

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
9th Legislative Day
Tuesday, April 22, 2025

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

Prayer by Pastor Cornell Preda, Seventh-day Adventist Church, Farmington.

National Anthem by Isla Haynes and Nora Haynes, Poland.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Medical Provider of the Day, Kendra Paradis, DO, Orrington.

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

The Journal of Thursday, April 17, 2025 was read and approved.

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 609)

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAINE'S REALTORS

WHEREAS, the Maine Association of REALTORS® has more than 6,500 members actively involved in the business of real estate, with members and affiliates including lenders, appraisers, title companies, building inspectors, surveyors and insurance providers; and

WHEREAS, the not-for-profit trade association provides each member with an equal voice and representation in the real estate profession, serving members in all 16 Maine counties and in their communities; and

WHEREAS, a healthy supply of affordable, safe, secure and high-quality residential and commercial real estate inventory statewide supports the continuing growth of Maine's economy; and

WHEREAS, real estate transactions stimulate Maine's economy and include not only the money spent and reinvested in the sale price of a property but all those services and expenditures that occur in relation to a property transaction, for both a buyer and a seller; and

WHEREAS, according to national statistics, it is estimated that one job is generated for every 2 home sales, each home sale contributes about \$170,100 to the economy and the real estate industry accounts for 19.5% of the gross state product; and

WHEREAS, the real estate market in Maine is strong, as evidenced by the number of home sales and the overall impact on Maine's economy in 2024 of 18.3 billion dollars; and

WHEREAS, real estate ownership is an investment in the future and one of the best ways to build financial security through equity accumulation, and for many in Maine their real property ownership represents their life savings; and

WHEREAS, expanding real property ownership will strengthen our State and its families and communities, enhance our economy and create jobs; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, take this opportunity to recognize the Maine Association of REALTORS® and its members for their positive contributions to and the significant role they play in the lives of

Maine citizens and their communities and that their service and dedication to this State are a tribute to those values and principles that we all hold dear; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Maine Association of REALTORS® and Maine's 12 local association boards and councils.

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

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 662)

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING
ACCESS TO JUSTICE DAY PRESENTED BY
MAINE'S JUSTICE ACTION GROUP**

WHEREAS, the year 2025 marks the 30th anniversary of Maine's Justice Action Group, a judge-led coalition of leaders from Maine's legal community who are passionate about helping all Maine people have access to civil justice; and

WHEREAS, the coalition members include representatives of the state and federal judiciary, the Legislature, nonprofit civil legal aid providers, the University of Maine School of Law, the Maine Justice Foundation, the Maine State Bar Association, the Maine Trial Lawyers Association, private practice attorneys and others; and

WHEREAS, key initiator Judge Frank Coffin described the Justice Action Group as a catalyst, something introduced in small quantities that produces great change, and the Justice Action Group has been an advocate for equal access to justice since 1995; and

WHEREAS, equal access to justice is a bedrock principle of a free, constitutional society, and no system of laws and constitutional protections can be effective if only those who can afford private advocates have access to justice; and

WHEREAS, because justice for all is achievable only through the vigilance and action of the legislative, judicial and executive branches of government, it is important to provide for access to justice in all branches of State Government; and

WHEREAS, providing equal access to justice has tangible, widespread benefits for Maine's families, children, schools, communities, businesses, charities, government and economy; and

WHEREAS, legal issues profoundly affect basic human needs such as safety from violence and exploitation, security and stability for children and the families in which they are nurtured, health, shelter and food security; and

WHEREAS, the need for increased support for civil legal aid and pro bono representation for low-income and vulnerable Maine people remains acute; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, on behalf of the people we represent, pause to declare April 17, 2025 as Access to Justice Day and to acknowledge and express our appreciation and strong support for Maine's civil legal aid providers and private practice attorneys who provide pro bono services for those otherwise unable to afford legal representation; and be it further

RESOLVED: That a suitable copy of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Justice Action Group.

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

Bill "An Act Regarding the Voluntary Municipal Farm Support Program"

(S.P. 591) (L.D. 1450)

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.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 138)

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

April 17, 2025
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,
Pursuant to my authority under EO 2, FY 24/25, I am pleased to appoint Representative Mathew McIntyre of Lowell to the *Maine Artificial Intelligence Task Force*, effective immediately. Representative McIntyre will serve as a member of the House of Representatives who is from one of the two parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature. Should you have any questions regarding these appointments, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,
S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 139)

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

April 22, 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:"

- Energy, Utilities and Technology
- L.D. 257 An Act to Eliminate the Practice of Net Energy Billing
- L.D. 450 An Act to Lower Electricity Costs by Repealing the Laws Governing Net Energy Billing
- L.D. 1309 An Act to Increase the Membership of the Public Utilities Commission to 5 Members
- State and Local Government
- L.D. 1244 An Act to Establish Requirements for Warming Shelters
- Transportation
- L.D. 511 Resolve, to Direct the Department of Transportation to Implement the Recommendations of the Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council

L.D. 956 Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Implement the Recommendation of the Calais Branch Rail Use Advisory Council to Create a Multi-use Trail

L.D. 1384 Resolve, Directing the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Transportation to Examine Motor Vehicle Accidents Involving Pedestrians

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

READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 140)

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

April 22, 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 18, 2025

M. Wing Goodale of Rockport, James Andrews of Farmington, Joseph Powers of Mapleton, Scott Ireland of Vassalboro, Catherine M. Gordon of Bangor, David Craven of Bucks Harbor, Eric Ward of Harfords Point Township, Anthony Liguori of Kennebunk and Michael Gawtry of Yarmouth to the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Advisory Council.

Pursuant to Title 12, MRSA §10151, these nominations are contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

Nancy Harrison of Veazie, and Noël Bonam of Portland for reappointment as Commissioners of the Maine State Housing Authority.

Pursuant to Title 30-A, MRSA §4723.2, these nominations are contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development.

Sincerely,
S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

At this point, a message came from the Senate borne by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland of that Body, proposing a Joint Convention of both branches of the Legislature to be held in the Hall of the House on Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at 10:00 in the morning for the purpose of honoring Franco-American Day.

Thereupon the House voted to concur in the proposal for a Joint Convention to be held at 10:00 in the morning and the Speaker appointed Representative MOONEN of Portland to convey this message to the Senate.

PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE

Bill "An Act to Protect Recreational Trails by Establishing the Trails for the Future Program"

(H.P. 1180) (L.D. 1762)

Sponsored by Representative BLIER of Buxton.
Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and Representatives: DRINKWATER of Milford, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, MASON of Lisbon, PLUECKER of Warren, ROBERTS of South Berwick, Senators: BALDACCI of Penobscot, President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, HICKMAN of Kennebec.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Support Maine's Agricultural Sector, to Create an Agricultural Buildings Property Tax Exemption and to Direct the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Study Barriers to Its Financial Assistance Programs and Study the Potential for a Common Application for Those Programs"

(H.P. 1157) (L.D. 1739)

Sponsored by Representative PLUECKER of Warren.
Cosponsored by Representatives: COOPER of Windham, CRAY of Palmyra, DILL of Old Town, FROST of Belgrade, JACKSON of Oxford.

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.

Resolve, Directing the Department of Corrections to Study Achieving Gender Equality

(H.P. 1167) (L.D. 1749)

Sponsored by Representative MACIAS of Topsham.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Establish the Maine Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics Matching Grant Program"

(H.P. 1158) (L.D. 1740)

Sponsored by Representative SAYRE of Kennebunk.
Cosponsored by Representatives: DUCHARME of Madison, GERE of Kennebunkport, KUHN of Falmouth, NUTTING of Oakland, ROBERTS of South Berwick, SARGENT of York, Senator: CURRY of Waldo.

Bill "An Act to Establish the Upper St. John Valley Recovery High School Program"

(H.P. 1171) (L.D. 1753)

Sponsored by Representative DAIGLE of Fort Kent. (BY REQUEST)

Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: DEBRITO of Waterville, GRIFFIN of Levant, JAVNER of Chester, LEMELIN of Chelsea, TUELL of East Machias.

Bill "An Act to Allow Firefighters to Be Eligible for State College Funding"

(H.P. 1177) (L.D. 1759)

Sponsored by Representative HYMES of Waldo.

Cosponsored by Representative: LANCE of Paris.

Bill "An Act to Promote Public Education in Maine by Amending the Laws Governing Student Transfers"

(H.P. 1178) (L.D. 1760)

Sponsored by Representative HAGGAN of Hampden.
Cosponsored by Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot and Representatives: BAGSHAW of Windham, GRIFFIN of Levant, LYMAN of Livermore Falls, MINGO of Calais, SOBOLESKI of Phillips, TUELL of East Machias, Senators: LIBBY of Cumberland, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin.

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.

Subsequently, Representative MOONEN of Portland reported that he had delivered the message with which he was charged.

Bill "An Act to Repeal and Replace the Charter of the Yarmouth Water District"

(H.P. 1165) (L.D. 1747)

Sponsored by Representative BELL of Yarmouth.

Cosponsored by Representative: GRAHAM of North Yarmouth.
Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** suggested and ordered printed.

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Establish the Biohazard Waste Disposal Grant Program to Support Public Health Efforts in the State"

(H.P. 1156) (L.D. 1738)

Sponsored by Representative RANA of Bangor.
Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York and Representatives: DAIGLE of Fort Kent, DEBRITO of Waterville, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, MCCABE of Lewiston, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, ZAGER of Portland, Senator: MOORE of Washington.

Bill "An Act to Stabilize Residential Treatment Capacity for Children and Youth in Maine"

(H.P. 1163) (L.D. 1745)

Sponsored by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach.

Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, DEBRITO of Waterville, DUCHARME of Madison, JAVNER of Chester, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, STOVER of Boothbay, Senator: TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin.

Bill "An Act to Reduce Dental Disease and Ensure Access to Essential Preventive Dental Care Among Maine Children" (H.P. 1164) (L.D. 1746)

Sponsored by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach.

Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York and Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, DAIGLE of Fort Kent, DUCHARME of Madison, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, GATTINE of Westbrook, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, MEYER of Eliot, Senator: MOORE of Washington.

Bill "An Act to Expedite Provider Enrollment in MaineCare" (H.P. 1176) (L.D. 1758)

Sponsored by Representative ARFORD of Brunswick.

Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and Representatives: BELL of Yarmouth, DAIGLE of Fort Kent, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, JAVNER of Chester, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, ZAGER of Portland, Senators: BALDACCI of Penobscot, MOORE of Washington.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Update the Laws Governing Osteopathic Physician Licensing"

(H.P. 1175) (L.D. 1757)

Sponsored by Representative MATHIESON of Kittery.

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

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Indemnification Agreements"

(H.P. 1179) (L.D. 1761)

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.

Bill "An Act to Prohibit a State Social Media Platform Account from Restricting User Comments"

(H.P. 1160) (L.D. 1742)

Sponsored by Representative BOYER of Poland.

Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and Representatives: ADAMS of Lebanon, EDER of Waterboro, HYMES of Waldo, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, ROEDER of Bangor, SMITH of Palermo, WARREN of Scarborough.

Bill "An Act to Require the Attorney General to Create and Update Biennially a Model Residential Lease"

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

Sponsored by Representative BOYER of Poland.

Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, CARUSO of Caratunk, FOLEY of Wells, HENDERSON of Rumford, KUHN of Falmouth, LEE of Auburn, MONTELL of Gardiner, POIRIER of Skowhegan.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Enhance Businesses' Understanding of Labor Standards and Grow Maine's Energy Economy Through a Training Program"

(H.P. 1166) (L.D. 1748)

Sponsored by Representative BECK of South Portland.

Cosponsored by Representatives: ARCHER of Saco, GEIGER of Rockland, MACIAS of Topsham, ROEDER of Bangor, SKOLD of Portland, WARREN of Scarborough, WEBB of Durham, Senator: TIPPING of Penobscot.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Modify Provisions of the State Civil Service System Governing Employee Recruitment and Retention"

(H.P. 1162) (L.D. 1744)

Sponsored by Representative ROLLINS of Augusta.

Cosponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford and Representative: SALISBURY of Westbrook, Senator: BEEBE-CENTER of Knox.

Committee on **LABOR** suggested.

On motion of Representative ROEDER of Bangor, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding County Law Enforcement Administration and Rural Law Enforcement"

(H.P. 1159) (L.D. 1741)

Sponsored by Representative STOVER of Boothbay.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Allow Municipalities to Prohibit Firearms Within Their Municipal Buildings and Voting Places and at Their Municipal Public Proceedings"

(H.P. 1161) (L.D. 1743)

Sponsored by Representative ARFORD of Brunswick.

Cosponsored by Senator DUSON of Cumberland and Representatives: BECK of South Portland, BRIDGEO of Augusta, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, KUHN of Falmouth, MOONEN of Portland, ROLLINS of Augusta, Senators: CARNEY of Cumberland, TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland.

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

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

Bill "An Act to Improve the Growth Management Program Laws"

(H.P. 1169) (L.D. 1751)

Sponsored by Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick.
Cosponsored by Representatives: COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, EATON of Deer Isle, HEPLER of Woolwich, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, SALISBURY of Westbrook, Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, BRADSTREET of Kennebec, GROHOSKI of Hancock.

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.

Bill "An Act to Exempt Broadband Equipment from Sales and Use Tax"

(H.P. 1170) (L.D. 1752)

Sponsored by Representative DUCHARME of Madison.
Cosponsored by Senator BICKFORD of Androscoggin and Representatives: BLIER of Buxton, CROCKETT of Portland, FLYNN of Albion, FREDETTE of Newport, MCINTYRE of Lowell, ROBERTS of South Berwick, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, SMITH of Palermo.

Bill "An Act to Increase the Maine Historic Property Rehabilitation Tax Credit in Rural Areas"

(H.P. 1173) (L.D. 1755)

Sponsored by Representative SUPICA of Bangor.
Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset and Representatives: BLIER of Buxton, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, JULIA of Waterville, MALON of Biddeford, STROUT of Harrington, Senators: CURRY of Waldo, HICKMAN of Kennebec, STEWART of Aroostook.

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Establish a Statewide Transportation Project Selection Prioritization Process"

(H.P. 1174) (L.D. 1756)

Sponsored by Representative LEE of Auburn.
Cosponsored by Representatives: CARLOW of Buxton, EATON of Deer Isle, GERE of Kennebunkport, MONTELL of Gardiner, RAY of Lincolnville, SATO of Gorham, TERRY of Gorham, Senator: BENNETT of Oxford.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Provide for the Direct Shipment of Spirits to Consumers"

(H.P. 1172) (L.D. 1754)

Sponsored by Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston.
Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and Representatives: BOYER of Poland, DILL of Old Town, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, MURPHY of Scarborough, TERRY of Gorham, Senators: BEEBE-CENTER of Knox, HICKMAN of Kennebec, PIERCE of Cumberland.

Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

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

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

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

Recognizing:

G & E Roofing Company, Inc., of Augusta, on the celebration of the company's 50th year in business. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 203)

Presented by Representative SMITH of Palermo.
Cosponsored by Senator BRADSTREET of Kennebec, Representative BRIDGEO of Augusta, Representative ROLLINS of Augusta.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative BRIDGEO of Augusta, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Augusta, Representative Bridgeo.

Representative **BRIDGEO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Colleagues in the Maine House. I rise to add my voice to the many Mainers offering congratulations to Augusta-based G & E Roofing on the occasion of its 50 years of successful operation and; more particularly; to commend its leader and co-founder, Norm Elvin, for his steadfast devotion to the company and the community throughout the entirety of that five decades.

G & E Roofing, for those not familiar with the company, is one of the premier corporate family-based success stories both in Augusta and throughout the State. From humble beginnings, it has grown and prospered and become a model of how a Maine-based construction services company can thrive in an extremely competitive environment. But it is much more than that. Through Norm Elvin's inspired leadership, G & E Roofing wraps all of its employees; and their dependents, for that matter; in an exemplary atmosphere of caring and support. Furthermore; both Norm personally and through the company; a level of support for community causes and projects; especially those focused on the welfare of the youth of the community; has been a hallmark since the company's founding.

I am delighted that G & E Roofing has reached this milestone, and I want to publicly express my thanks and my best wishes for their continued success. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

In Memory of:

Lillian Marshall Bartlett, of Kennebunkport. In 1978, Mrs. Bartlett and her husband Carl settled in Kennebunkport. They built a family home and, with a partner, opened Port Hardware. A lifetime member of the Methodist Church, Mrs. Bartlett was a willing worker in Concord, New Hampshire at the Wesley United Methodist Church and at the Church on the Cape in Kennebunkport. She was recently recognized by the town with the Boston Post Cane. Mrs. Bartlett will be long remembered and sadly missed by her family, friends and community;

(HLS 196)

Presented by Representative GERE of Kennebunkport.
Cosponsored by Senator RAFFERTY of York.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative GERE of Kennebunkport, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Kennebunkport, Representative Gere.

Representative **GERE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Lillian Bartlett was my neighbor for 17 years and lived next door to me and was an integral part of our neighborhood. She was a strong Maine woman. Up until last year, she walked three miles a day, and when they put up her picture at the memorial service, everyone assumed it was from 20 or 30 years ago, and it was from last September.

She was a community-minded person, she was a long-time election worker and volunteered at our polls. She was a fixture there, and we looked forward to seeing her every time we went to vote. She was also known for her warm-heartedness and baked a lot of cookies for the neighborhood kids when they were all growing up. When my father-in-law moved to live with us a number of years ago and was with us for four years, they became good mailbox friends. And Lillian was the person who would update my father-in-law on everything that was going on in the neighborhood, so we would be in the loop.

We will miss her directness. She told you exactly what was on her mind at all times and was the kind of person you could really depend on for both inspiration and for caring. And when she received the Boston Post Cane Award; I don't know if everyone knows what that is, but that is a cane that is given to the oldest person in your community; and when she received that and we went over to her house, let me just say she was not happy to receive the cane, and she let everyone know that. But it was a great opportunity to really recognize all of the ways that she had contributed to our town over the years. She lived to be 99 years old, and she will be forever in our hearts. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

In Memory of:

Clare Ralph Greenlaw, of Falmouth, a pioneer in robotics and experiential STEAM education in Maine. Dr. Greenlaw's work focused on the learning sciences, Brain-Based Learning and innovative approaches to teaching pre-engineering at the secondary level. In 2024, after serving as lead mentor for Northern Force Robotics, FIRST Team 172, Dr. Greenlaw founded the STEM Coliseum and Learning Center in Portland. The facility has since gained national recognition as a leading model for making cutting-edge, experiential STEM education accessible to all students. Earlier in his career, Dr. Greenlaw worked in immunology research and product development. In 1995, he joined Cheverus High School as Director of

Admissions, later serving as Director of Institutional Advancement and teaching chemistry. He then transitioned into business leadership and strategy, with roles in e-commerce and online marketing at E I Printing, Inc., and Pyramid Checks and Printing. He also founded two companies, Precision Direct, Inc. and Panacea Solutions, LLC. Beginning in 2008, Dr. Greenlaw pursued doctoral studies in International Business at Southern New Hampshire University, where he also served as an adjunct professor. He went on to become Faculty Lead for the MBA and Undergraduate Business Administration and International Business Programs before retiring in 2023 as Dean of Business Administration and International Business Programs. Dr. Greenlaw will be long remembered and sadly missed by his family, friends and community;

(HLS 198)

Presented by Representative SAYRE of Kennebunk.
Cosponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland,
Representative KUHN of Falmouth.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative SAYRE of Kennebunk, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

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

Representative **SAYRE**: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. It's an honor to be here to talk about Clare Greenlaw. Although I only knew him briefly before his untimely passing, I got to know him as a remarkable man whose work with his wife and partner, Meredith, has made and is continuing to make an indelible impact on Maine.

Our paths crossed because of our shared work in technical education. Before serving here, I was a book publisher for over three decades, mostly in science and engineering at the university level. For years, I volunteered with the American Society for Engineering Education and served on its board and chaired its corporate member council. After leaving publishing, I ran a multi-year project for the society, funded by the National Science Foundation, to assess our nation's skilled technical workforce needs for this moment in history, what we call 'industry 4.0,' or the fourth industrial revolution. Running this program made it my job to scan the nation for the very best approaches to creating the workforce our nation needs, and I found one of these world-class examples right here in Maine: Clare's passion project, the STEM Coliseum in Portland. I can go on and on about what's amazing about the Coliseum, but I won't. Folks from the Coliseum are here today in the Hall of Flags. Please stop by after session to hear from them directly. They have robots.

The Coliseum is the enduring result of who Clare Greenlaw was as an educator and as a person. To describe him, allow me to quote one of his former students, Kai Armstrong. 'Clare always pushed you to do better, to be better, and he was always there if you needed help or support. He was a constant source of advice and encouragement that all could turn to. Clare was a perpetual teacher. He taught me almost everything I knew about engineering and even more about working with a team. He would never do something for you, he always made sure that you could do it yourself. I worked a lot with Clare. I saw just how much he cared for his students and how much he wanted the best for his team. Clare was a dear mentor and teacher of mine, and I will always remember what he has done for me and for everyone here.'

I recall that Clare had a few key phrases that we'd all do well to remember. The first is, 'find your people.' We all have something unique to bring to any community we're in, we can all make a contribution. Have confidence that any group you join

includes people you resonate with, if you just make the effort to find them. And to help kids find their people, Clare liked to ask new students, 'head or hands?' It was shorthand for, what kind of work do you want to do? He knew that everyone had an answer, and it gave kids a place to start to get started alongside others with a similar mindset. Neither answer was better; we all have something to offer with our head, with our hands, or with both; the only right answer was what was right for you.

And finally, he had this catch phrase, 'on a Tuesday.' As a leader of robotics teams, he was always helping kids cope with challenges and failures, as well as with solutions and triumphs. You had to be prepared for when a part breaks on a Tuesday or when you find a bug in your code on a Tuesday or your robot finally masters that critical task on a Tuesday. You've got to be flexible and resilient for whatever happens on a Tuesday. And so do we.

Clare Greenlaw's legacy is that hundreds of students are better people and better professionals because of his efforts, and hundreds more will be because of the institution he left behind. It's only fitting that we take this moment to honor Clare Greenlaw on a Tuesday. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

In Memory of:

Perry Elwin Wood, of Sanford. Mr. Wood devoted much of his life to public service, first working in the State's surplus food program delivering food to those in need in Sanford and the surrounding communities and later working as a manager in the Sanford branch of the Department of Human Services, where he remained until his retirement in 2009. He was active in the community, serving many years in the Sanford Lions Club and the Sanford Democratic Party, and in later years he enjoyed having spirited conversations at the Sanford Elks Club. Mr. Wood will be long remembered and sadly missed by his family, friends and community;

(HLS 199)

Presented by Representative WOODSOME of Waterboro. Cosponsored by Senator HARRINGTON of York, Representative FREDERICKS of Sanford, Representative LANIGAN of Sanford, Representative MASTRACCIO of Sanford.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative WOODSOME of Waterboro, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Waterboro, Representative Woodsome.

Representative **WOODSOME**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I rise to share a few moments or experiences that I had with Perry Wood.

We first met in elementary school in Waterboro. Perry was always outspoken, spirited and passionate. We lost contact and reunited after I was elected to the Other Body. Perry was sort of a curmudgeon, but he thought deeply and felt deeply. And he got his experience right here in the House back in the late '60s and '70s. He worked under Speaker Plante; what was his first name? Jerome? Jerome. And John Martin. And from there, he went into the Sanford Health and Resources.

Perry always loved politics. He loved a good debate, and the older he got; he's like a lot of us; he felt that the party had outgrown him. And we had many good discussions, and I'll miss him terribly. Thank you.

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

In Memory of:

Helen P. Trefethen, of Westbrook. Mrs. Trefethen raised four children and worked at the American Can Company for many years. She and her family spent two years living in Franklin, Massachusetts, where she worked for the Tupperware Company, before returning to Portland. She then joined the Portland School System. She worked as a teacher's aide and later worked as an Administrative Assistant in the Assistant Principal's office at Portland High School, where she became affectionately known as "Mrs. T" to generations of students. After retiring, Mrs. Trefethen continued to give back to her community. She was the coordinator for the Meals on Wheels program at Prides Corner Church in Westbrook and volunteered wherever she was needed. She stayed connected with her church families, first at Prides Corner Church and later at Windham Hill United Church of Christ. Mrs. Trefethen will be long remembered and sadly missed by her family, friends and community;

(HLS 202)

Presented by Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook. Cosponsored by Senator DUSON of Cumberland, Senator NANGLE of Cumberland, Representative GATTINE of Westbrook, Representative RIELLY of Westbrook.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

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

Representative **SALISBURY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, it's my honor today to be able to stand and recognize the life of Helen Trefethen.

I met her about 15 years ago when she worked as a volunteer for Meals on Wheels, and it was held in the same building where my children went to preschool, and my mother had just moved in with me, and the two of them became fast friends and stayed that way up until Helen's death just recently. She was one of the first friends that my Mom made, and I'm so thankful for that relationship. And they quickly formed a girl gang, and they were called the 'Blue-haired Bandits' and were just a sight to behold; it was great to be around them.

The thing about Helen that I loved the most was the older she got, the worse her hearing got; as happens with a lot of older people; but that just meant that she stood closer to you, so she could hug you tighter and give you this great smile. The other part about Helen was that she always told me how proud she was of the work that I was doing, but she would never donate to my campaign. She refused to do it. And then, about three years ago, she told me that she was not going to give Christmas presents to her family anymore, but instead donate to my food pantry, which was awkward but a lovely gesture of her. She is going to be terribly missed. Thank you.

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

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

The following item was taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The following matter, in the consideration of which the House was engaged at the time of adjournment Thursday, April 17, 2025, had preference in the Orders of the Day and continued with such preference until disposed of as provided by House Rule 502.

Expression of Legislative Sentiment in Memory of Andrea Quaid, of Lewiston

(HLS 87)

- **CARRIED OVER** to the next special or regular session of the 132nd Legislature, pursuant to Joint Order S.P. 519 on March 21, 2025.

TABLED - February 25, 2025 (Till Later Today) by Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston.

PENDING - **ADOPTION.**

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

Representative **LAJOIE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Andrea Quaid made Maine a better place to live through her years of public service and various roles of government. We are lucky to have benefitted from her lifelong dedication. I am honored to stand before you today to mention just a few of her life's accomplishments.

Andrea was among the first class of women to have graduated from Dartmouth College, where she studied French and Literature. After she graduated, she took her talents to other states and big cities and even some time in France before moving back home: Maine. Her government career started as a legislative aide in these halls, Mr. Speaker. She served in the House Majority Office before going on to serve as district representative for former Congressman Michaud. Then she served as a constituent service representative in the office of Senator King until the time of her passing. As if the work she did daily just wasn't enough, she also served on the Board of the Franco-American Collection at the University of Southern Maine Lewiston-Auburn Campus for 12 years.

To live a life as full as Andrea is to live a good life. She will be missed dearly by the Auburn-Lewiston community and those she has selflessly helped throughout the years. I extend my condolences to her family and loved ones. Thank you, Andrea. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-12)** on Bill "An Act to Improve Women's Health and Economic Security by Funding Family Planning Services"

(S.P. 79) (L.D. 143)

Signed:

Senators:

INGWERSEN of York
NANGLE of Cumberland

Representatives:

MEYER of Eliot
DEBRITO of Waterville
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth
MCCABE of Lewiston
SHAGOURY of Hallowell
ZAGER of Portland

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

Signed:

Senator:

MOORE of Washington

Representatives:

DAIGLE of Fort Kent
GRIFFIN of Levant
JAVNER of Chester
LEMELIN of Chelsea

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-12).**

READ.

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

Representative JAVNER of Chester **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair Recognizes the Representative from Chester, Representative Javner.

Representative **JAVNER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. This bill seeks to add \$6.8 million to our baseline budget. And despite testimony after testimony reassuring us that these funds would not be utilized for abortion services, there is nothing in the bill that restricts the use of these funds. And when our colleagues had the opportunity to tighten up the language, they chose not to. I would much rather see these funds go to keeping our labor and delivery units open, so that we could celebrate the birth of new Mainers and not mourn their loss. Thank you.

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

Representative **LEMELIN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Members of the House. I also rise in opposition to the pending motion.

I agree with absolutely everything the Representative from Chester said, and I'm going to prove it. This bill is very cleverly written. First, it's written by saying this bill doesn't indicate how the money is to be spent, because it says "including, but not limited to." And then, it says "subrecipients." Now, of course, there's no definition for subrecipients, so, that could mean

basically anything; one, abortions; but two, this bill comes as close to money laundering as I've ever seen. Because a lot of this money can go anywhere they want to put it, which means if they want to spend money against me running the next time, they're more than welcome to. If they want to help my friends across the aisle, also, they're free to do it.

So, I oppose it because I oppose money laundering, and I oppose abortion. Thank you.

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

Representative **MEYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. LD 143 establishes a fund within the Department of Health and Human Services, the Fund to Maintain Access to Statewide Family Planning Services. The primary grantee would be Maine Family Planning, which has been the grantee of funds for decades and rigorously accounts for every dollar and has a proven track record of following the law. Family Planning Funds do not cover abortion care, and LD 143 does not change that.

Maine's network of family planning service providers sees 10s of thousands of our constituents each year, the majority of whom are living on low incomes and have few other options for basic health care services. In addition to addressing reproductive health care needs including contraception, they also provide a broader range of services that include STI testing and treatment, cancer screening, primary care and routine wellness exams and behavioral health services. For many Mainers with low incomes, these basic health care needs would not be met without access to these important health centers. That people can access these types of services results in lower costs to our State, because preventative care and reproductive care avoid more costly health care issues.

These providers, some 60 clinics statewide as well as care delivered by telehealth and mobile units, have been flat-funded for many years, are experiencing increased costs, seeing increasing number of patients who cannot pay for the services, as well as challenging federal policies that destabilize access to reproductive and primary health care. Please join me in support of this funding to ensure all Mainers, regardless of income or geography, continue to have access to the health care services they need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **SMITH**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House. Lewiston, Bridgton, Calais, Lincoln, York, Rumford, Fort Kent, Waterville, Belfast and Houlton have closed their birthing centers. Now, correct me if I'm wrong, but I think birthing centers would employ OB/GYNs. OB/GYNs are the people who can give contraception, who can take care of STIs, who can service women seeking these services, yet we've cut these hospitals out of our rural communities. Right now, we have women facing an average of a 45-minute drive to have a baby or to have appointments leading up to the birth of their child. And for us to ignore that situation and to give money to Planned Parenthood; who already sees over 2,500 abortions happening in this State with current providers; we need to offer them more and offer the people and the women of Maine nothing? It's absurd, and I ask you vote against this. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Waterville, Representative Julia.

Representative **JULIA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just thought this would be an opportune time to say that these services provide a lot more than, you know, what is being represented right now, and I personally have had some serious medical conditions; I had cancer, and it was diagnosed by

Waterville Family Planning when I was 18, and I would not have ever known that I had skin cancer when I was 18, because people that age don't pay attention to that kind of stuff. And so, if I didn't have access to Waterville Family Planning when I was growing up as the child of a single dad, I probably wouldn't be here. So, I just think that it's really important for everybody to know that these organizations provide a lot more services that are really important, especially in rural areas like ours, like mine, than what is commonly assumed. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Auburn and inquires as to her procedural motion.

Representative **LIBBY**: I'd like to pose a question through the Chair.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **LIBBY**: My question is, how much did Planned Parenthood spend on campaigns in 2024?

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Auburn, Representative Libby, has posed a question through the Chair to any Member who wishes to answer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bridgton, Representative Cimino.

Representative **CIMINO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Colleagues, Members of the House. I would like to suggest that if the main concern of this bill were for all these other health care needs like contraception, like telehealth, like being able to screen for cancer; if that was the primary concern of this bill, then it wouldn't've been a stretch to go ahead and specifically state that abortion would not be allowed as part of this bill. But obviously, that's not; the abortion is the main concern of this bill, and all the other items that are in there like contraception, that's just thrown in there to make it more palatable.

But as I said, I think that there could've been some restrictions labeled and put, you know, against abortion and that wasn't done and that's because that is the primary purpose of this bill. Thank you.

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

Representative **LANIGAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Members of the House. I just want to bring to the attention of the Floor is we just had an article come out; \$5 billion in a Maine State Audit; the handling of \$5 billion in federal funds. And here we are with a bill that has no guardrails on it. So, I think it's our job, as managing the money of the Maine people, to really make sure that we have bills that have these guardrails, because it said that even though there was not massive waste, fraud or abuse, they did find a lack of sufficient guardrails to prevent it from happening or, in some cases, even identify if it is happening.

So, here we are; we're just writing more bills with the exact problem that we've identified. So, I would; regardless of the merits of the bill or what it's about; I would be voting against this just on the pure fact that we need bills that have these guardrails and manage the peoples' money a lot better, because we're not doing that, and that's our job. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **HENDERSON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to answer the Representative from Auburn's question. This was a question that I had also posed to Planned Parenthood in one of our recent public hearings, and the answer that the Maine Ethics Commission gave me is about \$110,000 more than the figure that I was given by Planned Parenthood, but according to the Maine Ethics Commission, in 2024, Planned Parenthood Maine Action Fund PAC spent \$261,431.54 on campaigns.

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

Representative **CLOUTIER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be brief.

Mr. Speaker, LD 143 is a lifeline. This bill would provide more than \$6 million to our State's family planning care network, which encompasses 61 service sites and a mobile health unit. These resources serve over 31,000 Maine patients annually, with 70% qualifying for free or reduced-cost care. And these aren't just statistics. They are real people who depend on essential services. They are our neighbors, our friends, our mothers, sisters, daughters and nieces. In my district, and especially across rural Maine, these health care providers are often the primary and sometimes the only medical resource that folks have access to. For those living in underserved areas, these clinics represent the difference between receiving essential health care and having to go without. This is about ensuring that every Mainer, regardless of ZIP Code, income level or personal circumstances, has access to comprehensive, compassionate health care when they need it.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 92

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

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

ABSENT - Fredette, Jackson, Poirier, Simmons, Underwood, Wood S.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 78; No, 66; Absent, 6; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

78 having voted in the affirmative and 66 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (S-12)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-12)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-59)** on Bill "An Act to Include School Counselors in the Educators for Maine Program" (H.P. 63) (L.D. 98)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham
HAGGAN of Hampden
LYMAN of Livermore Falls

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (H-59)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-59)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-58)** on Resolve, Directing the Maine Arts Commission to Study Federal and National Efforts to Protect Artists from Copyright Infringement by Artificial Intelligence Companies and Users and to Monitor Educational Use

(H.P. 74) (L.D. 109)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham

HAGGAN of Hampden

LYMAN of Livermore Falls

READ.

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

Representative LYMAN of Livermore Falls **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

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

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

Representative **LYMAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Members of the House. I rise today to speak in opposition to LD 109.

While I fully support the intent of this Resolve to protect artists and ensure responsible use of copyrighted materials in the age of artificial intelligence, the path proposed in this bill is not the most responsible or efficient one, especially given our current fiscal reality. While the fiscal note attached indicates a one-time fund, there is potential for additional funds once the study had been completed. At a time when we are facing a lack of available funds and are being asked to prioritize every dollar with care, I believe this proposal falls short of meeting the standard. Passing this bill under these budget constraints would be fiscally irresponsible.

More importantly, the intent of this Resolve can be fulfilled through existing resources. The Maine Artificial Intelligence Task Force created by our Chief Executive has already been charged with investigating the implications of recent and anticipated advances in the field of AI, including those impacting intellectual property. This task force is well positioned to take up this issue without requiring additional expenditures.

Let's respect our artists, our institutions and our taxpayers by using the tools we already have before creating new ones at additional cost. I urge you to vote no on LD 109. Thank you.

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

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

Members of our State's artistic and education communities reached out to encourage creation of this bill. This bill tasks the Maine Arts Commission with monitoring specific developments in educational uses and artistic protections, with the opportunity to create targeted and appropriate legislation. Our teachers, students and artists are now operating in the wild, wild west of copyrights, educational applications, deep fakes, possible abuses and the absence of the general disclosures and notifications of the use of generative artificial intelligence. Yes, the Chief Executive has demonstrated support for the belief that Maine must understand the advantages, drawbacks and broad implications in the uses of AI through the creation of the Artificial Intelligence Task Force. Yet there are so many possible points of impact for every aspect of our lives. I believe every Standing Committee should pave the way for protections from negative

effects and prescription to successfully utilize this important technology. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

As one of this Body's two Representatives to the Chief Executive's task force on AI, I can clarify that the scope of that task force is not at all to put a brake on every piece of legislation dealing with AI that is currently before us, but rather to establish a general strategy for the State, with the primary focus on our economy and workforce. So, actions like this in this pending bill are both necessary and timely, and there is no need to wait for the report of the task force to consider moving ahead with the motion. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 93

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

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

ABSENT - Fredette, Jackson, Poirier, Simmons, Underwood, Wood S.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 80; No, 64; Absent, 6; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

80 having voted in the affirmative and 64 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Resolve was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-58)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Resolve was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-58)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Establish Immunity for a Receiver Appointed by the Public Utilities Commission to Oversee the Operations of a Consumer-owned Water Utility"

(H.P. 746) (L.D. 1127)

Signed:

Senators:

LAWRENCE of York
GROHOSKI of Hancock
HARRINGTON of York

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:

Representative:

PAUL of Winterport

READ.

On motion of Representative SACHS of Freeport, 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 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-63)** on Bill "An Act to Fund Free Health Clinics"

(H.P. 34) (L.D. 70)

Signed:

Senators:

INGWERSEN of York
NANGLE of Cumberland

Representatives:

MEYER of Eliot
DEBRITO of Waterville
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth
MCCABE of Lewiston
SHAGOURY of Hallowell
ZAGER of Portland

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

Signed:

Senator:

MOORE of Washington

Representatives:

DAIGLE of Fort Kent
GRIFFIN of Levant
JAVNER of Chester
LEMELIN of Chelsea

READ.

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Chester, Representative Javner.

Representative **JAVNER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I have been very consistent in my six years of serving on the Health and Human Services to not support nonprofits coming before our Committee and asking for funds, and don't think that I favor one over the other. A cancer research one came before us the other day, and I voted no. Did I want to vote yes? Absolutely. But I chose not to. And this bill wants \$250,000 for our free health clinics; which there are only eight of them in the State; and I don't think that it is our job to be telling the Maine State taxpayer which nonprofits they should be supporting with their money. Thank you.

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

Representative **DOUDERA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to rise in support of one of these clinics that I know pretty well, the Knox Clinic, which is in Rockland, Maine. It was founded in 1999 to provide primary medical care to the working people of Knox County who could not afford their own health insurance and didn't qualify for Medicaid, Medicare or other programs. My husband before he passed away was very, very involved with the Knox Clinic. He helped them get their new building; they are providing medical, dental and prescription assistance, counseling and wellness services in Knox County. They believe everybody deserves access to quality health care, and I hope you do, too, Speaker, and I think that this is money well spent. Thank you.

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

Representative **BRENNAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I appreciate the opportunity to be able to stand and speak to this issue, but also to vote in favor of these free clinics.

There are five identified by the Maine Medical Association across the State of Maine: Ellsworth, Rockland, Lewiston, Brunswick and Portland. And if you can imagine, this is probably the best health care investment we receive or have in the State of Maine. Doctors in all these clinics, nurses, social workers and other health care professionals donate; donate; their time to provide primary care to thousands of people across the State of Maine. And when we talk about primary care, we're not talking about somebody that just walks in and gets an episodic visit; this is primary care that extends over a year or two-year period of time.

I can speak more specifically about Portland, but there are over 500 people a year that receive their primary care because they don't have insurance and because they don't have the income to provide their own health care. So, you can imagine; any of us can imagine; that those 500 people were to go to an emergency room and seek care, the cost of that; it wouldn't be double, it wouldn't be triple, it'd be quadruple the cost of the primary care that they get through these free clinics.

So, I'm proud; but somewhat embarrassed; that we're only looking to provide \$250,000 to support these medical professionals, doctors, nurses and social workers across the State with a limited amount of State money, when they are contributing millions of dollars of their expertise and time to care for people in the State of Maine that don't have health insurance and primary care. Thank you.

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

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the Good Representative from Portland just listed a whole bunch of different cities that these free clinics are at, while hospitals in rural Maine are closing, and we are looking to give more money to the cities and not to rural Maine? We just voted; you, the other side of the aisle just voted to give \$6 million to Planned Parenthood. Again, most of that's cities. What about rural Maine? Rural Maine's hospitals are closing; Inland Hospital in Waterville is closing. I'm hearing that there's a good chance that the MaineGeneral is closing, based on the doctors that I'm talking to. And we're looking to give money again to just our cities. Rural Maine needs help. We need to stop doing this and prioritize all Mainers, not just the cities. Thank you.

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

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to rise in support of this bill but, again, in support of the Knox Clinic. It's a clinic that I have briefly volunteered for, and I've spoken about this; this is the third time I've gotten the opportunity and the honor to speak about what they do in their clinic.

It's a comprehensive clinic. If somebody needs dental care, they can get it; if somebody needs mental health care, they can get it; if somebody needs prescription assistance, they can get it. And I saw people walk into that clinic looking ashamed and looking dejected and looking like they didn't feel they deserved help, and I watched them walk out of that clinic feeling like a beloved part of the community. And in conversations with some of the patients, I had these amazing conversations about, what can I do to give back to this clinic? What can I do to give back to my community? So, for every dollar of this very small allocation we spend, the communities are giving thousands, hundreds of thousands of dollars of care back to the residents of their communities. And it's not just the immediate area, people from rural areas come in, too. Thank you.

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

Representative **CHAPMAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to say, we're all broke. It's one out of every three are on MaineCare right now, I believe. At some point, it's got to come to an end. We're giving away money like we print it off a tree out back. I'm going to vote no on this, I'm voting no on the last few and I'll continue to say no. Thank you.

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

Representative **LOOKNER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a person who has utilized services of Greater Portland Health, and I did so during the pandemic when I couldn't find a primary care physician, I'm a big supporter of the work they do. I believe health care is a human right, so, I'll be supporting the motion.

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

Representative **LANIGAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to bring to the attention that we have federally qualified health centers all through Maine that are funded by the federal government; not by Maine; and they operate on a sliding scale. So, if you can't afford their care and don't have health insurance, you get free health care. I don't know why you just didn't figure out a bill to give them rides to those facilities that already are available and why we have to duplicate and re-create and spend and spend and spend and spend.

So, I'm going to be voting no, not that I don't like the merits of it; I think everybody deserves good health care, but there's better ways to do it, again. So, just let's wrack our brains a little harder, guys. Thanks.

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

Representative **ZAGER**: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I just want to briefly respond to a couple of things that have been raised during the debate this morning. One is the issue of cost, and the other the issue of rurality versus urban services.

With regard to cost, if you do the math, this is essentially providing primary care. It's not perfect primary care, because it's done on a shoestring, as has been brought up, but it provides primary care on a very, very cost-efficient basis. Hard-pressed for any of us to find somebody who can get primary care for \$500 or \$1,000 a year. And so, I think, especially in a world where Ronald Reagan signed the EMTALA Act; which requires and assures that people who have a small problem that becomes a big medical problem can go to an emergency room to get care; this is really a cost-efficient measure.

The second item, the second issue, Mr. Speaker, is the issue of rurality. In the Health and Human Services Committee, we've had testimony and having discussions about, in one case, it was 135 communities whose folks are getting services in the service centers, in one particular service center. So, it is rural communities that are served when service centers get even just a meager amount of support, as this bill, LD 70, is proposing. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **CIMINO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Four hundred thousand people on MaineCare. Four hundred thousand. That's a lot of people in this State; we're not a big state. We just went ahead; at least, not this side, but the other side; just passed "An Act to Improve Women's Health and Economic Security by Funding Family Planning." More free services that the taxpayers are being required to pay. Now, they're offering free health clinics, more free. You know, when I look at all these people, and I look at all these numbers, all this money that taxpayers are paying, I ask myself, instead of looking at giving away things that are free, wouldn't we be better off increasing the opportunity in Maine, increasing what people make, so that they're not having to rely on the State of Maine to fund every aspect of their lives? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Brunswick, Representative Arford.

Representative **ARFORD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I stand to briefly comment on LD 70, and to add to what my good colleagues from Portland and Bangor have stated.

The Oasis Free Health Clinic in Brunswick has been in place for many years. The vast majority of their services are not funded by a governmental; I would say less than five to 10% of their services are funded. And the point I want to make is, their services are provided by volunteers from our community. Volunteer dentists and doctors and social workers and therapists that come forward from our community to donate their services to the patients that our free health clinic sees. And so, in fact, this very small, relatively speaking, amount of money that this bill will entail in its Fiscal Note, you must amplify the actual fiscal return by probably 20 or 25%. And I hope that people will consider this fact in deciding how to vote on this bill. Thank you.

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

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll make this quick. In my hands, I have a piece of paper with 19 health care clinics in it: Old Orchard Beach, Portland, Lewiston, Portland, South Portland, Lewiston, Portland, Portland, Portland, Lewiston, South Portland, Westbrook, Biddeford, Portland, Hampden, Gorham, Westbrook, Cumberland Center. These have billed \$105 million to MaineCare. Are these also going to be; a question, if I may, Sir; are these also going to be considered part of the free health care clinics?

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Milford, Representative Drinkwater, has posed a question through the Chair to any Member who wishes to answer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Portland, Representative Brennan.

Representative **BRENNAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to the question, prior to COVID-19, there were 15 to 20 health clinics that were listed across the State of Maine. After COVID-19 and when this bill was passed two years ago, there were five health care clinics that were identified as qualifying for this funding. So, the bill that was before us now would be looking at the five free clinics that I mentioned previously in my testimony.

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

Representative **CHAPMAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think we could put a coffee can right outside the door and raise that small amount of money. Otherwise, it's the taxpayers' money. It's getting a little old. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **WHITE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The numbers are out, it's the end of the month: 39.8% of the working-age adults in this State choose not to work right now. We're giving away too much. Thank you.

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

Representative **GRAHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this legislation. Plain and simple, we are looking at significant cuts from the federal government at every level for our health care and the people of Maine. If you're concerned about MaineCare costs right now, they're going to go; we just won't have it. We won't have it. People will not have health insurance. These clinics are a safety net that we desperately need. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As a member of the Tax Committee, I see an endless parade of bills seeking money, free money. Mr. Speaker, there is no such thing as free; someone is paying those bills, and it is the taxpayers. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Auburn, Representative Libby, and inquires to her Point of Order or her procedural motion.

Representative **LIBBY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Due to confusion about the word "free" in the title of this bill, I'd like to ask the Clerk to please read the Fiscal Note.

Representative LIBBY of Auburn **REQUESTED** that the Clerk **READ** the Fiscal Note.

The Clerk **READ** the Fiscal Note in its entirety.

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

Representative **LEMELIN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to make one thing perfectly clear: My friends across the aisle keep talking about how important these clinics are, and I want everybody to understand that we're in full agreement with you. We are in full agreement that these free clinics, we need them and they need to be around.

Everybody chuckled about the Gentleman's handing out a can and putting the money into it. Okay. But everybody in here knows how to campaign for money. They know how to go out and fundraise. All these people have to do is gather together and fundraise. I know some people that have gathered \$50-60 million. Two hundred and fifty thousand dollars is pretty easy to fundraise for, if somebody actually wants to do it. All we're asking on this side of the fence is, go fundraise. Don't ask the Maine taxpayers to pay for something they may not want to fund. They may want to fund this clinic, not that one. If somebody's from Bangor, they may want to fund their clinic and not the one from Portland. You're asking all Mainers to pay for something that they shouldn't be paying for. It should be a choice. So, now, go out and fundraise and the people that want to pay for these free clinics will. You'll come up with \$250,000 in a heartbeat. You don't need to get it from the Maine taxpayers.

So, we are in full agreement, we love these clinics, we're 100% in favor of them. It's the funding source that we're challenging, because there's too many other places that are in dire need of this money. Nursing homes, you've heard it all; hospitals, let's give it there; and let's go out and fundraise for this money. That's where this money is supposed to come from. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Harpswell, Representative Golek.

Representative **GOLEK**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't intend on rising today, but I just want to make a couple of points, because we seem to be hearing a lot about taxpayers' money.

In Maine, our free clinics save taxpayer money. These clinics provide essential health care services to individuals who may not otherwise be able to access them, potentially reducing the burden on emergency rooms and other health care facilities and preventing further costly treatments later on. This is according to the Maine Public Health Association. By providing preventative care and managing chronic conditions, these clinics contribute to a healthier population, which can lead to long-term cost savings for the State and federal governments. They reduce ER usage, they lower long-term health care costs, increase productivity and quality of life and reduce costs for uninsured patients, along with prevention of chronic diseases. By voting to give this small amount of money to these free clinics, in fact, we are saving the State of Maine and taxpayers lots of money. Lots of money. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 94

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

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

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

ABSENT - Fredette, Jackson, Poirier, Simmons, Underwood, Wood S.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 78; No, 66; Absent, 6; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

78 having voted in the affirmative and 66 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-63)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-63)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-64)** on Bill "An Act to Establish a Health Care Gap Year Program for Recent College Graduates"

(H.P. 442) (L.D. 703)

Signed:

Senators:

TIPPING of Penobscot
BRADSTREET of Kennebec
RAFFERTY of York

Representatives:

ROEDER of Bangor
ARCHER of Saco
BECK of South Portland
DRINKWATER of Milford
MACIAS of Topsham
SKOLD of Portland

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

Signed:

Representatives:

COLLINS of Sidney
LIBBY of Auburn
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

READ.

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

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

Representative **SOBOLESKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen. This bill provides one-time funding for health care gap year program that incentivizes recent college graduates to work in critical health care positions, particularly in

underserved and rural communities. It sounds great on the surface. It's half a million dollars going into the Department of Labor Employment Services Activity. The problem is that there's no guardrails on that money or any direct indication on how to spend it; no specifics on it. Additionally, the federal government provides an incredible number of programs to do exactly this. The Bureau of Health Workforces has support residency programs for underserved areas; the National Health Services Corporation has a scholarship program as well as a loan repayment program; the Health Resources and Services Administration has a variety of grants and programs for relocation; the Rural Residency Planning and Development program provides funding directly to underserved areas for increasing physicians and medical support.

About six or eight years ago, a young lady moved in up by me. I live up in the woods; just two houses on the road; she moved in, late 20s with a three- or four-year-old boy. She was part of a program like this from Pennsylvania. She'd taken advantage of it, moved up to my area to become a dentist in our local Strong Health Clinic, which is an underserved area. And everything was paid for. They paid to move her up there; they gave her money for her housing; they took care of all the expenses. She had to do three years at that health clinic. At the end of three years, she was gone. She left. We were without a dentist again. She went to Bangor, where it was lucrative.

So, my point being, Mr. Speaker, is that there are programs that are available for this; there is money out there for this, so, half a million dollars that we can't afford is unnecessary to spend on this program. Thank you.

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

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we were just talking about the underserved and rural areas of our State not having clinics, not having the medical providers in the last bill that we were talking about. This program; which has already been piloted by the Roux Institute; had 51 people in the initial class, 38 had graduated from the State of Maine and the rest came in from out of state. Of that 51; that initial cohort of 51; 80% stayed in Maine. And the placement through the Roux Institute were in rural areas, in underserved areas.

So, if we care about having that kind of medical care there, we are placing people in this program directly in those frontline positions. This funding will wind up helping up to 75 placements, and it's \$250,000 in the first year, \$250,000 in the second year. With 75 placements, that's about \$6,700 per placement to try to help those people find housing, be able to do this; and they are serving directly in positions that we can't fill in the State of Maine. And if this pilot program is any indication, we can anticipate about 80% of those 75 staying in the State, staying in those rural areas, offering the help that we so desperately need. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 95

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arata, Archer, Arford, Babin, Beck, Bell, Blier, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Foley, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mason, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell,

Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Pluecker, Pomerleau, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Tuell, Warren, Webb, Wood P, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Ardell, Bagshaw, Bishop, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lyman, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Fredette, Jackson, Osher, Poirier, Simmons, Underwood, Wood S.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 87; No, 56; Absent, 7; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

87 having voted in the affirmative and 56 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-64)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-64)** and sent for concurrence.

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(S.P. 54) (L.D. 126) Bill "An Act to Expand the Use of the Veterans' Homelessness Prevention Partnership Fund" Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-15)**

(S.P. 228) (L.D. 510) Bill "An Act to Require the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands to Maintain the Weld to Byron Road in Township 6 North of Weld" Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-14)**

(S.P. 306) (L.D. 689) Bill "An Act to Support the Northern New England Poison Center" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-17)**

(S.P. 373) (L.D. 840) Bill "An Act to Modernize the State Supplement to Supplemental Security Income by Removing Marriage Disincentives" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-18)**

(H.P. 189) (L.D. 289) Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in Bingham the Barry A. DeLong Bridge Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-61)**

(H.P. 570) (L.D. 884) Resolve, to Establish the Criminal Justice Legal Aid Clinic Pilot Project at the University of Maine School of Law Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-60)**

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

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

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

ENACTORS

Emergency Measure

An Act to Provide an Exception to a Fishing Prohibition near the Crooked Brook Dam

(H.P. 11) (L.D. 47)

(C. "A" H-46)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 117 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

An Act to Provide for the 2025 and 2026 Allocations of the State Ceiling on Private Activity Bonds

(S.P. 293) (L.D. 678)

(C. "A" S-13)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 109 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

An Act to Require the Issuance of Maine Agricultural Fair Licenses Every 4 Years

(H.P. 597) (L.D. 932)

(C. "A" H-52)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 117 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Acts

An Act to Improve Efficiency of Meat and Poultry Processing Facilities by Requiring the Designation of State Inspectors as Essential

(H.P. 211) (L.D. 311)
(C. "A" H-54)

An Act to Repeal the Sunday Amateur Sports Law, the Law Allowing Municipalities to Permit the Operation of Movie Theaters on Sundays and the Law Imposing a Fine or Imprisonment for Playing Games and Sports with Admission Charges on Memorial Day

(H.P. 237) (L.D. 337)

An Act to Support Removal of Overboard Discharge Systems

(H.P. 255) (L.D. 401)
(C. "A" H-51)

An Act to Ensure That the Exemption of Certain Agricultural Buildings from the Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code Includes Maple Sugarhouses

(H.P. 371) (L.D. 603)

An Act to Restore Matching Funding to the Maine Development Foundation

(H.P. 397) (L.D. 629)
(C. "A" H-56)

An Act to Amend the Membership of the State Employee Health Commission and Make Referential Changes to the Office of Employee Health, Wellness and Workers' Compensation

(H.P. 446) (L.D. 707)
(C. "A" H-50)

An Act to Allow for Rescission of a Site Location of Development Permit When a Development Is Decommissioned

(H.P. 447) (L.D. 708)

An Act to Clarify the Process to Transfer Funds Resulting from the Expiration of Unused Kilowatt-hour Credits to Be Used to Provide Assistance to Low-income Electricity Customers

(S.P. 394) (L.D. 905)

An Act to Grant the Rockland Port District an Increase in Its Borrowing Capacity and Include Sustainable Aquaculture and Marine Industries in Its Charter

(H.P. 787) (L.D. 1182)

An Act to Prohibit Persons Under 18 Years of Age from Marrying

(H.P. 790) (L.D. 1185)

An Act to Amend the Provisions of the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992 Governing Requirements for Self-insurers

(S.P. 484) (L.D. 1195)

An Act to Align the Schedules for Climate Change Protection Plans and Grid-enhancing Technology Reviews with the Integrated Grid Planning Process

(H.P. 815) (L.D. 1240)

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

Resolves

Resolve, Directing the Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal to Compile a Statewide Inventory of Aqueous Film-forming Foam Concentrate

(H.P. 254) (L.D. 400)
(C. "A" H-53)

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

(H.P. 341) (L.D. 522)
(C. "A" H-49)

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 27: Standards for Timber Harvesting and Timber Harvesting Related Activities Within Unorganized and Deorganized Areas of the State, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry

(H.P. 492) (L.D. 750)
(C. "A" H-55)

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

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

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

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act Regarding the Beneficial Electrification Policy of the State"

(S.P. 676) (L.D. 1730)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Increase the Supply of Child Care Services Through the Use of Contracts"

(S.P. 682) (L.D. 1736)

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 Provide Reduced Interest Rates for Logging and Fishing Operations"

(S.P. 679) (L.D. 1733)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Ensure the Future of Maine's Sporting Camp Heritage"

(S.P. 683) (L.D. 1737)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Increase the Rate of Reimbursement to Municipalities for Revenue Lost as a Result of the Maine Resident Homestead Property Tax Exemption"

(S.P. 675) (L.D. 1729)

Bill "An Act to Allow a Municipality to Waive the Excise Tax on an Antique Automobile Owned by a Person 65 Years of Age or Older"

(S.P. 678) (L.D. 1732)

Bill "An Act to Exempt Over-the-counter Medicines from the Sales and Use Tax"

(S.P. 680) (L.D. 1734)

Bill "An Act to Provide an Income Tax Deduction for Certain Contributions to a Qualified Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Account"

(S.P. 681) (L.D. 1735)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Increase the Influence of the Maine State Ferry Advisory Board on the Funding and Operations of the Maine State Ferry Service"

(S.P. 677) (L.D. 1731)

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

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

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

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

Representative **GRAHAM**: Mr. Speaker, could I please have permission to speak on the Record?

The SPEAKER: The Representative from North Yarmouth, Representative Graham, requests unanimous consent to address the House on the record. Hearing no objections, it is so ordered. The Member may proceed.

Representative **GRAHAM**: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, we lost Pope Francis yesterday. I would just like to share the words he shared with all the people of the world on Easter Sunday. He said, "I would like all of us to hope anew and to revive our trust in others, including those who are different than ourselves, or who come from distant lands, bringing unfamiliar customs, ways of life and ideas! For all of us are children of God!" Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I stand today not with glad tidings of a UMaine sports team, nor with the notice of a fun event coming up in my community. While I typically try to stand strong, true and steadfast to my belief of the separation of church and state, I will not let this moment pass without mentioning the passing of a great man. I stand today with a heart full of reverence, gratitude and love to celebrate the life and legacy of His Holiness, Pope Francis, our shepherd, our teacher and our brother in Christ.

Born in Buenos Aires, Argentina, he rose from humble beginnings to become the first Pope from the Americas, the first Jesuit Pope and the first to bear the name of Francis; an inspired choice that would come to define his papacy. Like his namesake, St. Francis of Assisi, Pope Francis walked with the poor, stood with the outcast and challenged each of us to care more deeply for the world and each other. His life was a testament to the radical mercy of God. With words both gentle and powerful, he reminded us time and again that the church is a field hospital, a refuge for the wounded, not a fortress for the perfect. He did not shy away from the challenges of our time, but embraced them with courage, humility and profound compassion. Whether it was speaking out against economic injustice, advocating for the care of Creation or simply choosing to wash the feet of prisoners and the poor on Holy Thursday, he lived the gospel with striking authenticity. Pope Francis was a man of simplicity and joy, whose smile could light a crowd of thousands and whose words could stir the soul to renewal. He invited us into an encounter with Jesus Christ, not just in prayer, but in the face of a stranger: the refugee, the elderly and the imprisoned. Even as the world changed radically around us, Pope Francis remained a steadfast voice for peace, fraternity and hope. He reminded us that tenderness is strength, that dialogue is holy and that love in all its forms is the heart at Christian witness.

Today, we do not only mourn his passing; we celebrate his life, his mission and the seeds that he has sown across the world. His journey continues in us and in the countless lives he has touched and transformed. And his voice still echoes in the Gospel message he cherished: "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy." May his memory be a blessing; may his words continue to guide the church into a future rooted in faith, justice and love. And now, Mr. Speaker, I end with this traditional Catholic blessing: "Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and the perpetual light shine upon him. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen." In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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

Representative **ROLLINS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I want permission to speak on the Record.

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Augusta, Representative Rollins, has requested unanimous consent to address the House on the record. Hearing no objection, it is so ordered.

Representative **ROLLINS**: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I would like to rise and speak on behalf of Sentiment 5-12, which it was my intention of getting up at the time of the bill. I co-sponsored it with Representative Bridgeo and Senator Bradstreet and recognize the fine work that the G & E Roofing Company did in the City of Augusta and for the City of Augusta.

I'm sure there are many of you in this room that know of G & E Roofing, as they did work all over the State. I was lucky to grow up with these guys. Norm Elvin; who was the original proprietor; and his lifelong partner, Neal Glazier. Neal Glazier is a classmate of mine from the kindergarten all the way through high school and a teammate; basketball player. And he was tenacious, and Normie credits him with being very much fundamental in the success of that company. And from what I observed, it was all based in a work ethic. They had a work ethic themselves; they passed on a work ethic. They had an incredible safety program. Each day, they started with a safety meeting. They had incredible employee retention, customer retention and an unbelievable kindness and donations to the City of Augusta and beyond. So, I wanted to take a moment to recognize them on their 50th anniversary and thank them for all they did.

And in closing, I'm going to switch subjects to the Pope and leave you with a remembrance of his words; which that came to the LGBTQ community; he said, "who am I to judge?" And he did a lot for that community. So, God bless the Pope, and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

On motion of Representative GERE of Kennebunkport, the House adjourned at 12:24 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, April 23, 2025, in honor and lasting tribute to John Nowacki of Kennebunk, Lillian Marshall Bartlett of Kennebunkport, Ann Emerson Spaulding of Kennebunk, Clare Ralph Greenlaw of Falmouth, Perry Elwin Wood of Sanford and Helen P. Trefethen of Westbrook.