, 41; Absent, 6; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

103 having voted in the affirmative and 41 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent and 1 restricted, the Majority **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.

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Majority Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Expand Municipal Authority over Utility Pole Permits" (H.P. 559) (L.D. 873)

Signed:

Senators:

LAWRENCE of York  
GROHOSKI of Hancock

Representatives:

SACHS of Freeport  
FOSTER of Dexter  
GEIGER of Rockland  
KESSLER of South Portland  
MCINTYRE of Lowell  
RUNTE of York  
WADSWORTH of Hiram  
WARREN of Scarborough  
WEBB of Durham

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

Signed:

Senator:

HARRINGTON of York

Representative:

PAUL of Winterport

**READ.**

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Remove the 5 Cent Fee for Bags in Retail Stores" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 20) (L.D. 56)

Signed:

Senators:

TEPLER of Sagadahoc  
BRENNER of Cumberland

Representatives:

DOUDERA of Camden  
ANKELES of Brunswick  
BELL of Yarmouth  
BRIDGEO of Augusta  
OSHER of Orono  
RIELLY of Westbrook

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

Signed:

Senator:

MARTIN of Oxford

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 Not to Pass** Report.

Representative LEMELIN of Chelsea **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 Chelsea, Representative Lemelin.

Representative **LEMELIN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in opposition to the pending motion. This bill has nothing to do with the environment, so, I'm surprised it even went to this Committee.

The five-cent bag fee was only imposed to help small businesses recoup the supposed increased cost of paper over plastic. These small stores now don't even charge the fee. The fee serves no purpose. A few; and I mean very few; say they hate the fee, but it gets them to remember their bags. The other 99% of Mainers should not be hassled for the few who feel that they just can't remember their bags. This bill has nothing to do with plastic, paper, reusable bags; nothing. All it has to do is to do what the people of Maine want, and that is just to remove the five-cent bag fee. So, I ask everybody to please follow my light and help remove this fee, which is more of a nuisance and it doesn't help anyone. Thank you.

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

Representative **CAMPBELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. Just a little history. This, as mentioned, five-cent fee imposed by the Legislature was basically a reward to the vendors, the retailers, to make the change. We imposed the fact that you can no longer use what both the retailers and the customers enjoy: the plastic bag. And what has happened is this five-cent has become an irritant to the customers and a pain to the retailers. By removing this five-cent whatever you want to call it, we want to do that to benefit all the stakeholders, both the customers and the retailers. So, like

before; as been mentioned; I recommend we defeat the motion and go on to Accept the Ought to Pass Report. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Camden, Representative Doudera.

Representative **DOUDERA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker; as we've heard; LD 56 removes the five-cent fee that retailers can charge for providing a single-use paper or reusable plastic film carry-out bag that's associated with our existing single-use plastic bag reduction law. And that law has been incredibly successful. The Department of Environmental Protection said that the law has accomplished the goals that we wanted, which was substantially reducing the use of single-use plastics and the resulting waste stream, minimizing their impact on that, as well as reducing litter on our roads in Maine.

Regarding the repeal of the fee, Mr. Speaker, the fee serves two purposes. First, it acts as a reminder for consumers to bring their reusable bags back to the store, and studies have shown that a small fee does lead to a successful reduction in people buying bags and in them using their carry-out bags. The second purpose of the fee was to provide an even playing field for small stores in relation to the larger stores, so that they're better able to absorb the cost of allowing paper and/or reusable bags for customers who forget their bags. The fee is kept by the store and can be used for any purpose, including towards the purchasing of these bags.

And I want to let you know, Mr. Speaker, also that, you know, the Maine Retailers Association and the Maine Grocers Association, they are against removing this five-cent fee. They recognize the value of it and, you know, just remind everyone that consumers aren't required to pay the fee. Reusable bags are broadly used across the stores, people who forget to bring their reusable bags can buy them if they want, they can carry items by hand, they can use a cardboard box or they can load merchandise directly into their vehicles. But, you know, this has been a tremendous success, and we don't want to tinker with success, and I urge my colleagues to join with me in the Majority Ought Not to Pass motion. Thank you.

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

Representative **CIMINO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I do not support this five-cent tax. I think it is a tax on folks, and I do know that it affects low-income people, who are barely getting by trying to make their grocery purchases. And, you know, it's not just one bag. Some people require four bags. So, to me, this is unnecessary, and I do not support this bill.

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. 70**

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, 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, 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, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, 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 - Gifford, Julia, Lanigan, Sayre, Underwood.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 76; No, 69; Absent, 5; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

76 having voted in the affirmative and 69 voted in the negative, with 5 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Repeal the Law Restricting the Use of Certain Plastic, Paper and Single-use Bags"

(H.P. 33) (L.D. 69)

Signed:

Senators:

TEPLER of Sagadahoc  
BRENNER of Cumberland

Representatives:

DOUDERA of Camden  
ANKELES of Brunswick  
BELL of Yarmouth  
BRIDGEO of Augusta  
OSHER of Orono  
RIELLY of Westbrook  
WOODSOME of Waterboro

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

Signed:

Senator:

MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

CAMPBELL of Orrington  
SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico  
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

**READ.**

Representative DOUDERA of Camden moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative BAGSHAW of Windham **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**: Does the Member wish to speak?

Representative **BAGSHAW**: I would.

The **SPEAKER**: The Member may proceed. Just from the Chair, so, I realize this is the first day we've had a pretty jam-packed Divided Report Calendar. If you hit your button to speak, you don't have to touch it again. We will turn it on for you. So, I know some folks have not participated in debate to this point, and I just want to provide that guidance that if you press it once, it will turn on eventually. The Member may proceed.

Representative **BAGSHAW**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I rise today in opposition to the pending motion on my bill.

I had constituents from both sides of the aisle reach out to me and ask me to put this in, and then when I did put it in, they

thanked me. "An Act to Repeal the Law;" LD 69; "Restricting the Use of Certain Plastic, Paper and Single-use Bags." The issue of plastic bags keeps coming back up, because it doesn't make good common sense. There are a number of issues with this law. When my bill was enacted, the State made the purchase of five cents per bag mandatory, but the retailers can do whatever they want with that money. If you choose paper; the alternative; which is weaker than their predecessor, they rip easily; very easily; and are added to waste. Why? The opposition cites litter is the primary purpose for this ban of plastic bags. If people oppose the reinstatement of the use of these bags because others leave them on the side of the road, that's called littering and has nothing to do with the fact that it's a plastic bag. Instead of banning plastic bags, we should address the littering problem. Many of my constituents said that they would reuse the bags in small garbage cans and carry lunches, wrap diapers, dog poop and so forth. I've heard people express that this is an unnecessary ban. Let's face it, the bags are versatile.

We could pressure institutions to make better choices and create a better bag that could make them biodegradable. A lot of states have that, it says right on them, won't go in a landfill, biodegradable, yada-yada. Only 11 other states have joined this unnecessary ban. I've heard a lot of people that live near the Maine-New Hampshire border, they go to New Hampshire. Another reason for them to shop in New Hampshire rather than in Maine.

I believe we lawmakers should think long and hard before enforcing draconian rules and regulations. Plastic bags are popular with a lot of people, and we should not try to overregulate people. We should allow them to have their freedoms to use the products, especially since we don't have a suitable replacement for them. We should lift the restrictions and focus instead on better ways to recycle.

Oops, I took it out of order. Anyway, you can bring your own plastic bags with you, but we learned under COVID, they get dirty and they suspended the use of those bags. So, an article by *American Consumer Institute* research said, "using retail scanner data, the researchers found that CGB regulations have led to an average increase of purchased plastics;" 127 pounds per month, ranging from 30 to 135 pounds for the four-gallon bags and 37 to 224 pounds for the eight-gallon bags. These are suggested as spillover effects on other unregulated waste. Studies finding that the plastic bag regulations are inconvenient for customers, but may also fail to succeed in their primary mission to reduce plastic waste. And let's face it, you go into your grocery store, you pick up your potatoes in a plastic bag, you get vegetables, you shove them in a plastic bag, your meat's wrapped in plastic bag, crackers are wrapped in plastic; all your foods are in plastic. So, this is another example of unnecessary overregulation, and I hope you can follow my light and support this bill. And Mr. Speaker, I'd like to pose a question through the Chair.

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

Representative **BAGSHAW**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Can anybody answer how the plastic bag is more dangerous than the plastic-wrapped foods that you put in the bag? Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Representative from Windham, Representative Bagshaw, has posed a question through the Chair to any Member who wishes to answer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Orrington, Representative Campbell.

Representative **CAMPBELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. Back when we were considering

and then accomplished the plastic bag ban, I did a count from Augusta to Bangor of plastics. The significant amount of plastics then were sheetrock mud buckets, plastic pails, plastic blue tarps, four-mil/six-mil plastic strewn up against the fence and; of course; I counted the plastic bags in trees; the banned, recycled-product plastic bags in trees. And yes, there were a few. So, this morning, as I left Bangor from I-395 to 95, before I got to Dysart's, which was basically the Bangor line, I saw three plastic bags in trees. Well, there's been a ban on this. We've taken the convenience away, and there's still plastic.

Plastic is something we're going to learn to live with. Plastic bags in trees, yes, have diminished, but they're not gone. So, let's give the people and the vendors back their convenience.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Camden, Representative Doudera.

Representative **DOUDERA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in opposition to removing the plastic bag ban, which has been tremendously successful.

Our Committee heard from people across the State urging us to keep the plastic bag ban in place. And the reason is, is that the goal of this original law was to substantially reduce the use of single-use plastics and the resulting waste stream through reduction and reuse, which are the top rungs of our solid waste hierarchy. I agree with one of the speakers; one of my colleagues; who said that there is plastic everywhere, there's too much plastic. This is taking a stab at eliminating some of that single-use plastic, and it is doing it very, very well. As I said before, the Department of Environmental Protection considers this a success. We've accomplished the goals, and we've had the benefit of reducing single-use plastic being used in Maine.

I want to also just say quickly; reiterate again; that the businesses that deal with these plastic bags do not want us to remove the ban. And the reason for this is prior to our statewide law, 25 Maine municipalities adopted local ordinances regulating plastic bags, and repealing this ban now would open the policy landscape back up to a patchwork of municipal regulations, making compliance more difficult and creating a lot of confusions. So, you know, we have seen that some retailers; Lowe's, Sam's Clubs; have been operating successfully without providing bags at checkout at all, proving that we can all change our habits over time. So, I urge my colleagues to vote Ought Not to Pass on this measure. Thank you very much.

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. 71**

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, 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, 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, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, 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 - Collamore, Gifford, Julia, Lanigan, Runte, Underwood.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 77; No, 67; Absent, 6; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

77 having voted in the affirmative and 67 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Protect Coastal Property by Allowing Property Owners to Protect Their Existing Dwellings"

(H.P. 317) (L.D. 488)

Signed:

Senators:

TEPLER of Sagadahoc  
BRENNER of Cumberland

Representatives:

DOUDERA of Camden  
ANKELES of Brunswick  
BELL of Yarmouth  
BRIDGEO of Augusta  
OSHER of Orono  
RIELLY of Westbrook

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

Signed:

Senator:

MARTIN of Oxford

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 Not to Pass** Report.

Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor **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. 72**

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Foley, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, 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, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, 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 - Collamore, Gifford, Hymes, Julia, Lanigan, Perkins, Underwood.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 78; No, 65; Absent, 7; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

78 having voted in the affirmative and 65 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Require Rules Designed to Reduce Climate Change to Include Estimates of the Reduction in Adverse Climate Effects and of the Cost to Consumers" (H.P. 324) (L.D. 495)

Signed:

Senators:

TEPLER of Sagadahoc  
BRENNER of Cumberland

Representatives:

DOUDERA of Camden  
ANKELES of Brunswick  
BELL of Yarmouth  
BRIDGEO of Augusta  
OSHER of Orono  
RIELLY of Westbrook  
WOODSOME of Waterboro

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

Signed:

Senator:

MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico  
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

**READ.**

Representative DOUDERA of Camden moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative CAMPBELL of Orrington **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. 73**

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

Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, 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, Foster, Foley, Fredrick, Fredericks, Fredette, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, 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 - Gifford, Hymes, Julia, Lanigan, Montell, Underwood.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 76; No, 68; Absent, 6; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

76 having voted in the affirmative and 68 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Allow for Rescission of a Site Location of Development Permit When a Development Is Decommissioned" (H.P. 447) (L.D. 708)

Signed:

Senators:

TEPLER of Sagadahoc  
BRENNER of Cumberland  
MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

DOUDERA of Camden  
ANKELES of Brunswick  
BELL of Yarmouth  
BRIDGEO of Augusta  
OSHER of Orono  
RIELLY of Westbrook  
SOBOLESKI of Phillips  
WOODSOME of Waterboro

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

Signed:

Representatives:

CAMPBELL of Orrington  
SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico

**READ.**

On motion of Representative DOUDERA of Camden, the Majority **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.

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-40)** on RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish That All Maine Residents Have Equal Rights Under the Law

(H.P. 163) (L.D. 260)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland  
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth  
LEE of Auburn  
PUGH of Portland  
SATO of Gorham  
SINCLAIR of Bath

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

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

BABIN of Fort Fairfield  
CARUSO of Caratunk  
HENDERSON of Rumford  
O'HALLORAN of Brewer  
POIRIER of Skowhegan

**READ.**

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

Representative **LIBBY**: Mr. Speaker, I object.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair would inquire as to the Representative from Auburn's objection.

Representative **LIBBY**: The Representative from Auburn had hit her button to make a motion.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair would inquire as to what the motion was.

Representative **LIBBY**: The motion was to request a Roll Call to the Tabling motion.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair would inquire as to whether or not the Member would like to Reconsider our actions whereas this item was Tabled.

Representative **LIBBY**: The Member would.

Representative **LIBBY** of Auburn moved that the House **RECONSIDER** its action whereby the RESOLUTION was **TABLED** pending **ACCEPTANCE** of either Report.

Representative **MOONEN** of Portland **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **RECONSIDER** the House's action whereby the RESOLUTION was **TABLED** pending **ACCEPTANCE** of either 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 Reconsideration of our action whereby the Resolution was Tabled pending Acceptance of either Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

**ROLL CALL NO. 74**

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

Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, 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, Mr. Speaker.

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

ABSENT - Gifford, Julia, Lanigan, Underwood.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 71; No, 75; Absent, 4; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

71 having voted in the affirmative and 75 voted in the negative, with 4 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the motion to **RECONSIDER** the House's action whereby the RESOLUTION was **TABLED** pending **ACCEPTANCE** of either Report **FAILED**.

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Repeal the Law Prohibiting Unauthorized Paramilitary Training"

(H.P. 203) (L.D. 303)

Signed:

Senator:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

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** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

CYRWAY of Kennebec

Representatives:

ARDELL of Monticello  
MCINTYRE of Lowell  
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

**READ.**

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

Representative **NUTTING** of Oakland **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 Guilford, Representative White.

Representative **WHITE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I apologize for standing out of order earlier.

Just quickly on this bill, this law that's now in place, there's been a lot of media about it, a lot of misinformation about it. The reason I put in this bill to repeal is because it is so vague. This leaves the decision up to one person, and that person being the current Attorney General. That Attorney General; be it this or one in the future; by their perception, may determine that two or more people that are together have intent to do something violent in the future. There's a lot of words about guns and bombs and building and practicing, but when you whittle out all of the distraction in this law, the only bar that needs to be met to charge someone, or two people, with this is the Attorney General perceiving that two individuals are planning to do violence in the future. That is the only bar that's set forth in the way this law is written. It has nothing to do with hate crimes, with any individual group or all groups. It has totally to do with one individual's perception of what two other individuals are planning to do in the future, and it's just wrong to have a law in the books that gives anyone that kind of authority.

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

Representative **OSHER**: The Maine Constitution explicitly states that "no standing army shall be kept up in time of peace without the consent of the Legislature, and the military shall, in all cases, and at all times, be in strict subordination to the civil power." This bill seeks to repeal the Statute created by LD 2130, An Act to Prohibit Unauthorized Paramilitary Training that passed last year.

Prior to passing LD 2130, our laws did not provide the power for Maine's law enforcement professionals to prevent people from engaging in paramilitary training here in Maine for the purpose of civil unrest. I sponsored LD 2130 after a white supremacist leader from Ohio purchased property in Springfield, Maine, less than 60 miles from my district. He began a social media campaign to raise funds to build a paramilitary training facility here in our State. That man sold the property after significant public outcry and concern in response to his plans. His goal of training wannabe militia members to prepare for a coming race war highlighted the need for Maine Legislature to clarify in Statute what is allowed in Maine. Our Constitution explicitly prohibits armies that do not have consent of the Legislature, and our Legislature has not called for a militia to be created. The bill that I sponsored last session passed both the House and the Other Body and was signed into law by the Chief Executive, Janet Mills. It ensured such activity could be prevented and stopped.

The facility that was planned in Springfield wasn't the only one. While in Aroostook County earlier this year on the legislators' tour organized by the Maine Development Foundation, I met a community leader there who reported that another white supremacist leader from away had purchased land near the UMPI campus and was planning to build a paramilitary training camp there. People were frightened when they heard about it and then relieved that the project was scrapped after LD 2130 passed. Repealing the law would put their community and the Springfield community on edge again. Repealing the law to prohibit unauthorized paramilitary training would remove the power now granted to the criminal justice and public safety professionals in Maine to protect Maine citizens from these types of activities. Please follow my light and vote against this bill.

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

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For those who don't know what they're voting on, I wanted to give a brief list of paramilitary units that they're voting not to have here

in the State of Maine. Central Intelligence Agency's Special Activities Center, Special Operations Group; Department of Education, Federal Protective Forces; Department of Education, Office of Special Transportation; Federal Bureau of Investigation's Special Weapons and Tactics Team; Federal Bureau of Investigation Hostage Rescue Teams; United States Marshals Service and National Lancers. Those are the types of groups that are considered paramilitary that will no longer be allowed here in Maine. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Readfield, Representative Hasenfus.

Representative **HASENFUS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We don't need violent extremism of any kind in Maine, and Maine must affirm and loudly proclaim that this State will not tolerate violence of any kind, especially not large-scale political violence to harm property or harm individuals.

Now, the Good Representative from Guilford said that some of his concern with the Statute we enacted in the 131st was that it is vague, and I don't interpret this as a vague Statute. I interpret this the same as it would any other criminal law. Meaning that the prosecutor; it is not just the Attorney General, it'd be any prosecutor in the State of Maine; could bring an action under this law that the maximum penalty would be a misdemeanor crime punishable by up to one year in prison. And with any criminal procedure, there are the necessary constitutional protections that a defendant is entitled to. One of those is that the State must prove its case beyond a reasonable doubt. And in proving its case, it must prove every single element of that crime beyond a reasonable doubt. Namely, the State must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that individuals gathered or trained with the express intent of perpetrating an act of violence that put people or property in immediate danger. If there is any doubt that that's what that group was doing, they're not guilty. If there is no act of violence, there is no crime. This Statute essentially says if you are gathering to plan violent actions that cause civil disorder, that is against the law. That is as far as this Statute goes. And may I reiterate, if there is no intent to commit violence, there is no crime and no authority to pursue this Statute. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **MALON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to advise my colleagues that none of the organizations that the Representative from Carmel mentioned are actually prohibited by the law we passed last Legislature. Thank you.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A well-regulated militia. Militia: A militia is a military or paramilitary force that comprises civilian members, as opposed to professional standing army of full military personnel. "A well-regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." Vote no on the pending motion.

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

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would just say that unless it is not written, it's not specified, so, in order for the Representative that stood up that corrected me; unless I see that in writing in the bill that they're not included, they are considered paramilitary groups. And yes, a lot of times they do incite violence in order to accomplish their mission, and that they are not part of the military; therefore, they are paramilitary, and they do help our society, and by this law, they would not be excluded. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Palermo, Representative Smith.

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

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **SMITH**: If two or more people are gathered to blow up a Tesla, does that mean they are a paramilitary organization?

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Palermo, Representative Smith, has posed a question through the Chair to any Member who wishes to answer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Readfield, Representative Hasenfus.

Representative **HASENFUS**: Mr. Speaker, the beauty of this law is that it does not differentiate based on what the political motives of the organization would be. So, if two or more people are gathering and training in using incendiary devices on how to blow up a Tesla, then yes, they may be; it is possible; if all of the elements of the crime are there, that they could be charged under this Statute.

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

Representative **WHITE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to rise a second time. May I pose a question to the Body through the Chair?

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **WHITE**: Is there a method in which a paramilitary organization could become authorized, since this is a law against unauthorized paramilitaries?

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Guilford, Representative White, has posed a question through the Chair to any Member who wishes to answer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Readfield, Representative Hasenfus.

Representative **HASENFUS**: Yes, the Legislature and the Chief Executive may authorize militaries. There is also a constitutional provision in the Maine Constitution, which states that "no standing army shall be kept in time of peace without the consent of the Legislature, and the military shall, in all cases, and at all times, be in strict subordination to the civil power."

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. 75

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, 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, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pluecker, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Sinclair, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell,

Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Gifford, Julia, Lanigan, Underwood.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 74; No, 72; Absent, 4; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 72 voted in the negative, with 4 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

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

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#### CONSENT CALENDAR

##### First Day

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

(H.P. 495) (L.D. 765) Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 54) (L.D. 90) Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 6: Delegation of Nursing Activities and Tasks to Unlicensed Assistive Personnel by Registered Professional Nurses, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, State Board of Nursing (EMERGENCY) Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-41)**

(H.P. 174) (L.D. 271) Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 12: Fees for Kickboxing Contests and Authorized Participants, a Major Substantive Rule of the Combat Sports Authority of Maine (EMERGENCY) Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-38)**

(H.P. 175) (L.D. 272) Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 2: Fees for Muay Thai Contests and Authorized Participants, a Major Substantive Rule of the Combat Sports Authority of Maine (EMERGENCY) Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-37)**

(H.P. 193) (L.D. 293) Bill "An Act to Eliminate the Debt Limit of the Boothbay Region Water District" Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-39)**

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

There being no objection, the House Papers were **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** or **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended** and sent for concurrence.

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**ENACTORS**

**Resolves**

Resolve, to Name a Railroad Crossing in Wiscasset the James Weldon Johnson Crossing

(S.P. 109) (L.D. 243)

Resolve, to Rename the Shapleigh Bridge the Shapleigh Veterans Memorial Bridge

(S.P. 249) (L.D. 569)

Resolve, to Rename the Salmon Falls Bridge Between Buxton and Hollis the Salmon Falls Veterans Memorial Bridge

(S.P. 285) (L.D. 672)

Resolve, to Rename the Mill Pond Bridge the Sebago Veterans Memorial Bridge

(S.P. 302) (L.D. 685)

Resolve, to Rename the Kezar Falls Bridge Between Porter and Parsonsfield the Kezar Falls Veterans Memorial Bridge

(S.P. 303) (L.D. 686)

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

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

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

**SENATE PAPERS**

Bill "An Act to Support Farmland Conservation"

(S.P. 612) (L.D. 1528)

Bill "An Act to Enhance the Protection of High-value Natural Resources Statewide"

(S.P. 613) (L.D. 1529)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** and ordered printed.

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** in concurrence.

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Bill "An Act to Create a State Employee Compensation Stabilization Fund"

(S.P. 623) (L.D. 1539)

Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** suggested and ordered printed.

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** and ordered printed.

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** in concurrence.

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Bill "An Act to Allow the Emergency Medical Services' Board to Assess Civil Penalties for the Noncompliance of Emergency Medical Services Persons with the Requirement to Administer Naloxone Hydrochloride in Compliance with Trainings and Procedures Developed by the Board"

(S.P. 593) (L.D. 1452)

Bill "An Act to Change the Permissible Hours and Penalties Pertaining to the Use of Consumer Fireworks"

(S.P. 610) (L.D. 1526)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Bail"

(S.P. 620) (L.D. 1536)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** and ordered printed.

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** in concurrence.

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Bill "An Act to Ensure the Retention of R1 Research Institution Status by the University of Maine"

(S.P. 617) (L.D. 1533)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** in concurrence.

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Bill "An Act to Reduce Illegal Cannabis Operations by Requiring Permits for High Electrical Usage"

(S.P. 619) (L.D. 1535)

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

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** in concurrence.

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Bill "An Act Regarding Compensation Fees and Related Conservation Efforts for Solar and Wind Energy Development and High-impact Electric Transmission Lines Under the Site Location of Development Laws"

(S.P. 599) (L.D. 1458)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** and ordered printed.

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** in concurrence.

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Resolve, Regarding Personal Care Agency Licensing Rules

(S.P. 583) (L.D. 1442)

Bill "An Act to Ensure the Financial Stability of Behavioral Health Service Providers and Housing Assistance Providers" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 584) (L.D. 1443)

Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Expedite Reimbursement of All Vendors

(S.P. 588) (L.D. 1447)

Bill "An Act to Support Community Violence Prevention and Intervention Programs"

(S.P. 602) (L.D. 1487)

Resolve, to Provide Stability to Long-term Care Facility Funding (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 604) (L.D. 1489)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** and ordered printed.

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Prevent Financial Exploitation of Maine Residents 62 Years of Age or Older" (S.P. 586) (L.D. 1445)

Bill "An Act to Improve the Sustainability of Emergency Medical Services in Maine" (S.P. 614) (L.D. 1530)

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

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** in concurrence.

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Resolve, to Establish the Innovative Factory-made Housing Working Group (S.P. 594) (L.D. 1453)

Bill "An Act Enabling Municipalities to Protect Tenants and Stabilize Rents" (S.P. 618) (L.D. 1534)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** and ordered printed.

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** in concurrence.

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Bill "An Act to Provide Winter Access to the Bog Lake Public Boat Launch in Northfield" (S.P. 589) (L.D. 1448)

Bill "An Act to Expand the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Outdoor Education Programs to Schools and Communities" (S.P. 616) (L.D. 1532)

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

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

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Bill "An Act to Prevent Foreclosures Without Strict Compliance with Notice Requirements" (S.P. 585) (L.D. 1444)

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

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

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Bill "An Act to Fairly Compensate Teachers for Overtime Hours" (S.P. 607) (L.D. 1492)

Bill "An Act to Index Unemployment Benefits to the Unemployment Rate" (S.P. 622) (L.D. 1538)

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

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

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Resolve, Requiring the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services to Conduct a Study of the State's Grant, Contracting and Procurement Practices (S.P. 590) (L.D. 1449)

Bill "An Act to Redefine 'Term' in the Law Governing Term Limits for Constitutional Offices"

(S.P. 595) (L.D. 1454)  
Bill "An Act to Validate Certain Referendum Proceedings Conducted by the City of South Portland" (EMERGENCY) (S.P. 601) (L.D. 1483)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** and ordered printed.

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** in concurrence.

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Bill "An Act to Provide a Tax Credit for New Attorneys Practicing in Underserved Areas" (S.P. 606) (L.D. 1491)

Bill "An Act to Eliminate Tax and Wage Incentives for Visual Media Production Companies" (S.P. 608) (L.D. 1493)

Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study Lowering Property Taxes by Revising the State-Municipal Revenue Sharing Program (S.P. 621) (L.D. 1537)

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

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

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Bill "An Act to Strengthen Coordination of Community Transportation" (S.P. 592) (L.D. 1451)

Resolve, to Allow the Maine Turnpike Authority to Conduct a Pilot Program to Implement Automated Speed Control Systems in Highway Work Zones (S.P. 598) (L.D. 1457)

Bill "An Act to Better Protect Animal-drawn Vehicles and Motorists on Public Roadways" (S.P. 615) (L.D. 1531)

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

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

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RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Lower the Voting Age to 16 Years of Age (S.P. 587) (L.D. 1446)

Bill "An Act to Prevent Illegal Cannabis Growing Operations in the State" (S.P. 596) (L.D. 1455)

Bill "An Act to Expand the Number of On-premises Retail Liquor Licenses a Liquor Manufacturer May Be Issued" (S.P. 597) (L.D. 1456)

Bill "An Act Regarding Cannabis Testing and the Manufacture of Cannabis and Hemp Products" (S.P. 603) (L.D. 1488)

Bill "An Act to Allow Nonprofit Organizations to Sell Progressive Pull-tab Games and to Offer Partner-assisted Beano and to Establish New Guidelines for the Expansion of Gambling" (EMERGENCY) (S.P. 605) (L.D. 1490)

Bill "An Act to Require Postage Prepaid Envelopes Be Provided for the Return of Absentee Ballots" (S.P. 611) (L.D. 1527)

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

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

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

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On motion of Representative HEPLER of Woolwich, the House adjourned at 12:42 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Thursday, April 10, 2025, in honor and lasting tribute to Julia "Judy" Kahrl of Arrowsic.