

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
3rd Legislative Day
Tuesday, January 20, 2026

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

Prayer by Bishop James T. Ruggieri, Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland.

National Anthem by David McIntyre, Hermon.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Medical Provider of the Day, Kimberly Caldwell, MPAS, PA-C, Auburn.

The Journal of Tuesday, January 13, 2026 was read and approved.

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

SENATE PAPERS

Non-Concurrent Matter

An Act Regarding Cannabis Testing

(S.P. 603) (L.D. 1488)

(S. "B" S-409 to C. "A" S-320)

- In House, **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** on June 17, 2025.

- In Senate, **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** on June 17, 2025, in concurrence.

- **RECALLED** from the Governor's Desk pursuant to Joint Order, S.P. 876.

Came from the Senate **COMMITTED** to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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

Non-Concurrent Matter

An Act to Establish the Maine Life Science Innovation Center

(S.P. 651) (L.D. 1643)

(C. "A" S-227; S. "A" S-479)

- In House, **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** on June 25, 2025.

- In Senate, **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** on June 25, 2025, in concurrence.

- **RECALLED** from the Governor's Desk pursuant to Joint Order, S.P. 869.

Came from the Senate **COMMITTED** to the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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

Non-Concurrent Matter

An Act to Increase Child Care Affordability and Early Childhood Educator Stability

(S.P. 763) (L.D. 1955)

(S. "A" S-483 to C. "A" S-355)

- In House, **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** on June 25, 2025.

- In Senate, **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** on June 25, 2025, in concurrence.

- **RECALLED** from the Governor's Desk pursuant to Joint Order, S.P. 873.

Came from the Senate **COMMITTED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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

Non-Concurrent Matter

Resolve, to Establish a Task Force to Create a Court Navigation Program Plan (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 772) (L.D. 1965)

(C. "A" S-383)

- In House, **FINALLY PASSED** on June 16, 2025.

- In Senate, **FINALLY PASSED** on June 16, 2025, in concurrence.

- **RECALLED** from the Governor's Desk pursuant to Joint Order, S.P. 870.

Came from the Senate **COMMITTED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 312)

STATE OF MAINE

132ND MAINE LEGISLATURE

January 5, 2026

The Honorable Janet T. Mills

Governor, State of Maine

#1 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Governor Mills:

On behalf of the 132nd Maine Legislature, we would like to invite you to deliver your State of the State Address. At your direction, we will call for a Joint Convention of the Legislature on Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in the House Chamber.

We look forward to coordinating any details necessary to see that the Legislature receives your Address.

Sincerely,

S/Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry

President of the Senate

S/Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 313)

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

January 12, 2026

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under MRS Title 5, Chapter 167, §2041, I am pleased to appoint Lisa Nolan of Cumberland Foreside to the *Prescription Drug Affordability Board*, effective immediately.

On this board, she will serve as a representative with expertise in health care economics or clinical medicine.

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

Sincerely,

S/Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry

President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 314)

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

January 13, 2026

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under MRS Title 5, Chapter 167, §2041, I am pleased to reappoint the following individuals to the *Prescription Drug Affordability Board*, effective immediately.

Jennifer Reck of Portland will continue to serve as a representative with expertise in health care economics or clinical medicine.

Sharon Treat of Hallowell will continue to serve as an alternate representative with expertise in health care economics or clinical medicine.

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

Sincerely,

S/Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry

President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 315)

**MAINE VENTURE FUND
P. O. BOX 63
NEWPORT, ME 04953**

January 14, 2026

Honorable Matthea Daughtry

President of the Senate

3 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A., Section 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the attached Report to Legislature for 2025 on behalf of the quasi-independent state entity, Small Enterprise Growth Board, due February 1, 2026.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

S/Terri Wark

Office Operations Manager

Small Enterprise Growth Board d/b/a Maine Venture Fund

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 316)

**MAINE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM
139 CAPITOL STREET
AUGUSTA, ME 04330**

January 14, 2026

Honorable Matthea Daughtry

President of the Senate

3 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Honorable Ryan Fecteau

Speaker of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A., Section 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required report from the Maine Public Employees Retirement System due by February 1, 2026.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

S/Dr. Rebecca M. Wyke

Chief Executive Officer

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 317)

**COMMISSION TO EXPAND ACCESS TO ORAL HEALTH
CARE BY STUDYING ALTERNATIVE PATHWAYS FOR
OBTAINING A LICENSE TO PRACTICE DENTISTRY**

January 15, 2026

The Honorable Matthea Larsen Daughtry, President
Maine State Senate

The Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau, Speaker
Maine House of Representatives

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

Pursuant to Resolve 2025, c. 107, the Commission to Expand Access to Oral Health Care by Studying Alternative Pathways for Obtaining a License to Practice Dentistry is pleased to submit its final report. Copies of the full report have been distributed to committees or individuals as directed by law and copies have been placed on file with the Law and Legislative Reference Library. Others may access the full report on-line through the website of the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis at <http://legislature.maine.gov/opla>.

Sincerely,

S/Donna Bailey
Senate Chair
S/Ambureen Rana
House Chair

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 318)

**STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL
AND FINANCIAL REGULATION
BUREAU OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
36 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333**

January 15, 2026

Hon. Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Speaker Fecteau,

Enclosed please find a copy of the Annual Report from the Superintendent of the Bureau of Financial Institutions to the Legislature. This Annual Report contains statistical information for financial institutions doing business in Maine.

If you or your office have any questions regarding the information contained in this Annual Report, the Bureau would be pleased to respond. This Annual Report will also be available in electronic format on the Bureau of Financial Institutions' website at www.maine.gov/pfr/financialinstitutions/.

Very truly yours,

S/Lloyd P. LaFountain III
Superintendent

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 319)

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

January 20, 2026

Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Fecteau:

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

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

L.D. 1093 An Act to Direct the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands to Prevent the Use of the Term "State Park" by Nonstate Parks

L.D. 1605 An Act to Support Farmers and Food Banks Affected by Federal Funding Cuts to Their Existing Contracts

Housing and Economic Development

L.D. 1247 An Act to Restrict Municipal Ordinance Requirements Regarding Housing Developments

Judiciary

L.D. 449 An Act to Authorize a Court to Conditionally Discharge Certain Criminal Defendants

Taxation

L.D. 438 An Act to Allow Municipalities to Limit Nonprofit Property Tax Exemptions

L.D. 1694 An Act to Provide an Income Tax Credit for Certain Disaster Mitigation Projects for Working Waterfront Property

L.D. 1699 An Act to Create a Refundable Tax Credit for Agricultural Enterprises

Transportation

L.D. 446 An Act Regarding Driver Education

L.D. 566 An Act to Modernize the Motor Vehicle Inspection Program and Amend the Law Governing Inspection Fees

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 320)

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

January 20, 2026

Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Fecteau:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources has approved the request by the sponsor, Representative Blier of Buxton, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

L.D. 846 An Act to Protect Natural Resources by Clarifying Hydropower Dam Removal Requirements

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the Committee on Taxation has approved the request by the sponsor, Representative Osher of Orono, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

L.D. 1682 An Act to Increase Fairness in the Income Tax by Adding Higher Tax Brackets and Tax Rates

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 321)

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

January 20, 2026

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 January 15, 2026

Dale F. Doughty of Pittston for appointment as Commissioner of the Department of Transportation.

Pursuant to Title 23, MRSA, §4206, this nomination is contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation.

Sincerely,

S/Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

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

The Following Communication: (S.C. 703)

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

January 13, 2026

Honorable Ryan Fecteau

Speaker of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0002

Dear Speaker Fecteau:

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

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry:

- Peter Pray of Millinocket for reappointment, to the Maine Land Use Planning Commission,
- Wayne Jones of Trescott Township for appointment, to the Maine Land Use Planning Commission.

Upon the recommendation of the committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services:

- Dr. Richard Evans of Dover-Foxcroft for appointment, to the Advisory Council on Affordable Health Care,
- Amanda Burgess of Auburn for appointment, to the Advisory Council on Affordable Health Care.

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Labor:

- Ann Freeman, Esq. of Portland for reappointment, to the Maine Labor Relations Board.

Best Regards,

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

**PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING
REFERENCE**

Bill "An Act to Increase Accountability for Persons Engaged in Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking and to Support Victims"

(H.P. 1457) (L.D. 2168)

Sponsored by Representative STOVER of Boothbay.

Cosponsored by Senator RENY of Lincoln and Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, FAIRCLOTH of Bangor, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, GATTINE of Westbrook, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, HENDERSON of Rumford, ROEDER of Bangor, SALISBURY of Westbrook.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Pursuant to Statute

Department of Education, State Board of Education

Representative MURPHY for the **Department of Education, State Board of Education** pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 8072 asks leave to report that the accompanying Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 33: Rule Governing Physical Restraint and Seclusion, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education, State Board of Education (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1460) (L.D. 2172)

Be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** and printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

The Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Sent for concurrence.

Pursuant to Statute

Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Land Resources

Representative DOUDERA for the **Department of Environmental Protection, Bureau of Land Resources** pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 8072 asks leave to report that the accompanying Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 305: Natural Resources Protection Act - Permit by Rule Standards and Portions of Chapter 335: Significant Wildlife Habitat, Major Substantive Rules of the Department of Environmental Protection (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1459) (L.D. 2171)

Be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** and printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

The Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Sent for concurrence.

Pursuant to Statute

Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, State Board of Nursing

Representative MATHIESON for the **Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, State Board of Nursing** pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 8072 asks leave to report that the accompanying Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 6: Delegation of Nursing Activities and Tasks to Unlicensed Assistive Personnel by Registered Professional Nurses, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, State Board of Nursing (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1455) (L.D. 2166)

Be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** and printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

The Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Sent for concurrence.

Pursuant to Statute

Maine Health Data Organization

Representative MATHIESON for the **Maine Health Data Organization** pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 8072 asks leave to report that the accompanying Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 100: Enforcement Procedures, a Major Substantive Rule of the Maine Health Data Organization (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1456) (L.D. 2167)

Be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** and printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

The Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Sent for concurrence.

Pursuant to Statute

Revisor of Statutes

Representative KUHN for the **Revisor of Statutes** pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 94 asks leave to report that the accompanying Bill "An Act to Correct Inconsistencies, Conflicts and Errors in the Laws of Maine" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1458) (L.D. 2170)

Be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

The Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Sent for concurrence.

At this point, the Chair recognized the Representative from Greene, Representative WOOD, and he was added to the roll call of the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

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

ORDERS

On motion of Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston, the following House Order: (H.O. 37)

ORDERED, that Representative Morgan J. Rielly of Westbrook be excused Jan 13 for health reasons.

READ and **PASSED**.

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

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

Recognizing:

James and Theresa Porter, of Calais, who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on December 20, 2025. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(SLS 1488)

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, Members of the House. I saw this Sentiment last night on the Calendar and it brought back a whole bunch of wonderful memories for me.

In the early '80s, I had the privilege for six years of serving as the city manager of Calais and it was just an absolutely terrific experience. I met my wife there, we got off to a great start. At that time, the comptroller for the City of Calais was a wonderful woman named Jean Robb and she had been there for a long time and during my time there, she approached me and said that there was a vacancy for an opening at an entry-level clerical position and she thought that her daughter, Theresa Porter, would be an ideal fit for that job. And I agreed with that after meeting Theresa and hired her. And that turned out to be absolutely the case. And some point after that, a little time after I had left, Theresa's husband, Jim, joined the ranks of employees of the City of Calais and initially, as I recall, in a code enforcement position, and he ultimately ended up as the city manager of Calais, very well respected in that role.

Theresa and Jim are salt of the Earth. They have given so much to their community over all those intervening years. It is delightful to see that they're celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

A little side footnote here, during my years there, I was fortunate enough to be able to buy a nice piece of camp lot and old cottage on Keene's Lake and in my time there, I got to know and thoroughly enjoy a teenage whirlwind who helped me from time to time with things like getting the wood split and getting the shingles put on the cottage and so forth, and his name was Artie Mingo. And he obviously turned out okay, I think due in large measure to my mentorship of him in those days. And so, I'm sure Representative Mingo would concur that you can find no more exemplary personage of community spirit and a loving couple than Jim and Theresa Porter and I hope my good wishes get back to them. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Calais, Representative Mingo.

Representative **MINGO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I will concur with the Fine Gentleman, the Representative from Augusta. And I appreciate his wisdom for all those years to get to this point. Couldn't've done it without.

And I'd like to also concur on the Sentiment to this wonderful couple, these beautiful people from Calais. Between the two of them, they've had more than 80 years of combined service to the City of Calais. When you went into the city building, you were met with professionalism, courtesy and sincere pride of our community. I just want a big thank you, appreciate those people very much, I consider them very good friends.

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

Recognizing:

Tom Doak, of Readfield, on his retirement from Maine Woodland Owners after 22 years of service. Mr. Doak served as the lead advocate for small woodland owners at the Maine State House, where he consistently defended the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law. The organization's land trust program grew to conserve more than 11,000 acres across more than 50 communities under his leadership, including the largest land donation in the group's history. Mr. Doak was appointed by Governor Janet Mills to the Maine Forest Carbon Task Force. He was instrumental in educating landowners on carbon sequestration markets and how small forests can contribute to the State's climate goals through programs like "Maine Won't Wait." He also successfully managed the organization's commitment to keeping its conserved lands open to the public for activities like hiking and hunting while maintaining traditional uses like sustainable timber harvesting. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(SLS 1495)

On **OBJECTION** of Representative HASENFUS of Readfield, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

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

Representative **HASENFUS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When it was brought to my attention today that Mr. Doak—Tom, as I call him—has seen hundreds of these before. And when I texted him this morning and I said, 'hey, if you happen to be in the office, would you like to come over and stand up and be recognized,' he said; not his words, but my words; it's about time.

So, today, Tom, the Legislature would like to thank you for your service. And as a constituent, I would also like to say thank you for your service to the State of Maine in developing very thoughtful policy, you know, and working with Tom on the tree growth tax law two sessions ago, he was instrumental to that, right, he; as some advocates, as we all know, might say, hey, do this, do that, but he really dug deep into it, worked, you know, with all of the stakeholders to give us a proposal that really will enhance the tree growth law to protect those small woodland owners that many of us here are, all of us here know. And it is because of his advocacy in his role for the last 22 years that we have such a strong protection for the woodland owners. And I'm very pleased to be Tom's Representative and do not hesitate to write your Representative if you have any recommendations on how best we can protect small woodlands in the future.

So, thank you, Tom, for all of your service, and I look forward to seeing you here in the future.

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

Recognizing:

the Town of East Machias, on the celebration of the town's bicentennial in 2026. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 526)

Presented by Representative TUELL of East Machias.
Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative TUELL of East Machias, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

On motion of the same Representative, **TABLED** pending **PASSAGE** and later today assigned.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Report

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Refer to the Committee on Health and Human Services** on Bill "An Act to Safeguard Reproductive Rights"

(H.P. 235) (L.D. 335)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland

HAGGAN of Penobscot

TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth

BABIN of Fort Fairfield

CARUSO of Caratunk

LEE of Auburn

O'HALLORAN of Brewer

POIRIER of Skowhegan

PUGH of Portland

SATO of Gorham

SINCLAIR of Bath

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

Signed:

Representative:

HENDERSON of Rumford

Representative DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe - of the House - supports the Majority **Refer to the Committee on Health and Human Services** Report.

READ.

Representative KUHN of Falmouth moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Refer to the Committee on Health and Human Services** Report.

Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Refer to the Committee on Health and Human Services** 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 Rumford, Representative Henderson.

Representative **HENDERSON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. So, the bill that we have before us, LD 335, "An Act to Safeguard Reproductive Rights;" as of last night, at least; there's no language for the bill. So, this is purely a concept draft, and that is one of the concerns that I have with it.

We were told in Committee that this was designed to be a funding bill, but a funding for what? If it's to fund, actually fund to safeguard reproductive rights such as pap smears and

mammograms and early cancer screenings, I think that that would be a conversation I'd love to be involved in. But I have this nagging feeling that this is more to fund the federal shortfall that Planned Parenthood is going to see. And Planned Parenthood is arguably one of the most dangerous, prolifically dangerous organizations here in the State of Maine. They profit off the death of human lives. And right now, in the State of Maine, taxpayers fund abortion. If an individual doesn't have enough money to pay for their own abortion, the taxpayers fund that. And then, Maine taxpayers are going to help fund the organizations that provide them? So, taxpayers are going to fund the infrastructure to pay for abortions and then the taxpayers are going to pay for abortions.

And understandably; I had hoped at some point that somebody would've Point-of-Ordered me, because I'm completely out of line right now. I'm debating the merits of the bill and we're supposed to be debating whether or not this should be re-Referenced. Well, Mr. Speaker, I couldn't debate the merits of the bill if I wanted to; I don't know what the bill is. We were simply told this is going to be a funding bill, but there's no language. DHHS or the HHS Committee deals with the funding of reproductive rights, Judiciary deals with the regulation of reproductive rights. We don't know what this bill is going to do.

So, until we know what this bill actually is supposed to do and what committee it actually is supposed to sit in, I'm going to vote against the Referencing to a different committee.

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

Representative **KUHN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to just clarify for the Body that this is a routine rereferral of a bill to the appropriate committee of jurisdiction.

As I explained in Committee, the bill will relate to funding for certain health care providers which are within the jurisdiction of HHS. This is not a substantive vote on the bill, it has not been printed yet, and that is typical. It is typical for concept drafts to be Referred to committee without language yet. That's how this bill got to Judiciary in the first place. By sending it to the appropriate committee of jurisdiction, they can work on the bill and they can bring substantive report or reports back to the Chambers and we'll have an opportunity to vote on those at that time. Thank you.

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

Representative **LEMELIN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to be voting no, and the reason for that is if there's no language, how do we know that this should come to the Committee on Health and Human Services? I'm on the Health and Human Services, I have no problem with it if I know what the bill is. But if there is no specific language and someone is just saying, yeah, it's going to provide funding, how do we know that?

So, I think this should not move forward and it should stay in the committee until it has language. This is common sense. Once it has language and we know that it's funding for a specific organization, and we all know, it's going to be six million dollars for; for those of you that don't know, it's going to be six million dollars for Planned Parenthood. But until that language is actually submitted, there's no way anybody in this room knows where that bill should really be. So, it should stay where it is; this is common sense, Mr. Speaker; present the verbiage, have courage and say, yes, we want to give six million dollars to Planned Parenthood, because President Donald Trump won't give that money to them, because he's sane, and then, Mr. Speaker, once the verbiage is there, we

can bring it back to the floor and take a vote to move it to Health and Human Services. But until then, this is imprudent. Thank you.

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

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, will be voting no on the pending question before us, but I challenge the integrity of the process.

If this was a concept draft that was carried over for the committee of jurisdiction, which was Judiciary, it held one of their slots for an appropriate carryover. If it was the intent back then that this would be a matter for HHS, but maybe HHS didn't have enough slots for carryover, it's certainly concerning to me, Mr. Speaker, and should be concerning to you.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Refer to the Committee on Health and Human Services Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 606

YEA - Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, 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, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Stover, Supica, Terry, Webb, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - 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, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Paul, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmursal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S.

ABSENT - Abdi, Adams, Albert, Doudera, Fredericks, Lanigan, Lyman, O'Halloran, Parry, Perkins, Runte, Skold, Underwood, Walker, Warren, Woodsome, Yusuf.

Yes, 70; No, 61; Absent, 17; Vacant, 2; Excused, 1.

70 having voted in the affirmative and 61 voted in the negative, 2 vacancy with 17 being absent and 1 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Refer to the Committee on Health and Human Services** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** and sent for concurrence.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(H.P. 1357) (L.D. 2027) Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in Woolwich the Woolwich Veterans Memorial Bridge Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 1358) (L.D. 2028) Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in West Forks Plantation and The Forks Plantation the Gordon Clifton Berry, Sr. Bridge Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass**

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

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

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

Representative **LIBBY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I request unanimous consent to speak on the record.

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Auburn, Representative Libby, requests unanimous consent to address the House on the record. Hearing no objection, it is so ordered.

Representative **LIBBY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to address you and colleagues on both sides of the aisle for the first time in almost a year.

Now, Mr. Speaker, it is appropriate that we're during announcements, because you probably heard that I'm not running for reelection. And I'm sure that that news has been the cause of much rejoicing on your side of the aisle and, frankly, maybe a little rejoicing on my side of the aisle. I've never really fit in here in Augusta, because I won't simply play along. But today, I'm here to remind you of the good news. This session, Mr. Speaker, I'm still here. Despite all your thwarted efforts to silence me and my 9,000 constituents, which continued even two weeks ago, I am here to speak up for those Mainers whose voices are not being heard by the majority party in this Chamber. The majority party that doesn't even want to hear the voices of their constituents.

I'm here to speak up for the girls of Maine who continue to be discriminated against and silenced in favor of an extreme agenda that our fellow Mainers do not support. I'm here to speak up for Maine families who can't afford to pay for their electricity bills because of the so-called green virtue signaling energy agenda that is advanced by your party. Mr. Speaker, I'm here to speak up for retirees, for families and businesses as spending increases to the tune of 65% increase to the State budget over just six or seven short years. I'm here to speak up for Maine taxpayers who are hemorrhaging their hard-earned money and are facing another round of new and raised taxes to pay for your exorbitant, never-ending, shocking list. I'm here to speak up, Mr. Speaker, for Maine citizens and demand transparency and accountability as fraud has been allowed and even empowered to be perpetrated against those citizens.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, the Maine Legislature is a part-time citizen Legislature. So, here's the other good news. Once I conclude my time in this part-time endeavor at the end of this session, I will be working full-time to empower Maine citizens to take their State back and ensure that Maine's future is a conservative one, where our fellow Mainers thrive.

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

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 880)

JOINT RESOLUTION

TO COMMEMORATE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

WHEREAS, January 19, 2026 marks the national and state holiday in honor of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., commemorating his birth on January 15, 1929; and

WHEREAS, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was a Baptist minister who advocated the furtherance of civil and human rights for all Americans through nonviolence; and

WHEREAS, this man of great moral conviction and spirit showed this country a dream of "an oasis of freedom and justice"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King, a model of an American patriot, provided the nation with one of the most prophetic and influential voices in our history; and

WHEREAS, for his tireless work to ensure equality and justice through nonviolence, Dr. King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, a high and honorable distinction, in 1964; and

WHEREAS, his eloquence, his perseverance and his faith moved mountains and brought about systemic legal and social changes; and

WHEREAS, the life of Dr. King, which ended so tragically on April 4, 1968, is a shining example to Americans and citizens of the world of uncompromising dedication to the highest ideals of freedom, justice and equality; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King was the first African American to be honored with a memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. with the dedication of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial in West Potomac Park in 2011; and

WHEREAS, in Maine, the Honorable Gerald E. Talbot of Portland submitted legislation in 1975 to create a day commemorating Dr. King prior to the federal legislation creating the holiday; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to acknowledge the extraordinary life and works of this teacher, reformer and humanitarian, the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and pause in our deliberations to recognize and commemorate the occasion of his birth.

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

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Topsham, Representative Macias.

Representative **MACIAS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Members of the House. Today, we honor the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. King taught us that democracy is not sustained by comfort, but by courage. He warned that the greatest danger to justice is not only open hatred, but silence in the face of it. He named white supremacy as a moral evil that corrodes institutions and dehumanizes people. That warning remains as urgent as it was 60 years ago. Today, fear, lies and racism are again being used as tools of political power. When government action targets communities through intimidation, family separation or dehumanization, it violates not only our values, but the constitutional promise of equal protection and due process.

Dr. King was clear about how a free people must respond; not with violence, not with despair, but with discipline, moral and lawful resistance. That means resistance in the courts by defending the rule of law, resistance in public spaces through peaceful protests and civic engagement and resistance in our national discourse by refusing to normalize cruelty, lies or hate. This is not chaos or insurrection. We're not storming Congress; we're defending our nation honestly. It's democracy doing its job.

America is at a crossroads, and we know what to do. We will defeat the scourge of white supremacy. And while we are doing it, our success will be determined by each of us individually. Will we choose fear or will we choose courage? If we remember Dr. King's words and live them, our nation's moral arc will continue bending towards justice for all, and then will America move closer to being truly free. Thank you.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to rise today to take a moment to recognize the great Dr. Martin Luther King.

I think I've always taken a moment to rise during this time each session, and I want to thank the Senator Talbot Ross for putting this Resolution in. I think this is a very good and honorable Joint Resolution and really speaks to the doctor. And I just wanted to give in my words, I might not get it exact, but one of his quotes that I always like to recite that he had a dream that one day his daughters would live in a world where they were judged by the content of their character, not the color of their skin. And I think it is fitting that this holiday rolls around at a time when our country is very deeply divided and you're seeing a rise in tensions and violence and rhetoric, Mr. Speaker.

So, I would like to take this moment to take it upon myself to say, let's join together in toning down the rhetoric. Let's join together in being better to each other here, but also in our neighborhoods and our communities. Let's try to live like the Good Doctor did; peacefully, in peaceful protest, but to try to build bridges with people and just reflect in your own way how your words are being used. Are they for the good or are they for incitement? Are they for coming to peaceful resolutions, which I think we can do in this country, I think we can do that, we've survived for 250 years with the foundations that we have. It's those foundations that were there that provided a place for the civil rights movement to happen, Mr. Speaker. Those things don't happen in other countries, in authoritarian countries, but because we have a representative republic, that movement was able to proceed and gain great ground.

It is my hope that we don't move backwards, Mr. Speaker, that we move forwards, and that starts with each and every one of us and how we use our words and how we speak to each other. So, I would just like to leave that as a reminder to all of us to do better. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 878)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, January 27, 2026, at 10:00 in the morning, or until the call of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, respectively.

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

READ and **PASSED** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Improve the Public Employees Disability Retirement Program by Modifying Provisions Controlling the Reduction of Benefits and Clarifying Terminology"

(S.P. 879) (L.D. 2169)

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

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

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

On motion of Representative THORNE of Carmel, the House adjourned at 11:56 a.m., until 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 27, 2026 or until the call of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, respectively, pursuant to the Joint Order (S.P. 878).