

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
10th Legislative Day
Tuesday, March 11, 2025

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

Prayer by Honorable Mark Michael Babin, Fort Fairfield.

National Anthem by Melissa Babin-Gooden, Veazie.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Medical Provider of the Day, Hannah Stonebreaker, PA-C, North Yarmouth.

The Journal of Tuesday, March 4, 2025 was read and approved.

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

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

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

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

Recognizing:

the Washington Academy Boys Soccer Team, of East Machias, which won the Class C North Championship. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 122)

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.

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

Representative **TUELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to rise briefly, I know we have a busy day today, but we have some young men and their coach who came all the way from way Downeast, 160 miles, to join us today. And their journey, as a matter of fact, was an improbable journey.

Last fall, the Washington Academy Boys Soccer Team defied expectations, exceeded what anybody thought; except for themselves; thought they might do. And through; upset an undefeated team on their way to win the Northern Maine Class C Championship and played Hall-Dale in the State Championship, losing one to nothing, but a very spirited competition it was. So, I join and rise today to thank them for attending, but thank them for their resilience, for their perseverance, for their abilities and for proving that you can achieve when you set your mind to it, and even more so when the expectations are low and yet, within your team you have a belief and self-confidence. So, thank you to Coach David Whitney and the Washington Academy soccer team for joining us today. We appreciate you and are glad to have you with us.

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

At this point, a message came from the Senate borne by Senator DUSON of Cumberland of that Body, proposing a Joint Convention of both branches of the Legislature to be held in the Hall of the House at 10:45 in the morning for the purpose of extending to the Honorable Dannel P. Malloy, Chancellor of the

University of Maine System, the Honorable Dave Daigler, President of the Maine Community College System and the Honorable Craig Johnson, Interim President of the Maine Maritime Academy, an invitation to attend the Joint Convention and to make such communication as pleases them.

Thereupon the House voted to concur in the proposal for a Joint Convention to be held at 10:45 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 Allow Municipal Fire Departments with Trained Personnel to Conduct Sprinkler Plan Reviews"

(H.P. 652) (L.D. 1005)

Sponsored by Representative LOOKNER of Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator CURRY of Waldo and Representatives: BLIER of Buxton, EATON of Deer Isle, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, MALON of Biddeford, MORRIS of Turner, RIELLY of Westbrook, YUSUF of Portland.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding an Employer's Authority to Prohibit an Employee from Storing a Firearm in the Employee's Vehicle"

(H.P. 645) (L.D. 998)

Sponsored by Representative COLLINS of Sidney.

Cosponsored by Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan, Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot and Representatives: DAIGLE of Fort Kent, DRINKWATER of Milford, FLYNN of Albion, HAGGAN of Hampden, SMITH of Palermo, TUELL of East Machias, Senators: BRADSTREET of Kennebec, MOORE of Washington.

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

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

Bill "An Act to Provide Funding for Low-income Electric Ratepayer Assistance"

(H.P. 642) (L.D. 995)

Sponsored by Representative SACHS of Freeport.

Cosponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock and Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, FOSTER of Dexter, KESSLER of South Portland, MCINTYRE of Lowell, RUNTE of York, STOVER of Boothbay, WARREN of Scarborough.

Submitted by the Office of the Public Advocate pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

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 Prohibit Medical Providers and Certain Others from Reporting Prescribed Medication-assisted Treatment of Parents to Child Protective Services"

(H.P. 648) (L.D. 1001)

Sponsored by Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill.

Cosponsored by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland and Representative: DILL of Old Town, Senator: MOORE of Washington.

Bill "An Act to Allow Testing of Pregnant Persons for Drugs Directly Before and After Childbirth"

(H.P. 653) (L.D. 1006)

Sponsored by Representative DILL of Old Town.

Cosponsored by Representatives: HEPLER of Woolwich, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, O'HALLORAN of Brewer.

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 Require Correctional Facilities and Substance Use Disorder Treatment Facilities to Release Prisoners and Patients to a Responsible Adult"

(H.P. 647) (L.D. 1000)

Sponsored by Representative CIMINO of Bridgton.

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

On motion of Representative MEYER of Eliot, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Create the Weatherization Plus Program and Weatherization Plus Fund"

(H.P. 643) (L.D. 996)

Sponsored by Representative MALON of Biddeford.

Cosponsored by Representative: GOLEK of Harpswell.

Bill "An Act to Allow Residential Use Development in Commercial Districts"

(H.P. 644) (L.D. 997)

Sponsored by Representative MALON of Biddeford.

Cosponsored by Representatives: Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, GOLEK of Harpswell, JULIA of Waterville.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Protect Children's Identification by Requiring Public Schools to Use the Name and Gender Specified on a Child's Birth Certificate"

(H.P. 649) (L.D. 1002)

Sponsored by Representative LYMAN of Livermore Falls.

Cosponsored by Senator TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin and Representatives: DAIGLE of Fort Kent, DRINKWATER of Milford, EDER of Waterboro, FREDERICKS of Sanford, GRIFFIN of Levant, HAGGAN of Hampden, SOBOLESKI of Phillips, Senator: LIBBY of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act to Update the State's Informed Consent Laws Regarding Drug-induced Abortion"

(H.P. 654) (L.D. 1007)

Sponsored by Representative PAUL of Winterport.

Cosponsored by Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot and Representatives: COLLINS of Sidney, GRIFFIN of Levant, HAGGAN of Hampden, JAVNER of Chester, QUINT of Hodgdon, Senator: MARTIN of Oxford.

Bill "An Act to Require the Attorney General to Seek Legislative Approval Before Filing Any Civil Suit on Behalf of the State and to Authorize Citizen-initiated Petitions to Move for Dismissal"

(H.P. 655) (L.D. 1008)

Sponsored by Representative TUELL of East Machias.

Bill "An Act to Restore Full Civil Rights to Possess Firearms to Persons Previously Convicted of Certain Nonviolent Felony Crimes"

(H.P. 656) (L.D. 1009)

Sponsored by Representative PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft.

Cosponsored by Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot and Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, BOYER of Poland, HENDERSON of Rumford, THORNE of Carmel, Senators: HARRINGTON of York, HICKMAN of Kennebec.

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

REFERRED to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** 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 Establishing the Retirement Benefit Improvement Fund"

(H.P. 650) (L.D. 1003)

Sponsored by Representative DODGE of Belfast.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BECK of South Portland, BOYER of Cape Elizabeth, DILL of Old Town, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, MACIAS of Topsham, MCCABE of Lewiston, RAY of Lincolnville, ROEDER of Bangor.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Include Employees of the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission in the State's Group Health Plan"

(H.P. 646) (L.D. 999)

Sponsored by Representative OSHER of Orono.

Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland and Representatives: BABIN of Fort Fairfield, DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, LEE of Auburn, O'HALLORAN of Brewer, SATO of Gorham, Senators: HARRINGTON of York, LAWRENCE of York, MOORE of Washington.

Committee on **LABOR** suggested.

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

Bill "An Act to Ensure the Proper Operation of the State"
(H.P. 651) (L.D. 1004)

Sponsored by Representative MOONEN of Portland.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Amend the State's Vehicle Inspection Law
by Requiring Inspections Biennially"

(H.P. 657) (L.D. 1010)

Sponsored by Representative PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft.

Cosponsored by Representatives: ALBERT of Madawaska,
CHAPMAN of Auburn, GREENWOOD of Wales, LANCE of
Paris, MASON of Lisbon, WHITE of Guilford, Senator:
HICKMAN of Kennebec.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding the Enforcement Provisions of the
Law Governing Private Road Maintenance"

(H.P. 641) (L.D. 994)

Sponsored by Representative HEPLER of Woolwich.

Cosponsored by Senator BAILEY of York.

Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** suggested.

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.P. 615)

STATE OF MAINE

CLERK'S OFFICE

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

March 5, 2025

Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

132nd Legislature

Honorable Matthea Daughtry

President of the Senate

132nd Legislature

Dear Mr. Speaker and Madam President:

On March 5, 2025, 36 bills were received by the Clerk of the
House.

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, these bills were
referred to the Joint Standing Committees on March 5, 2025, as
follows:

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Bill "An Act to Require the Issuance of Maine Agricultural Fair
Licenses Every 4 Years" (H.P. 597) (L.D. 932) (Sponsored by
Representative HALL of Wilton) (Cosponsored by
Representatives: COOPER of Windham, JACKSON of Oxford)

Bill "An Act to Increase the Maximum Permissible Size of
Recreational Campfires" (H.P. 604) (L.D. 939) (Sponsored by
Representative JACKSON of Oxford) (Cosponsored by Senator
BLACK of Franklin and Representatives: COOPER of Windham,
CRAY of Palmyra, DILL of Old Town, GUERRETTE of Caribou,
HALL of Wilton, PLUECKER of Warren)

Bill "An Act to Safeguard Sustainable Food Sources Provided
by Certain Maine Farmers" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 607) (L.D.
942) (Sponsored by Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield)
(Cosponsored by Senator GUERIN of Penobscot and
Representatives: GUERRETTE of Caribou, MINGO of Calais,
ROBERTS of South Berwick, Senator: CURRY of Waldo)

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Bill "An Act to Amend the Law Governing Items Identified as
Prison Contraband" (H.P. 595) (L.D. 930) (Sponsored by
Representative O'HALLORAN of Brewer) (Cosponsored by
Representatives: BABIN of Fort Fairfield, BISHOP of Bucksport,
DILL of Old Town, DRINKWATER of Milford, HENDERSON of
Rumford, MCINTYRE of Lowell, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft,
Senator: HAGGAN of Penobscot)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Law Allowing Incarcerated Pretrial or
Presentence Individuals to Be Credited Time for Participation in
Voluntary Work Projects in a Jail" (H.P. 596) (L.D. 931)
(Sponsored by Representative O'HALLORAN of Brewer)
(Cosponsored by Representatives: BABIN of Fort Fairfield, DILL
of Old Town, MCINTYRE of Lowell, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill,
PUGH of Portland, ROEDER of Bangor, SACHS of Freeport,
SINCLAIR of Bath)

Education and Cultural Affairs

Bill "An Act to Require Parental Permission for Certain Surveys
and Questionnaires Administered to Minors in Schools" (H.P.
584) (L.D. 919) (Sponsored by Representative LYMAN of
Livermore Falls) (Cosponsored by Senator TIMBERLAKE of
Androscoggin and Representatives: DAIGLE of Fort Kent,
DRINKWATER of Milford, EDER of Waterboro, FREDERICKS
of Sanford, GRIFFIN of Levant, HAGGAN of Hampden,
SOBOLESKI of Phillips, Senator: LIBBY of Cumberland)

Bill "An Act to Require Chaplains in School Administrative Units"
(H.P. 592) (L.D. 927) (Sponsored by Representative PAUL of
Winterport) (Cosponsored by Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot
and Representatives: EDER of Waterboro, FLYNN of Albion,
FOSTER of Dexter, WHITE of Guilford, Senators: CYRWAY of
Kennebec, HARRINGTON of York, MARTIN of Oxford)

Bill "An Act to Increase to 100 Percent the State Share of
Funding for Special Education Costs of All School
Administrative Units" (H.P. 598) (L.D. 933) (Sponsored by
Representative DILL of Old Town) (Cosponsored by
Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, DODGE of Belfast,
HEPLER of Woolwich)

Energy, Utilities and Technology

Resolve, to Increase Access to Energy Efficiency Programs by
Low-income and Moderate-income Residents (H.P. 611) (L.D.
946) (Sponsored by Representative WARREN of Scarborough)
(Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and
Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, GOLEK of Harpswell,
Senator: TIPPING of Penobscot)

Environment and Natural Resources

Resolve, to Review Efficiencies in the Licensing of Solid Waste
Disposal Facilities by the Department of Environmental
Protection (H.P. 585) (L.D. 920) (Sponsored by Representative
CAMPBELL of Orrington) (Cosponsored by Senator MARTIN of
Oxford and Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta,
SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico, SOBOLESKI of Phillips,
THORNE of Carmel, WOODSOME of Waterboro)

Resolve, Directing the Department of Environmental Protection to Report on Air and Soil Chemical and Metal Levels and on Soil Testing on Solar Panel Farm Sites (H.P. 600) (L.D. 935) (Sponsored by Representative QUINT of Hodgdon) (Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and Representatives: BAGSHAW of Windham, CARUSO of Caratunk, COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, DAIGLE of Fort Kent, HENDERSON of Rumford, MASON of Lisbon, PAUL of Winterport, STROUT of Harrington)

Health and Human Services

Bill "An Act to Implement Certain Local Spending and Sourcing Requirements Regarding the Statewide Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program" (H.P. 603) (L.D. 938) (Sponsored by Representative FLYNN of Albion) (Cosponsored by Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, BOYER of Poland, BOYER of Cape Elizabeth, CHAPMAN of Auburn, COLLINS of Sidney, MORRIS of Turner, OLSEN of Raymond)

Bill "An Act to Require the ASPIRE-TANF Program to Be Administered by State Employees" (H.P. 608) (L.D. 943) (Sponsored by Representative ARCHER of Saco) (Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York and Representatives: CROCKETT of Portland, DHALAC of South Portland, MACIAS of Topsham, ROEDER of Bangor, SAYRE of Kennebunk)

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Bill "An Act Regarding Charges to Uninsured Patients for COVID-19 Vaccines" (H.P. 582) (L.D. 917) (Sponsored by Representative MORRIS of Turner) (Cosponsored by Representatives: PAUL of Winterport, POIRIER of Skowhegan, QUINT of Hodgdon, SWALLOW of Houlton)

Bill "An Act to Allow a Qualifying Religious Organization to Self-insure for Automobile Insurance" (H.P. 583) (L.D. 918) (Sponsored by Representative FOSTER of Dexter) (Cosponsored by Senator GUERIN of Penobscot and Representatives: BABIN of Fort Fairfield, CIMINO of Bridgton, CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, MORRIS of Turner, WADSWORTH of Hiram, Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, HAGGAN of Penobscot)

Housing and Economic Development

Bill "An Act to Promote Investment in Housing" (H.P. 581) (L.D. 916) (Sponsored by Representative GERE of Kennebunkport)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Powers and Responsibilities of the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority" (H.P. 610) (L.D. 945) (Sponsored by Representative SACHS of Freeport) (Cosponsored by Representatives: COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, DUCHARME of Madison, GERE of Kennebunkport, JULIA of Waterville, ROBERTS of South Berwick)

Bill "An Act to Clarify Licensing Jurisdiction for Manufactured Housing Communities" (H.P. 614) (L.D. 949) (Sponsored by Representative GOLEK of Harpswell) (Cosponsored by Senator BRADSTREET of Kennebec and Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, Speaker FECTION of Biddeford, GERE of Kennebunkport, MALON of Biddeford, MINGO of Calais, YUSUF of Portland, Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, CURRY of Waldo)

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Bill "An Act to Establish a Permit to Hunt Coyote over Bait" (H.P. 602) (L.D. 937) (Sponsored by Representative MASON of Lisbon) (Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and Representatives: ALBERT of Madawaska, BABIN of Fort Fairfield, BLIER of Buxton, CAMPBELL of Orrington, DRINKWATER of Milford, FOLEY of Wells, MORRIS of Turner, WOOD of Greene)

Bill "An Act to Increase Cash Prizes for Fishing Derbies" (H.P. 605) (L.D. 940) (Sponsored by Representative ALBERT of Madawaska) (Cosponsored by Senator BERNARD of Aroostook and Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, BABIN of Fort Fairfield, DAIGLE of Fort Kent, GUERRETTE of Caribou, MASON of Lisbon, SWALLOW of Houlton)

Judiciary

Bill "An Act to Expand Use of Electronic Proceedings in the Judicial Branch" (H.P. 586) (L.D. 921) (Sponsored by Representative FREDETTE of Newport) (Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and Representatives: BLIER of Buxton, WADSWORTH of Hiram, Senators: FARRIN of Somerset, MARTIN of Oxford)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Procedure for Filing a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights and Responsibilities" (H.P. 587) (L.D. 922) (Sponsored by Representative KUHN of Falmouth) (Submitted by the Judicial Department pursuant to Joint Rule 204.)

Resolve, Directing the Judicial Branch to Authorize the Lease of a Courthouse That Meets Accessibility and Functional Needs in the Town of Newport (H.P. 589) (L.D. 924) (Sponsored by Representative FREDETTE of Newport) (Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and Representatives: BLIER of Buxton, WADSWORTH of Hiram, Senators: FARRIN of Somerset, MARTIN of Oxford, STEWART of Aroostook)

Labor

Bill "An Act Requiring Employers to Disclose Wage Ranges in Job Postings" (H.P. 606) (L.D. 941) (Sponsored by Representative ARCHER of Saco) (Cosponsored by Representatives: JULIA of Waterville, MACIAS of Topsham, ROEDER of Bangor, Senator: TIPPING of Penobscot)

State and Local Government

Bill "An Act Regarding Employees in the Office of the State Auditor" (H.P. 579) (L.D. 914) (Sponsored by Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook) (Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and Representatives: DILL of Old Town, GREENWOOD of Wales, HASENFUS of Readfield, ROLLINS of Augusta, TUELL of East Machias, Senators: HICKMAN of Kennebec, MARTIN of Oxford)

Bill "An Act to Modernize Deed Duplication from Microfilm to a Digital Image" (H.P. 580) (L.D. 915) (Sponsored by Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook) (Submitted by the Secretary of State pursuant to Joint Rule 204.)

Bill "An Act to Maintain Public Access to Town Ways in Maine" (H.P. 593) (L.D. 928) (Sponsored by Representative WHITE of Guilford) (Cosponsored by Senator LIBBY of Cumberland and Representatives: ALBERT of Madawaska, FOSTER of Dexter, MASON of Lisbon, MONTELL of Gardiner, PARRY of Arundel, RAY of Lincolnville, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, THORNE of Carmel) RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Improve Representation and Simplify Legislative Redistricting (H.P. 609) (L.D. 944) (Sponsored by Representative WARREN of Scarborough) (Cosponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford and Representative: BOYER of Poland, Senator: GROHOSKI of Hancock)

Taxation

Bill "An Act to Promote Research and Development in the State by Amending the Research Expense Tax Credit" (H.P. 591) (L.D. 926) (Sponsored by Representative SAYRE of Kennebunk) (Cosponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland and Representatives: CROCKETT of Portland, MALON of Biddeford, RIELLY of Westbrook, ROBERTS of South Berwick, SARGENT of York)

Bill "An Act to Provide 100 Percent of the Maine Resident Homestead Property Tax Exemption Amount to Seniors and Veterans" (H.P. 599) (L.D. 934) (Sponsored by Representative WOOD of Greene) (Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and Representatives: CAMPBELL of Orrington, MASON of Lisbon, POMERLEAU of Standish, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, SMITH of Palermo, WHITE of Ellsworth, Senators: FARRIN of Somerset, HARRINGTON of York)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Mining Excise Tax" (H.P. 601) (L.D. 936) (Sponsored by Representative HASENFUS of Readfield) (Cosponsored by Representatives: CROCKETT of Portland, LAVIGNE of Berwick, QUINT of Hodgdon)

Transportation

Bill "An Act to Promote Accredited Institutions of Higher Education in Maine by Removing Requirements for Supplemental Guide Signs on the Interstate Highway System" (H.P. 588) (L.D. 923) (Sponsored by Representative FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor) (Cosponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock)

Resolve, To Create a License Plate To Recognize the Semiquincentennial of the United States of America (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 590) (L.D. 925) (Sponsored by Representative CARLOW of Buxton) (Cosponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford and Representatives: SARGENT of York, SAYRE of Kennebunk, Senator: LAWRENCE of York)

Bill "An Act to Clarify Overnight Docking at Mainland Ports for Certain Island Ferry Vessels" (H.P. 612) (L.D. 947) (Sponsored by Representative MATLACK of St. George) (Cosponsored by Senator BEEBE-CENTER of Knox and Representatives: EATON of Deer Isle, GEIGER of Rockland, RAY of Lincolnville)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act to Increase Access to Medical Cannabis for Seniors and Veterans" (H.P. 594) (L.D. 929) (Sponsored by Representative OSHER of Orono) (Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and Representatives: BOYER of Poland, FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor, FROST of Belgrade, LOOKNER of Portland, SUPICA of Bangor)

Bill "An Act to Reduce Administrative Burdens and Expand Access in the Laws Governing Cannabis" (H.P. 613) (L.D. 948) (Sponsored by Representative PLUECKER of Warren) (Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and Representatives: BOYER of Poland, JULIA of Waterville, Senators: BRENNER of Cumberland, President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, HICKMAN of Kennebec)

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

Sent for concurrence.

The Following Communication: (H.P. 625)

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

March 6, 2025

Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

132nd Legislature

Honorable Matthea Daughtry

President of the Senate

132nd Legislature

Dear Mr. Speaker and Madam President:

On March 6, 2025, 9 bills were received by the Clerk of the House.

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, these bills were referred to the Joint Standing Committees on March 6, 2025, as follows:

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Bill "An Act to Establish the Offense of Aggravated Operating Under the Influence Resulting in the Death of a Pet" (H.P. 621) (L.D. 962) (Sponsored by Representative WHITE of Ellsworth) (Cosponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock and Representatives: BISHOP of Bucksport, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor, MCINTYRE of Lowell, SAYRE of Kennebunk, SMITH of Palermo, SWALLOW of Houlton)

Education and Cultural Affairs

Bill "An Act to Integrate Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander History into the Statewide System of Learning Results" (H.P. 616) (L.D. 957) (Sponsored by Representative SATO of Gorham) (Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and Representatives: DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, MITCHELL of Cumberland, OSHER of Orono, RANA of Bangor, SARGENT of York, WHITE of Ellsworth, WOOD of Greene, Senator: INGWERSEN of York)

Health and Human Services

Bill "An Act Facilitating the Discharge of Hospitalized Patients to Nursing Facilities" (H.P. 619) (L.D. 960) (Sponsored by Representative JAVNER of Chester) (Cosponsored by Senator BERNARD of Aroostook and Representatives: DAIGLE of Fort Kent, MCINTYRE of Lowell)

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Bill "An Act to Address Maine's Health Care Workforce Shortage and Improve Access to Care" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 620) (L.D. 961) (Sponsored by Representative MATHIESON of Kittery) (Cosponsored by Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc and Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, BOYER of Cape Elizabeth, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, Senator: BRENNER of Cumberland)

Housing and Economic Development

Bill "An Act to Standardize Subsidized Housing Application Forms" (H.P. 622) (L.D. 963) (Sponsored by Representative COLLINS of Sidney) (BY REQUEST) (Cosponsored by Senator BRADSTREET of Kennebec and Representatives: DRINKWATER of Milford, FLYNN of Albion, HAGGAN of Hampden, MATLACK of St. George, SMITH of Palermo, Senator: TIPPING of Penobscot)

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Bill "An Act to Change the Definitions of 'Sunrise' and 'Sunset' in the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Laws to Better Allow for Variations in Timing Across the State" (H.P. 623) (L.D. 964) (Sponsored by Representative SIMMONS of Waldoboro)

Judiciary

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Eminent Domain on Tribal Lands" (H.P. 617) (L.D. 958) (Sponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor) (Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: CARUSO of Caratunk, DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, DILL of Old Town, HENDERSON of Rumford, KUHN of Falmouth, MINGO of Calais, POIRIER of Skowhegan, SMITH of Palermo)

State and Local Government

Bill "An Act to Require the Automatic Repealing of Agency Rules" (H.P. 624) (L.D. 965) (Sponsored by Representative LIBBY of Auburn)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act to Require the Development of Better Cannabis Testing Criteria and Processes" (H.P. 618) (L.D. 959) (Sponsored by Representative FREDERICKS of Sanford) (Cosponsored by Representative: BOYER of Poland)

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

Sent for concurrence.

The Following Communication: (H.P. 640)

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

March 7, 2025

Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

132nd Legislature

Honorable Matthea Daughtry

President of the Senate

132nd Legislature

Dear Mr. Speaker and Madam President:

On March 7, 2025, 14 bills were received by the Clerk of the House.

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, these bills were referred to the Joint Standing Committees on March 7, 2025, as follows:

Education and Cultural Affairs

Bill "An Act to Change the Entity Responsible for Operating the Career and Technical Education Center in Machias to Regional School Unit 37" (H.P. 632) (L.D. 972) (Sponsored by Representative STROUT of Harrington)

Bill "An Act to Establish the Community Partnerships with Public School Systems Grant Program" (H.P. 633) (L.D. 973) (Sponsored by Representative BRENNAN of Portland) (Cosponsored by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin and Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, GATTINE of Westbrook, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, MOONEN of Portland, MURPHY of Scarborough, SACHS of Freeport, SALISBURY of Westbrook, STOVER of Boothbay)

Resolve, to Increase the High School Graduation Rate by Creating the Maine Promise Initiative (H.P. 634) (L.D. 974) (Sponsored by Representative BRENNAN of Portland) (Cosponsored by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin and Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, GATTINE of Westbrook, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, MOONEN of Portland, MURPHY of Scarborough, SACHS of Freeport, SALISBURY of Westbrook, STOVER of Boothbay)

Health and Human Services

Bill "An Act to Increase General Assistance Reimbursement for Municipalities and Indian Tribes" (H.P. 638) (L.D. 978) (Sponsored by Representative ZAGER of Portland) (Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representative: ARATA of New Gloucester, Senator: TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland)

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 113: Assisted Housing Programs Licensing Rule, a Late-filed Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Health and Human Services (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 639) (L.D. 979) (Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, section 8072 and approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council.)

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Bill "An Act to Increase Emergency Medical Services Provider Training Opportunities" (H.P. 629) (L.D. 969) (Sponsored by Representative GOLEK of Harpswell) (Cosponsored by Representatives: CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, RIELLY of Westbrook, SIMMONS of Waldoboro, THORNE of Carmel, Senator: CURRY of Waldo)

Resolve, Requiring the Maine Health Data Organization to Develop a Plan for Measuring Gaps in Home and Community-based Services (H.P. 637) (L.D. 977) (Sponsored by Representative CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham)

Housing and Economic Development

Bill "An Act to Reinvigorate Maine's Workforce and Ensure Student Job Readiness by Providing Funds for the Career Exploration Program" (H.P. 627) (L.D. 967) (Sponsored by Representative EDER of Waterboro) (Cosponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford and Representatives: COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, GERE of Kennebunkport, JULIA of Waterville, MALON of Biddeford, MINGO of Calais, ROBERTS of South Berwick, Senator: CURRY of Waldo)

Bill "An Act to Prioritize Affordable Housing by Expediting Reviews for Affordable Housing Projects Applying for Funding from the Maine State Housing Authority" (H.P. 630) (L.D. 970) (Sponsored by Representative MALON of Biddeford) (Cosponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford and Representatives: COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, GERE of Kennebunkport, GOLEK of Harpswell, MINGO of Calais, ROBERTS of South Berwick, YUSUF of Portland, Senator: CURRY of Waldo)

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Bill "An Act to Repeal the Law Regarding Checking Baitfish Traps" (H.P. 631) (L.D. 971) (Sponsored by Representative STROUT of Harrington) (Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: HEPLER of Woolwich, MASON of Lisbon, THORNE of Carmel, TUELL of East Machias, WOOD of Greene)

Resolve, to Restore Accessible Public Transportation to Swan Island in Perkins Township (H.P. 636) (L.D. 976) (Sponsored by Representative CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham) (Cosponsored by Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc and Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, HEPLER of Woolwich, LEMELIN of Chelsea)

Judiciary

Bill "An Act Allowing Access by State Agencies and Hospitals to Certain Confidential Probate Court Records If the Access Is in the Public Interest" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 626) (L.D. 966) (Sponsored by Representative KUHN of Falmouth) (Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.)

Bill "An Act to Repeal Laws Allowing Abortion and to Criminalize Abortion" (H.P. 635) (L.D. 975) (Sponsored by Representative GRIFFIN of Levant) (Cosponsored by Representative: LEMELIN of Chelsea)

Marine Resources

Resolve, to Study Stakeholder Input Involving the Appointment of the Commissioner of Marine Resources (H.P. 628) (L.D. 968) (Sponsored by Representative GOLEK of Harpswell) (BY REQUEST) (Cosponsored by Representatives: EATON of Deer Isle, SIMMONS of Waldoboro, STROUT of Harrington, THORNE of Carmel)

Sincerely,
S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
S/Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.
Sent for concurrence.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 84)
**MAINE COMMUNITY COLLEGE SYSTEM
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
323 STATE STREET
AUGUSTA, ME 04330-7131**

January 27, 2025

The Honorable Matthea E. Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate
132nd Maine Legislature
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003

The Honorable Ryan M. Fecteau
Speaker of the House
132nd Maine Legislature
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0002

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:
Thank you for your invitation to address the Joint Session of the 132nd Maine Legislature on Tuesday, March 11, 2025, regarding the State of the Maine Community College System. I accept your invitation and appreciate the opportunity to share with you our recent accomplishments and future goals.

Sincerely,
S/David Daigler
President

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 85)
UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM

January 30, 2025

Honorable Matthea Daughtry
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau,
Thank you for your generous invitation to address a Joint Session of the 132nd Maine Legislature.

I look forward to speaking to you and your distinguished colleagues on the State of the University of Maine System on Tuesday, March 11 at 11 a.m. I am especially pleased to share the incredible progress our System has made in expanding affordable access to postsecondary education for learners of all ages, developing Maine's future workforce, and serving as the state's largest and strongest public partner in advancing our students, communities, and economy.

I look forward to seeing you on March 11 and again, thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely,
S/Dannel P. Malloy, Chancellor
University of Maine System

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 86)
**MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY
CASTINE, MAINE 04420**

March 3, 2025

Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate
Maine State Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House
Maine House of Representatives
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau,
I am pleased to accept your invitation to address a Joint Session of the 132nd Maine Legislature on March 11, 2025 concerning the State of Maine Maritime Academy and other matters. I look forward to joining Chancellor Malloy of the University of Maine System and President Daigler of the Maine Community College System, our peers in Maine's public higher education community. Members of our Board of Trustees and staff will also be glad to attend that day. We look forward to seeing you and thank the Legislature for its consideration of the role Maine Maritime Academy plays in our state's economy and education landscape.

Sincerely,
S/Craig Johnson
Interim President

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 92)
**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SPEAKER'S OFFICE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002**

March 10, 2025

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

Dear Clerk Hunt:
Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (l) (a), I am temporarily appointing Assistant Majority Leader, Lori Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach, to the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services, as House Chair replacing Representative Kristi Mathieson of Kittery, effective immediately.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding this temporary appointment.
Sincerely,
S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 87)
MAINE DAIRY & NUTRITION COUNCIL
337 STATE STREET, SUITE 2
AUGUSTA, ME 04330

February 28, 2025
Representative Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0002
Attn: Representative Fecteau

Enclosed for your review is the calendar year 2023 Audit Report of the Maine Dairy and Nutrition Council, prepared by RHR Smith & Company, Certified Public Accountants. We are pleased to offer it for your consideration.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact either RHR Smith & Co. or myself. RHR Smith & Company can be reached at their office in Buxton at (800) 300-7708 and I can be reached at our office in Augusta at 530-9043.

Sincerely,
S/Sarah J. Littlefield
Executive Director

READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 88)
MAINE DAIRY PROMOTION BOARD
337 STATE STREET, SUITE 2
AUGUSTA, ME 04330

February 28, 2025
Representative Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0002
Attn: Representative Fecteau

Enclosed for your review is the calendar year 2023 Audit Report of the Maine Dairy Promotion Board, prepared by RHR Smith & Company, Certified Public Accountants. We are pleased to offer it for your consideration.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact either RHR Smith & Co. or myself. RHR Smith & Company can be reached at their office in Buxton at (207) 300-7708 and I can be reached at our office in Augusta at 530-9043.

Sincerely,
S/Sarah J. Littlefield
Executive Director

READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 89)

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

March 11, 2025
Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Fecteau:
Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the following Joint Standing Committee has voted unanimously to report the following bill out "Ought Not to Pass:"

Judiciary
L.D. 227 An Act Regarding Liability for Acts of Violence Occurring in the State House or Legislative Space in the Burton M. Cross Building

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

READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 90)

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

March 11, 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 Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary has approved the request for "Leave to Withdraw" by the following sponsor:

Representative Milliken of Blue Hill
L.D. 523 An Act to Change How the Office of the Attorney General Investigates Officer-involved Shootings

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

READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 91)

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

March 11, 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 March 3, 2025

D'arcy Main-Boyington of Hampden for appointment to the Gambling Control Board.

Pursuant to Title 8, MRSA §1002, this appointment is contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs.

on March 4, 2025

Hailey Fardon of Standish for appointment as the student member of the Maine Maritime Academy Board of Trustees.

Pursuant to Title 5 §12004-C and Public Law 1941, c. 37, §1, as amended by P&SL 1993, c. 27, §1, this appointment is contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

Michael Duguay of Waterville for appointment as Commissioner of the Department of Economic and Community Development.

Pursuant to Title 5, MRSA, §13057, this appointment is 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.**

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:

(S.P. 59) (L.D. 37) Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in Old Orchard Beach the Captain Christopher S. Cash Memorial Bridge Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(S.P. 87) (L.D. 200) Resolve, to Rename the Sebago Lake Road Crossing Bridge in the Town of Standish Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 334) (L.D. 516) Resolve, to Name the Bridge Between Milford and Old Town the Alton L. Drinkwater Memorial 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 Senate Papers were **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** in concurrence and the House Paper was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** and sent for concurrence.

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

ENACTORS

Acts

An Act to Designate the Warden of the Maine State Prison as Chief Administrative Officer of the Bolduc Correctional Facility

(S.P. 28) (L.D. 17)

An Act to Revitalize the Maine Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Advisory Council

(H.P. 49) (L.D. 85)

An Act to Facilitate the Improvement of Credit Scores of Residents of Department of Corrections Facilities

(H.P. 62) (L.D. 97)

An Act Regarding Licensure of Emergency Medical Services Persons

(S.P. 44) (L.D. 123)

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

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

At this point, the Senate came and a Joint Convention was formed.

In Convention

The President of the Senate, the Honorable Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry, in the Chair.

The Convention was called to order by the Chair.

On motion of Senator PIERCE of Cumberland, it was

ORDERED, that a Committee be appointed to wait upon the Honorable Dannel Malloy, Chancellor of the University of Maine System; the Honorable Craig Johnson, Interim President of Maine Maritime Academy; the Honorable David Daigler, President of the Maine Community College System; and the campus Presidents and their Boards of Trustees, to inform them that the two Branches of the Legislature are in Convention assembled, ready to receive such communications as please them.

The Chair appointed the following Members:

The Senator from York, Sen. RAFFERTY
The Senator from Cumberland, Sen. PIERCE
The Senator from Cumberland, Sen. LIBBY
The Representative from Scarborough, Rep. MURPHY
The Representative from Belfast, Rep. DODGE
The Representative from Portland, Rep. CROCKETT
The Representative from York, Rep. SARGENT
The Representative from Livermore Falls, Rep. LYMAN
The Representative from Windham, Rep. BAGSHAW
The Representative from Hampden, Rep. HAGGAN
The Representative from Buxton, Rep. CARLOW

Subsequently, Senator RAFFERTY of York, for the Committee, reported that the Committee had delivered the message with which it was charged and that the Honorable Dannel Malloy, Chancellor of the University of Maine System; the Honorable Craig Johnson, Interim President of Maine Maritime Academy; the Honorable David Daigler, President of the Maine Community College System would attend forthwith.

The Chair recognized in the Gallery, Members of the University of Maine System Board of Trustees: Trish Riley, Chair; Lisa Eames, Vice Chair; Barbara Alexander; Elise Baldacci; the Honorable Pat Flood; Owen McCarthy; Kelly Martin; and Riley Worth, student at the University of Maine.

The Chair recognized in the Gallery, Presidents of the University of Maine System: Joan Ferrini-Mundy, President of the University of Maine and the University of Maine at Machias; Jenifer Cushman, President of the University of Maine at Augusta; Joe McDonnell, President of the University of Maine at Farmington; Deb Heeden, President of the University of Maine at Fort Kent; Ray Rice, President of the University of Maine at Presque Isle; Jackie Edmondson, President of the University of Southern Maine; and the Honorable Leigh Saufley, President of the Maine School of Law.

The Chair recognized in the Gallery, members of several University Volunteer Board of Visitors: Michael Bourque, CEO and President of MEMIC and Board Member for the University of Maine; Hannah Hudson, Director of Public Policy for Maine Primary Care Association and Board Member for the University of Maine; Jennifer Riggs, CEO of the MaineGeneral Health Chief Nursing Office and Chair of the University of Maine at

Augusta Board; Peter Osborne, Director of Educational Services for Maine Municipal Association and Chair of the University of Maine at Farmington Board; John Murphy, Chair of the University of Maine at Fort Kent Board of Visitors; and Charley Martin-Berry, Executive Director of the Community Caring Collaborative and Co-chair of the University of Maine at Machias Board.

The Chair recognized in the Gallery, guests from the Maine Maritime Academy: Janet Waldron, Vice President for Financial and Institutional Services and Chief Financial Officer.

The Chair recognized in the Gallery, representing the Maine Community College System Board of Trustees: Peter DelGreco, Chair of the Board of Trustees; Jean Ginn Marvin, former Chair; Jane Gilbert; and Stacey Harris.

The Chair recognized in the Gallery, Presidents and representatives of the Maine Community College System: Betsy Libby, President of Central Maine Community College; Liz Russell, President of Eastern Maine Community College; Angela Buck, Interim President of Northern Maine Community College; Kristen Miller, President of Southern Maine Community College; Susan Mingo, President of Washington County Community College; Michael Fischer, President of York County Community College; and CJ McKenna, Dean of Students and Enrollment, representing the Kennebec Valley Community College.

The PRESIDENT: At this time, the Chair would request that the Honorable Dannel Malloy, Chancellor of the University of Maine System, please step forward and address the Joint Convention.

Chancellor **MALLOY**: I want to thank you for the opportunity to address you. This is my sixth year as the Chancellor of the University of Maine System, and I've been shortchanged, unable to address you in the past. So, it's great to be with you, and I want to thank you for that opportunity.

President Daughtry, thank you. Speaker Fecteau, thank you. Senate Minority Leader Stewart, thank you. House Minority Leader Faulkingham and Honorable Members of the 132nd Maine Legislature, my fellow presidents, Dave Daigler and the Interim President Johnson, to my Trustees and representatives of our System, it is indeed a great honor to be with you and to have this opportunity to speak about the system of universities that this united House supports on a regular basis. And I will say again, thank you for your assistance.

I will share with you that I was born with severe learning disabilities and physical disabilities and challenges. It was suggested, as the term was then used, up until my fourth grade, that I was assumed to be mentally retarded, as the term was used at that time. That's why I have such a great appreciation for education in general, and public education, specifically. I know, as my mother knew; my mother, by the way, a nurse who raised eight children; she would not let my learning differences and my physical disabilities decide who and what I would become. Thanks to my mother and to my fourth-grade teacher, Mrs. Mitchell, the first teacher who was truly invested in my success, I stand before you as the Chancellor of the University of Maine, a graduate of high school, a graduate of college, a graduate of law school and someone who was the first person

in New York, Massachusetts and Connecticut to be allowed to take the essay portion of the bar exam orally, an adjustment that was made because of those disabilities. My dyslexia and other disabilities make it difficult for me to deliver speeches from a script. So, please be patient with me, and please, I have some good news to share.

My personal experience has also impressed upon me the incredible importance of meeting our students where they are, and that is just what our Maine system of universities are doing. Because of this, I stand before you proud to report that the state of the University of Maine System is strong and innovative. Despite the disadvantages of demographics and the needs of our infrastructure, Maine's public universities have increased enrollment for four consecutive semesters. This fall, we experienced our first undergraduate enrollment growth in the last two decades, and welcomed the most transfer students in a decade, and more students are pursuing Master's degrees and Doctoral degrees through our system now than ever before. Our public universities are the most affordable in New England. Mainers pay about 40% less to be Black Bears than students in New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Vermont. We are very proud of that and know that it makes a difference, but I want to point out that not only are we less expensive than those places, but we have a better hockey team.

More than half our System's students qualify for need-based federal Pell Grants, and nearly all of them receive thousands of dollars in financial assistance which they do not need to pay back. After this generous aid, in-state undergraduates are paying \$9,635 on average to attend UMaine this year, including tuition, fees, room and board, and they'll earn; when they graduate; more than double the median income of the State of Maine when they graduate and for the rest of their work experience.

In 2017, the University of Maine Presque Isle launched the State's first free college program. Now, all of our universities offer some form of free tuition program focused on Maine students with financial need and not directly subsidized by the State. Last year, 30% of all Maine undergraduates, more than 4,000 students, paid nothing out of pocket to attend Maine's public universities.

Another way we are reducing cost for Maine families is by allowing more students to take courses through our public universities while they are still in high school. They get credit for this, and it is free for them. This year, more than 6,000 high school students are raising their aspirations and reducing the time to a degree and to join the Maine workforce through the UMS Early College. More State funding is necessary to keep pace with this unprecedented demand, and I hope you take that into consideration when you vote on our budget.

I will also point out that graduation rates for rural students who enroll in Early College and then our public universities are 12% more likely to finish their degree in timely fashion. And we should be very proud of that adjustment that we've made. I want to point out that Washington County's Bayleigh Alley, she earned two semesters of UMS credit while in Jonesport-Beals High School. She secured a first-grade teaching position in Milbridge Elementary before she even graduated as the University of Maine at Machias' 2024 Valedictorian, after completing her Bachelor's degree in just three years.

Early College students have proven their postsecondary readiness, so, why not admit them automatically? Now, we do. Last year, our System began directly admitting Maine high school seniors based on their Early College successes, and we want to expand that to all of our school systems throughout the State. We hope to partner with those systems to make sure that

we're identifying students who may not realize that they're ready for a college experience, and that they're ready for earning a degree. That's why I would also say that we are pleased to announce here today that starting this spring, our System will begin also offering direct admissions to promising 4-H students nearing their high school graduation, including those who have successfully completed our club, camp and teen mentorship programs.

But our System cannot survive solely on students coming to us directly from Maine high schools. A decade or so ago, billboards across New England began boasting that students could come to our flagship for the price of their flagship in their state. Since the start of the flagship match, our System's out-of-state enrollment has exploded nearly 60%. We're Maine's largest talent magnet; a brain gain, if you will. This year, we recruited more than 10,000 students here, and a recent UMaine study shows that more than one-third will be retained in the State to live, to work, after their graduation.

It's estimated that 190,000 Mainers have some college, but no door opening degree or credential. Our public universities are helping them, and the State employers and the economy of the State; we realize our obligation to help those individuals garner their degrees or their credentials as they move forward. This commitment also includes through our University of Maine at Presque Isle's competency-based YourPace program, which is entirely online. YourPace allows busy working adults to access the courses anytime and advance as they master the materials. Students receive credit for prior learning and work experience and pay an affordable flat rate per session, regardless of how many courses they take towards their demanding degree or certificate in fields like accounting, business, criminal justice and supply chain management. YourPace has put Maine on the world map for e-learning leadership, and tripled UMPI's enrollment in just five years. Congratulations to the visionary President Ray Rice, his innovative faculty and my own Chief of Staff, Carolyn Dorsey, who all helped to develop this dynamic program, so that our system could be better at meeting the market. I want to thank those individuals, a number of them are here, and we will continue to expand that program, so that we lower the number of people who have some coursework in the State but never got that credential.

The days of institutions dictating to the population how they will be educated are over. So, too, are the days of Maine's public universities competing with one another. Leveraging our first-in-the-nation unified accreditation, we're embracing efficiencies and sharing programs and services and we're making sure that a student at any UMS university can access the academic offerings and resources of the other universities within our System. Instead of creating separate nursing programs, under the leadership of President Cushman, the University of Maine at Augusta has brought its Bachelor's in nursing to our institutions in Farmington and Machias, improving local workforce opportunities and health care access and outcomes. And faculty at every UMS university are working together to prepare students for careers in Maine's largest economic sector through system-wide tourism, hospitality and outdoor recreation programs, which we have named THOR.

I want to thank our nearly 13,000 faculty members, staff and student workers for their dedication to public service and commitment to collaboration and truly extraordinary team of presidents; again, I acknowledge them and thank them for their work; who lead them, and the trustees for their support.

For decades, policymakers and the public have been frustrated by the lack of collaboration between state public universities and community colleges. In 2015, you actually passed a law just to mandate that the leaders of our two systems meet. Now, I think the only people who see Dave Daigler more than I do is his wife and the Appropriations Committee. Last summer, Dave and I signed "Transfer ME," an historic agreement guaranteeing community college graduates automatic admission to Maine's public universities. No application or fees, no tracking down transcripts or test scores and no credit loss. When community college students are halfway through to their Associate's degree, MCCS will notify them about the opportunities to continue their postsecondary education and upward mobility to our public universities. And the two systems will provide coordinated advising to any student who is interested in transferring. That does not mean; in fact, it means we are not seeking to poach their students before they get their Associate's degree at their institution. I want to thank Dave for his partnership. By working together and with Maine Maritime and private colleges and K-12 schools, our systems are breaking down barriers and Maine's workforce will be the beneficiary.

But it's not enough to get students through our public university doors. We must support their success, and we are. More than 40% of our students are the first in their families to go to college, and they are twice as likely to graduate as a first-generation student than the national average. Let me say that again: Come to our System as the first in your family, and you are more likely, twice as likely, to finish the degree than in the rest of the United States system. I will also point out that, led by UMaine's record retention, the System realized its highest ever return rate this fall. Our improving retention and degree completion are the result of our relentless focus on student outcomes. Under the leadership of Presidents Edmondson and McDonnell, gains have been greatest this year at the University of Southern Maine and the University of Maine at Farmington. Thank you, Presidents, for accomplishing that.

In 2020, the Harold Alfond Foundation announced it would invest \$320 million to strengthen our System's capacity to meet Maine's most pressing workforce and economic needs. And they challenged us to raise an additional \$200 million in matching funds, which can come from new State appropriations, federal appropriations and fundraising. We call their commitment "UMS Transforms," because that is exactly what it is doing and making possible. With these funds, we are doubling our output of engineering and computing professionals; that is our goal; and integrating graduate business, law and health and public policy, as employers expect. We're also modernizing the athletic facilities of the State's only NCAA Division I program; I'm not sure I mentioned that we have a great hockey team. And we're transforming students' learning and successes, including through hands-on research in the first year of college. Redesigning of the gateway STEM courses, many of which cause students to be tripped up in their pursuit; and so, we are figuring out ways to better prepare those students for those courses and to better deliver those courses in a way that guarantees success.

I also want to point out that Greg Powell, a graduate of the University of Maine's School of Law, leads the Harold Alfond Foundation. During Greg's tenure, the Foundation has also made transformative investments in other Maine institutions, like the community colleges, and it has put a half-billion dollars down, or at least incorporated now half-billion-dollars payment for the future of Maine through the scholarship for every baby born in this State. I want to recognize the Foundation today and

especially my friend, Greg, who is here as my guest. Harold Alfond was the best of Maine. Today, under your leadership, my friend, his legacy is helping countless Mainers and our State be the best they can. Greg, would you please rise, so we can thank you for the work you've done?

I want to thank you for that, so I could catch my breath.

Last year, the Foundation's investments helped our law school relocate to the new Maine Graduate and Professional Center in downtown Portland. When I became Chancellor in 2019, the University of Maine's School of Law was on the verge of closing. We could not let that happen in Maine. Today, Maine's only and public law school is thriving under the leadership of President Leigh Saufley, the State's former Chief Justice, who I was able to talk into taking over the law school. She blames me for that, but she has done one hell of a job. Maine Law is currently experiencing its highest enrollment in more than a decade. About half of the students come from outside of Maine, yet 80% stay in the State to practice after graduation. The debt load is the lowest in New England peers, and the first-time bar passage is nearly 90%, the highest amongst New England competitors. Applications to join Maine Law this fall are up 65% over last year. While headquartered in downtown Portland, close to the courts and commerce, Maine Law School has become the law school and a force for good for all of Maine. Again, thank you.

To tell a story, this includes Aroostook County, where in 2023, with the support of Maine Attorney General Frey, the Legislature and Chief Executive Mills, the law school launched a rural practice clinic. Thanks to the hospitality of President Hedeem, who's with us, the clinic is housed at the University of Maine in Fort Kent, as are its student attorneys. Already, they have represented more than 100 clients in civil and criminal proceedings, many who otherwise would have lacked representation. The St. John Valley is a world away from suburban Boston, where Dan Gawrys grew up and earned his undergraduate degree. A public university system not nearly as affordable as ours, he chose Maine Law for its close-knit community, low cost, high quality and access to the mountains. Through his experience in Maine Law's rural fellowship program and at Fort Kent Clinic where he is serving this semester, Dan has fallen in love with Aroostook County. "I love the small town values," he says, "the people take care of one another. Their work ethic, their character; even as a student attorney, you really feel like you are part of a community here." He says, "you really feel like you are making a difference." When he graduates next year, he plans to join Swanson Law in Presque Isle, a small firm started and fully staffed by Maine Law alumni. Perhaps you could put in a good word for him, Senator Stewart, make sure it works. Dan, we are proud that our System brought you to this State and that you in turn have made a lifelong commitment to the County. Will you please stand?

Hey, Dan, just some advice. For the first 50 years, you're from away. After that, they'll drop it.

Through our clinics, student attorneys like Dan provided 17,000 hours of *pro bono* legal aid to low-income people last year. Like the Law School, all of our public universities have a statewide impact, but only one has had the statewide responsibilities from its establishment in 1865; the Maine Land Grant University.

Today, our flagship, led by the remarkable Joan Ferrini-Mundy, is still the State's land grant university, and thanks to a groundswell of support and Senator Susan Collins, it is still Maine's sea grant university. It is also officially one of our nation's top research universities. The recent affirmation of the University of Maine's well-deserved R1 designation should be a

point of pride for all of us. Every Mainer benefits having this world-class research university in our backyard. You've likely fed your family a UMaine-made Caribou Russet, which now is the State's top seed potato; perhaps had a smoother ride on State highways and over bridges built with our cutting-edge composite technology; or sent a tick for testing last year, the UMaine Cooperative Extension diagnosis and research lab, which is managed by Representative Jim Dill, received nearly 5,000 tick samples, more than half of which tested positive for at least one pathogen like Lyme. Thank you, Jim, for the great work you're doing.

UMaine research and innovation activities span this vast State and the vast needs of its citizens, companies and communities, and they power Maine's innovative economy. Flagship researchers have helped the State's iconic wild blueberry industry increase production by 500%. They've patented ballistic panels that protect our nation's military, and technology that could assist in the early detection of breast cancer. And when many of our mills closed, they reimagined what could be made from Maine's abundant wood supply, including 3D-printed houses and boats, insulation and other innovative building materials, sustainable packaging, PFAS-free firefighting bio-gel and even bone material for orthopedic operations. That's one heck of an R&D adventure, and again, I want to thank all associated with the University of Maine research structure, now in some senses under challenge, which we will find our way through.

And perhaps there is no more pressing than a need to grow the size and skill of our workforce. Here again, the University of Maine System is leading the way. Just in the last decade, we have conferred more than 53,000 degrees, led by those for business, education, health care and engineering and computing; fields where Maine most needs more knowledgeable and skilled professionals. Our public universities produce the most and best prepared business leaders and entrepreneurs, educators, engineers, cybersecurity and computing professionals, dental hygienists and assistants, nurses, lawyers, scientists, social workers and public servants, including about one-third of the legislative Body that is arrayed before me. You are our graduates. We are especially proud that since 2015, eight of Maine's top teachers have been our alumni. This includes the 2025 Maine Teacher of the Year, Becky Hallowell, who is a graduate of the University of Maine at Farmington and the University of Southern Maine. Like Mrs. Mitchell did for me when I was in fourth grade, Becky meets her Wiscasset Elementary School fourth-grade students where they are. She makes each of them feel truly special, and through engaging a nature-based education on the banks of the Sheepscot River, she gets them excited about their learning and their future possibilities. I know Becky prefers to be outside with her students, but I am honored she's come inside today, so that the Joint Convention can recognize your contributions to Maine's public education institutions. Becky, please rise so we can thank you.

Our System's impact on those getting started in their careers, like law student Dan, and those at the height of theirs, like Teacher of the Year Becky, is only possible because of your ongoing investment from this Legislature, from our tuition dollars and from the support of the taxpayers. I want to thank you. We need your help to maintain our momentum in Maine. Just like the Legislature, we are making tough choices. We have initiated a systemwide hiring freeze, incentivized early faculty retirement, laid off employees; unfortunately, we had to do that; left hundreds of positions vacant and are selling underutilized properties no longer essential to our mission. In recognition of

these difficult decisions, Standard & Poor's recently affirmed our System's credit strong rating, noting our prudent financial management policies and the leadership that has been given by our senior leadership in right-sizing our operations. Standard & Poor's also concluded that continuing growing support for the State for operating and capital needs is imperative to the system's long-term success. So, you don't have to just believe me, you can listen to Standard & Poor's.

I call on you to sustain the level of funding for UMS proposed in the Chief Executive's biennial budget and recently endorsed by the bipartisan majority of the Education Committee. Your doing so is critical to our ability to maintain student access and achievement and to mitigate the impacts of compensation and inflationary increases on tuition payers. I also ask that you not impose unfunded mandates on our public institutions or reduce our ability to responsibly raise revenue.

Second, while our System faces considerable uncertainty right now, nothing keeps me awake at night more than the state of our physical plant. Decades of underfunding and commitment to student affordability; which is positive; underfunding, not so; we have burdened Maine's public universities with \$1.6 billion in deferred maintenance. More than half of our facilities and three-quarters of our residence halls have not been meaningfully renovated in the last 50 years. And we have 500,000 square feet of obsolete space ready for removal as soon as demolition resources become available. The condition of our campuses is a crisis. It challenges recruitment and retention and our ability to deliver 21st-century education and research-driven innovation. I ask that the Legislature take this very seriously and soon, whether by supporting a one-time bond or ongoing appropriations for capital improvements or debt service. Just like roads and bridges, our university classrooms and our research laboratories are public infrastructure essential to the mobility of Mainers, the people you represent.

Finally, what you say in these Chambers and in your communications and on your social media channels and public higher education discussions, we need you to advise our students to join us at the most affordable State university system in New England. If they come, we can secure for them the promise of a great remaining life working in Maine, living in Maine, developing in Maine, bringing about change in Maine, allowing us to compete with other states in Maine; all of that, we consider our mission, and we deliver. Thank you very much.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair requests that the Honorable Craig Johnson, Interim President of the Maine Maritime Academy, please step forward and address the Joint Convention.

President **JOHNSON**: Thank you. Thank you, President Daughtry, Speaker Fecteau and the Legislature as a whole. I am very grateful to be here today. This is quite an honor for a boy from Bailey Island, so, what a great day.

But today, I want to talk a little bit about Maine Maritime Academy. It means a little bit something different to everybody in this room. They have a father; I know, so, we've got alumni up there, alumni over there; it means a little bit something different, whether a relative went to Maine Maritime or something. You can't go through an airport in the world and not see a Maine Maritime graduate, and many alumni and very proud of the State we hail from. I'm a proud alumni of Maine Maritime Academy, a proud alumni of Mount Ararat also, sorry, and I'm very happy to be here today. So, I represent our Board of Directors, our students, faculty, staff, all who've worked very hard to produce the graduates that we do today.

I was trying to kind of encapsulate what we do here, but what we do is a product of you. Back in 1941, before World War II, the Maine Legislature had the forethought to put Maine Maritime Academy on the map, to build us in the oncoming war that was coming and really, some great forethought by that Legislature in trying to address the maritime needs of our nation. We stand today doing that same thing. We're still addressing those needs; we're valuable in so many different ways. It's incredible to see what our graduates do, and the staff, faculty of our group really produce those folks.

You ask what our graduates do that's different. We had our career fair just a little while back that had 113 companies trying to hire 190 graduates; it's a *smörgåsbord*. So, our enrollment is growing. We are facing incredible pressure from our industry, the maritime industry, our business industry and all the industries which our graduates go into, to produce more and more graduates. So, for us to feed the engine, we're doing everything we can on a State, national level and the international level. I was in Tokyo giving a speech last week about the International Association of Maritime Universities, which two Presidents ago, Len Tyler, Maine Maritime was one of the founding members. There are 74 member-nations now, and I'm now the Chair of the finance for that group. And to be at the world level, you need to be at the world level, and our graduates are doing it, and as Interim President here at Maine Maritime, that's what I do as well.

We were talking with a couple companies last week who were up here looking at our graduates and said, you know, what sets our graduates apart? And they thought about it for a little bit, and they said, entitlement. I said, all right, that's not what I get with our graduates. And he said, no, that's what we don't get with your graduates. And he said, your graduates come to work ready to work, don't feel entitled and if the lights go out, they come running. And I said, all right, that's the mariner of today.

But it's not just our mariner graduates; our business graduates, our ocean science graduates, our power engineering graduates, they go everywhere. They're leaned on in their small businesses all over the country and all over the world. We have a lot of graduates that go out to sea but still live here in the State of Maine, whether they work a month on/month off, two months on/two months off. The old tradition of going out to sea for six months a year and coming home for six months is long gone. Some of these folks fly to West Africa for three weeks and fly back here in the State of Maine. As a return on investment for the State, that's the best kind, somebody that's earning money outside the State and bringing it back. So, that's something we always look forward to.

We partner with the companies, so, we are actively listening to the folks that hire our graduates and listening to them about the day-to-day needs of them, and most of the companies are very good; they'll come back and bring their time, they'll donate new equipment, things like that. So, we make sure that our graduates have the equipment that's on board these vessels, in these powerplants and all these different folks are active in our education, which is nice.

We're grateful for what the Chief Executive has done, for what the Legislature has done for our Academy in the world of Maine Maritime. At the national level, we're well looked after. Senator Collins, Senator King, Representative Pingree, Representative Golden, all look after us quite well. We have a brand-new ship coming; it'll be here, we're hoping, in October; it's being built in Philadelphia. This represents the first time that the Maritime Academy has ever received a new vessel. We've always received usually derelict vessels or older vessels out of

the fleet, but that was put forward as the number-two person for merit as a Maine Maritime Academy graduate and a Munjoy Hill resident put forward, so, we're looking very proud of that, and we'll be all inviting you down to that once we have a little bit closer date to its arrival. So, that'll be a proud day for the State of Maine, proud day for the town of Castine.

Castine is 400 years old and very historic in its shipbuilding nature as well. Within that small town; growing up in Harpswell, they said, what's Castine like? And I said, well, imagine if you get to the end of Bailey Island, put 863 teenagers. Oh, my God! So, I lie in bed sometimes at night and just hoping the teenagers are being good down the street, but they're a very, very good student body. They represent our State well, they represent the nation well and we're so proud of what they do every day.

Our faculty are outstanding. A good portion of them come from the industry and bring their expertise back, and that's what makes a difference to them. We've expanded into Brunswick this year. So, we just opened up a new campus in partnership with Bath Iron Works. We'll have Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in there, so, we're expanding what we're doing within the workforce. We have a 30-year-old lesser-known program, but we offer Associate's degrees in ship design and ship construction that have been predominantly Bath Iron Works graduates for the past 30-plus years. So, we took up the old PX on the old Brunswick Naval Air Station base, we rented 50,000 square foot space and we'll be producing Associate's graduates and that'll be also our use for our workforce programs.

So, we're doing a summer program again this summer with Portsmouth in combination with Bath Iron Works. We're working well with the University of Maine System, the Community College System and part of the Maine Defense Industry Alliance. Partnerships are what get us by day to day. It's all shared governance and quite a feat that we do. We look forward to what our workforce puts out. I think our graduates, even if those workforce programs; if anybody watched this past summer, we put 60-plus graduates into Portsmouth and if you see those young people, they average between 18 and 60, but those folks; we tried to give them Maine Maritime freshman year in a bottle, and I think just the spirit that they came out of that program with was different. They went into that workforce with multiple certificates and whether it's welding, electrical, inside/outside machining, they got a little bit of that hands-on thing that the MMA graduates are known for. It's what sets us apart. It's what costs us a little more to educate our students, but our education includes a wrench, it includes electrical tools and they learn HVAC and a lot more other things, so, it's quite a feat what we do day to day.

As we get down through that sort of stuff, we get into Bucksport, which is training for mariners. So, every mariner that goes out to sea has to recertify over and over and over again, so, we opened up a program in Bucksport that does that; we're doing some workforce stuff through Bucksport as well. So, I'd say today, we represent a lot more of the State of Maine than we did, you know, four or five years ago. So, it's a great value, I think. We're getting to be the most expensive maritime academy to go to, which is a bit to our detriment. The other schools receive a bit more funding from the State and they're from larger states. We were able to work with the federal government, building our new State pier to accommodate the ship, and they gave us the Maine provision thanks to Senator Collins, where we only had to contribute 10% of the overall build, where the other states had to contribute 20%. So, thank you to Senator Collins and Senator King as well for everything they've done for our school.

Lastly, I'd just like to say we're grateful, you know? It's a word that doesn't get used often enough here, but I'm grateful to get to present to you and grateful to get to tell you a little bit about Maine Maritime Academy today, and thank you very much.

The PRESIDENT: The Chair would now request that the Honorable David Daigler, President of the Maine Community College System, please step forward and address the Joint Convention.

President **DAIGLER**: Thank you. President Daughtry, Speaker Fecteau, Honorable Members of the 132nd Legislature, Chancellor Malloy, Interim President Johnson, I'm honored to come and discuss the State of Maine's community colleges. It's good to be back.

It's been almost six years since I last ascended to this distinguished rostrum, and I will tell you, a lot has changed in those six years. Working together, we have overseen significant investments. Investments made during the pandemic in response to an economic upheaval that followed; investments that supported an economic rebound unlike any other. The U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis reported that Maine's real GDP has increased 9.2% since the fourth quarter of 2019. That's the most robust growth in all of New England. During the pandemic, the shape and scope of our response was focused and immediate. Let me offer just a few examples.

Facing an acute nursing shortage, we doubled our nursing programs across the State, leveraging the State's \$2.5 million investment with an equal \$2.5 million match, split between Maine Health and Northern Light. As a shortage of workers jolted the Maine economy, we worked with our industry partners and, fueled by investments from the Maine Jobs and Recovery Act, we launched free short-term training courses, issuing more than 10,000 badges during the pandemic. Those badges gave employees and customers confidence in the restaurant, lodging, ski, child care and retail industries. When our partners in K-12 were on the brink, we heard the call and we launched the learning facilitator program, an innovative program that supports classroom teachers, giving our schools the classroom support they need. Because of its success and its pioneering methods, this Body enshrined that program into law in 2023. The pandemic presented challenges, and your community colleges; always responsive, always innovative and always efficient; rose to the challenge.

Today, we face new challenges. Automation, artificial intelligence, Maine's demographics, the effects of climate change and ever-changing geopolitical dynamics are the leading forces transforming our economy. Just like during the pandemic, we're not sitting idle. We are here to help turn challenge into opportunity. We're building the talent our State needs to continue to grow and thrive. We're bringing hope to 40% of Maine high school graduates who are not pursuing college after their high school education. We're partnering with employers, solving today's problems and meeting them where they need us most. During the pandemic, we elected to innovate at a time of uncertainty. We created a new workforce development model, building deep, value-added partnerships with Maine businesses. This model has become a national best practice. The model is responsive to the workforce development needs of our business partners. It seamlessly connects students from entry-level training through certificate and degree programs. By diversifying our funding to achieve our goals and better serve the State, this model integrates funding from philanthropy, funding from the State, funding from the federal

government and from our business partners. While this Legislature remains our most crucial partner, you are not alone.

Our bold vision to adopt a different approach to doing business earned the trust of the Harold Alfond Foundation, and in 2021, the Foundation awarded us a grant for \$15 million. We coupled that grant with \$35 million in Maine Jobs and Recovery funding to vastly expand our short-term training programs, building a targeted, rapid-response capability that delivers newly skilled workers to employers and helps businesses upskill their existing workforce. That program was so successful that the Harold Alfond Foundation renewed and increased the grant one year ahead of schedule. One year ahead of schedule, the Harold Alfond Foundation is investing \$75.5 million, so that that idea can grow and flourish and become sustainable for life. This is one example of how we are committed to building Maine's workforce in effective, innovative and affordable ways. We work tirelessly to be good stewards of these funds, and we try to deploy them wisely. Yet, you'll note that we only have two significant requests from you. We ask that you support ongoing funding for the free college program and support increasing our base, so that we can effectively compensate our employees and meet our obligations under the Paid Family Medical Leave Law.

These investments in Maine colleges have an ever-growing importance in several areas. In health care, Maine continues to have a desperate need for skilled health care workers, ranging from nurses to EMTs and phlebotomists. We work closely with our health care partners to tailor the programs that meet their needs. In construction, the lack of housing dominates today's headlines. In response, we're rethinking how we support that industry. This year, we have more than 2,300 students pursuing the trades. That includes 1,400 free college students pursuing degrees and certificates and more than 800 students in short-term training programs. But the demand is so great that we need to rethink how we support that industry. We're expanding our construction academies, redoubling our efforts to train and educate the builders, the plumbers and the electricians needed to add 80,000 new homes by 2030. Manufacturing is Maine's fourth-largest industry, employing more than 57,000 people, and more skilled workers are desperately needed. We're working directly with our manufacturing partners to train and educate their current and their prospective employees as part of a broad partnership that was built out through the Maine Defense Industry Alliance that we helped start and lead through the effort of Senator Collins. York County Community College is using federal funding to expand its Sanford facilities, adding programs in manufacturing and the trades. We are also preparing the next generation of guardians and champions of Maine's environment. We're proud to partner with Maine's Chief Executive and the Legislature in mobilizing the climate plan. We launched waves of heat pump training classes at multiple locations, training 550 technicians, who would be crucial to meeting and ultimately beating Maine's goal of installing 100,000 heat pumps. As the State invests in solar energy sources, the colleges are training the electricians who install and maintain this new energy infrastructure. To maintain clean water sources, we launched a new water technology program at Northern and Southern Maine Community Colleges, and SMCC has a marine science program that prepares students to work in and protect Maine's vital fisheries.

Now, the truth is, none of this is possible without the people who work at Maine's community colleges; the staff, the faculty, the adjuncts, the administrators and the student workers. They embody our mission and values. They work tirelessly every day. Their dedication and caring was particularly evident during the

shooting in Lewiston and the days that followed. In an instant, Central Maine Community College was part of a lockdown and needed immediate support. Like so many Mainers that day, colleagues around the State jumped in to help, often putting CMCC in front of their own well-being. Because local police and security were maxed out, Kennebec Valley Community College sent their security staff to CMCC, providing around-the-clock security to CMCC students located at Mustang Hall. With the college in lockdown, Southern Maine Community College worked with our colleagues at the University of Southern Maine to provide food and essentials. And York County Community College worked with their partners at Better Mind to ensure that CMCC students had access to free online services supporting mental health. Thank you to all. We're forever grateful.

Truthfully, these are the kinds of actions that I'm humbled to see each and every day. The people of Maine's community colleges working together are the key to our success. They inspire and nurture our students. They create a sense of belonging. They guide students on a path to opportunity. They deserve more than our thanks; they deserve competitive compensation. And that's why increasing our base is so vitally important. And yet, as good as that work is, there's much more to be done. I have referred to investments made by this Legislature, made by our federal delegation, made by our business partners and made by our leading philanthropic foundations. That funding fuels these investments, and the investments have an enduring value. This is not spending where the benefits vanish when the money is gone. These enduring investments for me benefit Maine people, many of whom have lived on the outskirts of opportunity for far too long.

I think of Thomas Bailey, a military veteran, who struggled to find a job and housing. He entered a short-term workforce training program at Southern Maine Community College and was hired by Bath Iron Works. As he put it, "a year ago, I was homeless, and now I have an apartment, a car and a future. I'm over the moon." It's stories like these that inspire us to keep going.

Another of those students is Marylou Ranta. Marylou is an energetic powerhouse. She graduated from the culinary arts program at Eastern Maine Community College when she was 50 years old, all while commuting 90 minutes each way. Within just a few years, Marylou won the coveted James Beard Award for outstanding hospitality at her restaurant, the Quarry, in Monson. Now, we talk often about how our work lifts entire families. It turns out, Marylou's son, Gunner Ranta, is a firefighter at the Bangor airport, and he graduated from Eastern Maine Community College five years later, in 2021. Both Marylou and Gunner are here today, and Lulu, Gunner, it's an honor to welcome you into this audience.

When Washington County Community College signed on to serve as an experimental site for the Second Chance Pell Program, Kristen Crowley enrolled while she was still incarcerated. Kristen ended up graduating with a 4.0. She was the college's Student of the Year. Please join me in saluting Kristen for her resilience and her determination. Kristen?

Kristen knows she's not alone. Central Maine Community College runs a welding program in partnership with the Southern Maine Women's Reentry Center in Windham. Graduates of that program, instead of scrambling for a job after they're released, are finding welding jobs, earning \$27-32 an hour. Not only are these women getting a strong start with good paying jobs, their investment is paying off for Maine, as they pay income taxes on a \$60,000-a-year salary.

Transforming lives; that's what the people of Maine's community colleges do. And the free college program is transforming lives at a massive scale. Forty percent of Maine's high school graduates don't go to college. Let me be clear, 40% of our high school graduates are not continuing their education at any of our institutions. Yet today, we have a shortage of skilled workers and it's perfectly clear that the modern workplace requires skills beyond the high school education. Maine's free college program is the most vital proposition we have found to ensure that Maine high school students graduate, that they're trained at home, that they're connected to vital Maine industries and that they're employed locally upon graduation. Many free college students have told us that they'd never considered going to college until they heard about the program that would cover 100% of their tuition and fees. Chloe Harvey of Waldoboro grew up in a family of lobstermen and, in her own words, was very against going to college. No one in her family had ever gone to college. The idea of going into debt scared the be-jeebies out of her. But she really liked this automotive class that she took at her CTE, and the free college scholarship meant she wouldn't go into debt. She enrolled at the automotive collision repair program at Northern Maine Community College. She got awards for her stellar work, graduated and is now working as a customer painter in Edgecomb.

There's stories like these all across the State. These are the students who, if given the opportunity, can become the health care workers, they can build our homes, they can keep Maine safe and they can strengthen our manufacturing base. And we like to say that our graduates are the backbone of Maine's workforce. You encounter them each and every day. They become firefighters and veterinary technicians, computer security experts, police officers, chefs and auto mechanics. Our free college students are just as academically successful as their peers, and trust me, free college students have skin in the game. They're paying for books, they're paying for tools, they're paying for supplies and they're investing their time and their lost wage potential to pursue an education. Now, for Maine, 81% are enrolled in career and technical programs; that's up from 73% before free college. Men, more men, are choosing to go to college. A hundred percent of the free college students live in Maine while they're enrolled; 96% are originally from Maine.

Maine's free college program is widening the pipeline for more skilled graduates entering the workforce, and it's increasing transfers to our four-year institutions. This summer, we launched a guaranteed transfer agreement with six of Maine's private colleges. Now, even before that agreement was signed, transfers were up significantly. In the fall of 2023, which is the last data that we have from IPEDS and only one year after we launched the free college program, the number of community college transfers was up 39% at St. Joe's, 46% at Maine Maritime and a whopping 96% at Thomas College. That's 196 students who transferred to Thomas College. And how about our partners, our public universities? Last fall, the University of Maine System reported a 31% increase in transfer students from Maine's community colleges. Now, you've heard about the relationship that Chancellor Malloy and I have developed. We heard that, and we decided we got to double down on this progress, and we worked together and signed a historic system-to-system agreement called Transfer ME. He's already told you about that, but together, we're guaranteeing enrollment at any public university without the need for an application or the hassle of any paperwork. Our Seawolves, Hawks, Falcons, Mustangs and Golden Eagles want to become Black Bears, Huskies, Moose, Beavers, Owls and Tigers. Many do say they were shying away from college because of some nagging doubt,

some reason to be wary of going to college, but the free college program drew them in. Kyla Hicks was from Wenham, Massachusetts; said she had tried college before. She was too stressed out by the debt. But she moved to Portland, enrolled in the nursing program and now she plans to, and here I quote, "live out her life in Maine." Brianna Michaud is a first-gen student. She felt she didn't belong. College gave her anxiety, and she knew she could not afford it. But the free college program she enrolled in gave her a renewed confidence and she now plans to be a pediatric occupational therapist. Brianna sees herself as part of a generation of young people who want to make a difference, but they need a chance. Kirsten Lions is first-gen student who graduated from high school in 2020. She's now a CMCC graduate, but the free college program allowed her time to figure out what it was she wanted to do, and she's now enrolled as a nursing student at the University of Maine in Augusta.

These students all had very personal reasons for choosing the free college program. For the State, there are very practical reasons to continue it. Maine's free college program is flawlessly aligned with the State's 10-year economic plan. We are increasing the State's skilled workforce, we're strengthening the bonds between our high schools and our community colleges and we are expanding our link between the community colleges and our public universities. The free college promise that we have collectively made is changing lives. It's helping entire families aspire. It's doing untold good for the communities where they live and work. There's no better time to earn a college degree than when you are young. There's no better time to get the skills you need than before life's complexities become insurmountable. There's no better time to dream than when dreams are within reach. Like other investments over the last six years, the free college program is an investment in our future. It's an investment that gives hope, it's an investment that gives people a fresh start, it's an investment that gives people the opportunity to dream. And for those of you in the Legislature, there are real financial returns. With more college graduates, incomes rise and balancing future budgets gets just a little bit easier.

Now, since we have a hockey thing going on here, I'm going to paraphrase Herb Brooks. Herb Brooks, the U.S. Olympic hockey coach, said great moments are born from great opportunities. And what we have here today is a great opportunity. We have the opportunity to deliver the workers we need to build 80,000 new homes by 2030, opening doors to new people who want to move to Maine and grow our economy but can't find a place to live. We have the opportunity to grow a workforce that reduces our dependency on foreign fuels and sustains the cleanest lakes and rivers in the northeast. We have an opportunity to expand child care, the child care that our families want and need. And we have an opportunity to provide the health care that Maine people need and deserve. Together, we can accomplish so much. We can give people the tools and the opportunity for a better life right here in Maine.

So, as President of the Maine Community College System, I'm grateful for the opportunity to come and deliver a small piece of our phenomenal work that we see on our campuses every day. I would be remiss if I did not thank the Chief Executive and the Legislatures that have supported our work; the Harold Alfond Foundation for its incredible support of our new programming; the Board of Trustees for their consistent encouragement; the College Presidents for a commitment and an amazing resilience in supporting our students; and the 1,595 students at the colleges and in the system office and the Harold Alfond Center for the Advancement of Maine's Workforce, for their agility, their

reliability, their teamwork and their amazing work ethic. I also; she's going to kill me for this, but I have to thank my wife. We share a passion for making a difference and she has been incredibly supportive. Now, as you may have guessed, I'm pretty excited about the opportunity that lies before us, and I look forward to continuing our work together. Thank you very much.

The purpose for which the Joint Convention was assembled having been accomplished, the Chair declared the same dissolved.

The Senate then retired to its chamber.

(After the Convention)

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

SENATE PAPERS

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 131) (L.D. 209)

PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-1) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "H" (H-9) thereto in the House on February 25, 2025.

Came from the Senate **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-1) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "F" (S-6)** thereto in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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

Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor moved that the House **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

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

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

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is to Recede and Concur to Passage to be Engrossed as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-1) as Amended by Senate Amendment "F" (S-6) thereto. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 17

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

NAY - Adams, Bagshaw, Cimino, Lance, Lyman, Morris, Paul, Rudnicki, Schmursal-Burgess, White J.

ABSENT - Blier, Brennan, Eaton, Greenwood, Hall, Hymes, Jackson, Mathieson, Parry, Skold, Soboleski.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 129; No, 10; Absent, 11; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

129 having voted in the affirmative and 10 voted in the negative, with 11 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the House voted to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(H.P. 179) (L.D. 275) Bill "An Act to Make Supplemental Allocations from the Highway Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-12)**

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

There being no objection, the House Paper was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended** and sent for concurrence.

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

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Provide Electronic Notification to Victims of Crimes"

(S.P. 408) (L.D. 981)

Bill "An Act to Require First Responder Training for Mental Health Crisis and Critical Incident Stress Recognition"

(S.P. 427) (L.D. 993)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Allow Hunting on University of Maine System Property"

(S.P. 420) (L.D. 988)

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

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

Bill "An Act Clarifying Exemptions from the Notification Requirements for Products Containing PFAS"

(S.P. 419) (L.D. 987)

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

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

Resolve, to Create the Commission to Improve the Oversight of the Long-term Care System

(S.P. 399) (L.D. 980)

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 Impose a Moratorium on the Ownership or Operation of Hospitals in the State by Private Equity Companies or Real Estate Investment Trusts"

(S.P. 416) (L.D. 985)

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

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

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

Bill "An Act to Protect Consumers from Hidden Fees and Ensure Transparent Pricing for Live Event Tickets and Short-term Lodging"

(S.P. 426) (L.D. 992)

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 Regarding Service of Notice of Restricted Person Status to Hospitalized Patients"

(S.P. 413) (L.D. 983)

Bill "An Act to Eliminate the Crime of Felony Murder"

(S.P. 418) (L.D. 986)

Resolve, Requiring the Office of the Attorney General to Develop and Promote an Optional Online Registry Informing Landlords of Their Rights and Obligations

(S.P. 424) (L.D. 990)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Require Every State and Municipal Building to Have at Least One Automated External Defibrillator"

(S.P. 414) (L.D. 984)

Bill "An Act to Prevent Conflicts of Interest When Voting on Municipal Employee Compensation"

(S.P. 425) (L.D. 991)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Establish Equal Tax Treatment for the Mi'kmaq Nation"

(S.P. 412) (L.D. 982)

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 Recognize Amateur Radio License Holders by Waiving Fees for License Plates Displaying Call Signs"

(S.P. 421) (L.D. 989)

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 following Joint Order: (S.P. 423)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, March 18, 2025, 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.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (S.P. 404)

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

March 5, 2025

Hon. Matthea Daughtry
President of the Senate
132nd Legislature

Hon. Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House
132nd Legislature

Dear Madam President and Mr. Speaker:

On March 5, 2025, 20 bills were received by the Secretary of the Senate.

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, these bills were referred to the Joint Standing Committees on March 5, 2025, as follows:

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Bill "An Act to Support Immersive Outdoor Education by Establishing the Outdoor School for All Maine Students Program" (EMERGENCY) (S.P. 384) (L.D. 895) (Sponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford) (Cosponsored by Representative CARLOW of Buxton and Senators: GUERIN of Penobscot, GROHOSKI of Hancock, BRENNER of Cumberland, RAFFERTY of York, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, Representatives: RIELLY of Westbrook, MURPHY of Scarborough)

Energy, Utilities and Technology

Bill "An Act Regarding the Calculation of Electric Rate Contracting Costs" (S.P. 386) (L.D. 897) (Sponsored by Senator LAWRENCE of York)

Bill "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) (Sponsored by Senator LAWRENCE of York) (Submitted by the Public Utilities Commission pursuant to Joint Rule 204.)

Bill "An Act to Update the Solar Energy Development Reporting Date Deadline" (S.P. 395) (L.D. 906) (Sponsored by Senator LAWRENCE of York) (Submitted by the Public Utilities Commission pursuant to Joint Rule 204)

Bill "An Act to Address the Use of Electricity by Data Centers" (S.P. 402) (L.D. 912) (Sponsored by Senator CURRY of Waldo)

Health and Human Services

Bill "An Act to Provide Young Children Stable Access to Health Care" (S.P. 385) (L.D. 896) (Sponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative MEYER of Eliot and Senators: INGWERSEN of York, BRENNER of Cumberland, Representatives: LEE of Auburn, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, MURPHY of Scarborough, DEBRITO of Waterville, BOYER of Cape Elizabeth)

Bill "An Act to Exempt from Fees Certain Services Performed by the Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory for Criminal Investigations" (S.P. 393) (L.D. 904) (Sponsored by Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Senators: CYRWAY of Kennebec, BALDACCI of Penobscot, Representatives: NUTTING of Oakland, ARDELL of Monticello, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, BISHOP of Bucksport)

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Bill "An Act to Strengthen the Requirements for Medical Payments Coverage" (S.P. 388) (L.D. 899) (Sponsored by Senator BAILEY of York) (Submitted by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation pursuant to Joint Rule 204.)

Bill "An Act to Establish the Medical Debt Relief Program" (S.P. 391) (L.D. 902) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot)

Bill "An Act to Collect Data to Better Understand the Consumer's Health Insurance Experience" (S.P. 400) (L.D. 910) (Sponsored by Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc) (Cosponsored by Representative ARFORD of Brunswick and Senator: BAILEY of York, Representatives: MASTRACCIO of Sanford, CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham)

Housing and Economic Development

Resolve, Directing the Maine State Housing Authority to Negotiate for the Purchase of or Acquire by Eminent Domain the Land and Buildings Commonly Known as the Bangor Mall (S.P. 390) (L.D. 901) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Representative ROEDER of Bangor and Representatives: SUPICA of Bangor, RANA of Bangor)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Law Governing Zoning Ordinance Variances for Persons with Permanent Disabilities" (S.P. 396) (L.D. 907) (Sponsored by Senator LIBBY of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Senators: NANGLE of Cumberland, MARTIN of Oxford, Representative: WADSWORTH of Hiram)

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Ticket Sellers from Prohibiting the Transfer of Tickets to Third Parties" (S.P. 403) (L.D. 913) (Sponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield and Senators: FARRIN of Somerset, BAILEY of York, GROHOSKI of Hancock, BALDACCI of Penobscot, RENY of Lincoln, NANGLE of Cumberland, Representatives: ROBERTS of South Berwick, DUCHARME of Madison)

Labor

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Paid Family and Medical Leave" (S.P. 383) (L.D. 894) (Sponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston) (Submitted by the Department of Labor pursuant to Joint Rule 204.)

Bill "An Act to Support Rural Workforce Recruitment by Allowing Pay Differentials Based on Work Site Location and Employee Experience and Credentials Under the Maine Equal Pay Law" (S.P. 387) (L.D. 898) (Sponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook) (Cosponsored by Senator: BEEBE-CENTER of Knox, Representative: BUNKER of Farmington)

Bill "An Act to Protect State Retiree Pensions from Inflation" (S.P. 389) (L.D. 900) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Senator: BEEBE-CENTER of Knox)

Taxation

Bill "An Act to Eliminate the Sales Tax on Prepared Foods and Support the State's Hospitality Industry" (S.P. 397) (L.D. 908) (Sponsored by Senator MARTIN of Oxford) (Cosponsored by Senators: GUERIN of Penobscot, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, Representatives: RUDNICKI of Fairfield, JACKSON of Oxford, HENDERSON of Rumford, FLYNN of Albion)

Bill "An Act to Expand Property Tax Relief for Veterans and Their Survivors" (S.P. 398) (L.D. 909) (Sponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative GRAHAM of North Yarmouth and Senators: FARRIN of Somerset, RENY of Lincoln, NANGLE of Cumberland)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act to Regulate the Advertising of Cannabis Products" (S.P. 392) (L.D. 903) (Sponsored by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec) (Cosponsored by Representative NUTTING of Oakland and Senators: FARRIN of Somerset, BALDACCI of Penobscot, BERNARD of Aroostook, Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, DUCHARME of Madison, BOYER of Poland, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, LAJOIE of Lewiston)

Bill "An Act to Modify Ranked-choice Voting with Regard to Candidates Who Withdraw from an Election" (S.P. 401) (L.D. 911) (Sponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot)

Sincerely,
S/Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate
S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House

Came from the Senate, **READ** and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE** in concurrence.

The Following Communication: (S.P. 417)

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

March 6, 2025

Hon. Matthea Daughtry
President of the Senate
132nd Legislature

Hon. Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House
132nd Legislature

Dear Madam President and Mr. Speaker:

On March 6, 2025, 7 bills were received by the Secretary of the Senate.

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, these bills were referred to the Joint Standing Committees on March 6, 2025, as follows:

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Bill "An Act to Ensure Human Oversight in Medical Insurance Payment Decisions" (S.P. 411) (L.D. 955) (Sponsored by Senator MARTIN of Oxford) (Cosponsored by Representative ZAGER of Portland and Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, CYRWAY of Kennebec, HARRINGTON of York, TIPPING of Penobscot, Representatives: Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, MORRIS of Turner, SOBOLESKI of Phillips)

Judiciary

Bill "An Act to Prevent Domestic and Sexual Abuse of Children and Increase Access to Protection from Abuse Orders by Allowing Children to File Protection from Abuse Orders on Their Own Behalf" (S.P. 405) (L.D. 950) (Sponsored by Senator BAILEY of York) (Cosponsored by Representative KUHN of Falmouth and Senators: TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland, CARNEY of Cumberland)

Bill "An Act to Change the Definition of 'Machine Gun' in the Maine Criminal Code" (S.P. 409) (L.D. 953) (Sponsored by Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Representative PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft and Senator: HARRINGTON of York, Representatives: MORRIS of Turner, POIRIER of Skowhegan, ARDELL of Monticello, WHITE of Guilford, HENDERSON of Rumford)

Labor

Bill "An Act to Exempt Agricultural Employers and Employees from the Maine Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program" (EMERGENCY) (S.P. 407) (L.D. 952) (Sponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin) (Cosponsored by Representatives: GUERRETTE of Caribou, COOPER of Windham, CRAY of Palmyra)

State and Local Government

Bill "An Act to Amend the Law Governing the Membership of the Government Oversight Committee" (EMERGENCY) (S.P. 410) (L.D. 954) (Sponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec) (Cosponsored by Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford and Senator: President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland)

Transportation

Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Implement the Recommendation of the Calais Branch Rail Use Advisory Council to Create a Multi-use Trail (S.P. 415) (L.D. 956) (Sponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington) (Cosponsored by Representative MINGO of Calais and Representatives: TUELL of East Machias, STROUT of Harrington, MCINTYRE of Lowell)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act to Require Disclosure of Campaign Funding Sources" (S.P. 406) (L.D. 951) (Sponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford) (Cosponsored by Representative RIELLY of Westbrook and Senator: GROHOSKI of Hancock, Representative: SUPICA of Bangor)

Sincerely,
S/Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate
S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House

Came from the Senate, **READ** and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE** in concurrence.

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

SENATE PAPERS

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Facilitate the Consolidation of the Department of Environmental Protection and the Maine Land Use Planning Commission into a Single Combined Entity"

(S.P. 149) (L.D. 383)

REFERRED to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** in the House on February 4, 2025.

Came from the Senate **REFERRED** to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

The House voted to **INSIST**.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Ensure Determinations Made by the State Are Free from Unethical, Unsafe or Illegal Interference by Artificial Intelligence"

(H.P. 558) (L.D. 872)

REFERRED to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** in the House on March 4, 2025.

Came from the Senate **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

The House voted to **INSIST**.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Allow Certain Persons with a Permit to Carry Concealed Handguns to Possess or Discharge a Firearm on School Property"

(H.P. 571) (L.D. 885)

REFERRED to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** in the House on March 4, 2025.

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

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

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

ORDERS

On motion of Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 578) (Cosponsored by Representative: PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft)

JOINT RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE HOLODOMOR AS AN ACT OF GENOCIDE AGAINST THE UKRAINIAN PEOPLE

WHEREAS, the Ukrainian famine-genocide of 1932-1933, known as the Holodomor, was a human-made famine that caused the deaths of at least 5,000,000 innocent men, women and children in Ukraine, resulting in the annihilation of an estimated 25% of the rural population of the country, an area that at the time was one of the most productive agricultural areas of the Soviet Union; and

WHEREAS, the human-made famine also resulted in the deaths of an estimated 1,000,000 to 2,000,000 people in regions outside Ukraine, mostly in the largely ethnically Ukrainian North Caucasus territory; and

WHEREAS, these people were starved to death by forced agricultural collectivization and grain seizures by the Soviet Union; and

WHEREAS, Western observers and scholars who accurately reported on the existence of the famine as it was occurring were subjected to disparagement and criticism; and

WHEREAS, the Soviet Union and many scholars in the West denied the existence of the famine until the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 made access to Soviet Union archives, and thereby the documentation of the premeditated nature of the famine and its harsh enforcement, possible; and

WHEREAS, the final report, delivered to Congress on April 12, 1998, of the United States Commission on the Ukraine Famine concluded that the victims "starved to death in a man-made famine" and that Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin "and those around him committed genocide against the Ukrainians in 1932-1933"; and

WHEREAS, although the famine resulted in one of the largest losses of human life in the 20th century, its occurrence remains insufficiently known in the United States and throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, official recognition of the famine by the government of Ukraine, including by the country's parliament, the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, represents a significant step in the reestablishment of Ukraine's national identity and the advancement of efforts to establish a democratic and free Ukraine that is fully integrated into the Western community of nations; and

WHEREAS, whether it was political oppression or religious persecution that caused Ukrainian immigrants to pursue better lives for themselves and their families, their desire to live in peace and enjoy liberty was so strong that generations of Ukrainian immigrants came to the United States in an effort to rebuild their lives; and

WHEREAS, since 2006, Ukraine has marked an annual commemoration for the victims of the famine; and

WHEREAS, a memorial to the millions who perished in the Holodomor was erected in Washington, D.C. in 2015, and the dedication ceremony took place in November of that year; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to commemorate the Ukrainian Famine-Genocide of 1932-1933, known as the Holodomor, to solemnly remember and honor its millions of victims and to recognize the Holodomor as an act of genocide against the Ukrainian people.

READ.

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

Representative **MILLIKEN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many Members of this Body will remember last year, when a high school senior named Levko Fedorak shadowed me for two weeks to learn about the Maine Legislature. Levko, a Ukrainian refugee student, was a student at George Stevens Academy and is now attending the Maine Maritime Academy in Castine. His hope in spending the two weeks with me for his independent study project at George Stevens, was to get the Maine Legislature to acknowledge Holodomor as an active genocide against Ukraine. It took some time, but here we are. Levko helped me write this speech to present this Joint Resolution.

Today, with the passage of this Joint Resolution, Maine joins 35 other states, all of European Parliament, and 33 UN nation-members in recognizing Holodomor as a genocide of Ukrainian people. Holodomor was a manmade famine in Ukraine from 1932 to 1933 which caused the starvation deaths of millions of Ukrainians. The best approximation of the death toll is between five and seven million people. The famine was a direct result of Soviet policies which were set out with the intention of exterminating Ukrainians by any means.

Holodomor, which directly translates in Ukrainian to 'death by hunger' or 'killing by starvation;' this manmade famine fully meets the criteria specified in the United Nations Convention on the Crime of Genocide under the definition section of the term. The United Nations lays out the following: "In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a nation, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such: (1) Killing members of the group; (2) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; (3) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; (4) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; (5) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group." When the Soviets established the excessive and clearly unrealistic grain procurement plans for Ukraine in 1932, it was the equivalent of establishing the planned extermination of Ukrainians. The forced confiscation from Ukrainian farmers not only of grain but of all foodstuffs consigned millions of people to an inevitable death by starvation. The absence of any attempt by the authorities to rescue the starving people and their deliberate actions that prevented the people from escaping to find food beyond the administrative boundaries of Ukraine, and the national border with the USSR by blocking their way with armed troops, confirms the intention to exterminate the Ukrainian national group.

Russia *de facto* is the sole heir to the former Soviet Union, and they continue exterminating Ukrainians as a nationality today. In addition to denying historical genocidal acts, Russia currently is committing war crimes and crimes against humanity, specifically against the people of Ukraine. It is time for the State of Maine to establish historic justice, to join the 35 American states in acknowledging Holodomor as a genocide of Ukrainian people and show thousands of Mainers who are either Ukrainian or with Ukrainian roots that the State supports them in acknowledging Soviet and Russian crimes against Ukraine. Thank you, Levko, *Слава Україні*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Subsequently, the Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED** and sent for concurrence.

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

On motion of Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston, the following House Order: (H.O. 16)

ORDERED, that Representative David Woodsome of Waterboro be excused Jan 21 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Yusuf M. Yusuf of Portland be excused Feb 11 for personal reasons.

READ and PASSED.

ENACTORS

Emergency Measure

An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025

(H.P. 131) (L.D. 209)
(S. "F" S-6 to C. "A" H-1)

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

Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

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

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Passage to be Enacted. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken.

ROLL CALL NO. 18

YEA - Abdi, Albert, Ankeles, Arata, Archer, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Beck, Bell, Bishop, Boyer M, Bridgeo, Bunker, Campbell, Carlow, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Cooper, Copeland, Crafts, Cray, Crockett, Daigle, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faircloth, Farrin, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Griffin, Guerrette, Hall, Hasenfus, Hepler, Javner, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lanigan, Lee, Lemelin, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Matlack, McCabe, McIntyre, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Osher, Pluecker, Poirier, Pomerleau, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Simmons, Sinclair, Stover, Strout, Supica, Swallow, Terry, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Warren, Webb, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Bagshaw, Boyer D, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collins, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Haggan, Henderson, Lance, Lavigne, Mason, Mingo, Morris, Paul, Perkins, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmursal-Burgess, Smith, Walker, White J, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Blier, Brennan, Eaton, Hymes, Jackson, Lyman, Mathieson, Parry, Skold, Soboleski.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 113; No, 27; Absent, 10; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

113 having voted in the affirmative and 27 voted in the negative, with 10 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 382)

JOINT RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AND INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

WHEREAS, the 100th Congress of the United States passed a Joint Resolution on March 12, 1987 to designate the month of March as Women's History Month; and

WHEREAS, Maine women of every race, class and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our State in countless recorded and unrecorded ways; and

WHEREAS, Maine women of every race, class and ethnic background have served and continue to serve as leaders in the establishment of charitable, philanthropic, commercial and cultural institutions in our State and Nation; and

WHEREAS, Maine women have played and continue to play critical economic, cultural and social roles in every sphere of the life of our State, whether in the workforce and as the majority of the State's volunteer workforce; and

WHEREAS, Maine women have protected and defended our collective rights, responsibilities and freedoms in myriad spheres, including serving our country courageously in the military; and

WHEREAS, Maine women have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and increased opportunity, but also in expanding the rights of all who experience oppression as leaders in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement and the peace and justice movement, among others, all of which work to create a more fair and just society for all; and

WHEREAS, despite these contributions, the role of Maine women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued in the body of American history; and

WHEREAS, Congress sent the Equal Rights Amendment to the states for ratification more than 50 years ago, and it is long past time that the principle of women's equality be enshrined in the federal and state constitutions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to designate March 2025 as Women's History Month, a time to celebrate and honor the contributions of all Maine women and girls, and to recognize March 8, 2025 as International Women's Day.

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

READ.

Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor **REQUESTED** a roll call on **ADOPTION**.

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

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

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Normally, I would be okay with this, but the very last Whereas on this, I believe, pigeonholes me and others into saying that we

agree with equal rights being part of the State Constitution. I do not. And because I don't agree with that section of this Whereas, I will be voting no on this Joint Resolution. Thank you.

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

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The irony is not lost on me that we are discussing a Resolution honoring women and their accomplishments, when we are canceling women and girls by allowing biological males to take their place atop podiums in our State; a sham censure just like the censure of the Good Representative from Auburn. The irony is not lost on me that we are discussing honoring women and their accomplishments at a time when a woman has been silenced by the majority in this Chamber, by a man, for speaking up for girls for their rights. Rights that have been hard fought for and won by women over decades of effort. Silenced, so that I will share some of her words and her constituents' voice by proxy, because a tyrannical majority would rather cancel women than have an honest conversation --

The SPEAKER: The Member will defer. The Chair would remind the Member to not question the motives of other Members of this Body. The Member may proceed, and perhaps review the comments that have been prepared in proxy for the Member to read. The Member may continue.

Representative **QUINT**: Okay, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let's see; honest conversation about a policy allowing biological males to participate in girls' sports, a policy that is actively harming Maine women and girls.

And now, for myself, Mr. Speaker. It is also ironic that this silencing of my colleague, what I believe to be a punitive retaliation, denies her voice and her vote on a topic that supposedly seeks to show our support of women. Mr. Speaker, the irony is not lost on me that we are discussing a Resolution honoring women and their accomplishments, when our State apparently cannot define what a woman is. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 19

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

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

ABSENT - Blier, Brennan, Eaton, Fredette, Hymes, Jackson, Lyman, Mathieson, Parry, Skold, Soboleski.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

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

75 having voted in the affirmative and 64 voted in the negative, with 11 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED** in concurrence.

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

Representative MOONEN of Portland assumed the Chair. The House was called to order by the Speaker Pro Tem.

**SENATE PAPERS
Non-Concurrent Matter**

An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025 (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 131) (L.D. 209)
(S. "F" S-6 to C. "A" H-1)

PASSED TO BE ENACTED in the House on March 11, 2025.

Came from the Senate **FAILING** of **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Speaker Pro Tem MOONEN of Portland moved that the House **INSIST**.

Representative FREDETTE of Newport **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **INSIST**.

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

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Biddeford, Speaker Fecteau.

Representative **FACTEAU**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House; first and foremost, I want to thank my colleague on the other side of the aisle, the Representative from Winter Harbor, Representative Faulkingham, and the Members of the Appropriations Committee for their hard work over the last many weeks. It is a shame that we find ourselves with a Non-concurrent Matter before this Body regarding the Enactment of the supplemental budget as an emergency enactor.

On February 4th, I joined leaders from the four caucuses, Members of the Appropriations Committee, to negotiate an agreement on the supplemental budget. After a great deal of consideration, we found an initial agreement on a number of requests from our Republican colleagues, which became known as Part X in the supplemental budget before us today. Part X included quarterly fraud, waste and abuse reports, a new structure for how DHHS reports MaineCare, TANF and SNAP information to the Legislature in order to provide greater accountability for those costs, repeal of the easy enrollment program, an expedited enrollment tool for CoverME and MaineCare, clarifying language to make explicit gambling winnings are considered toward income eligibility for MaineCare, clarifying language to ensure that no MaineCare payments are processed for incarcerated individuals while they are incarcerated; support for the report out of AFA, unfortunately, dissipated at that time.

So, we have spent the following weeks trying to figure out how to achieve a two-thirds vote in this Body. These negotiations resulted in a new agreement in addition to the one that was reported out of the Appropriations Committee between

caucus leaders, an agreement that included additional concessions from my side of the aisle. This includes several new provisions related to General Assistance, now known as Part Y; this includes annual training for GA administrators, annual communication from DHHS to GA administrators regarding rules and compliance expectations, a limit on GA for housing assistance to 12 months out of 36, program integrity audit done by a contractor and a report by DHHS to the Legislature.

These two agreements were each the product of weeks; weeks of negotiation across the aisle. They involved discussions between party leaders, Committee Chairs and Leads and difficult compromises. Tonight, in this Body, in this Chamber, the House did its job. Moments ago, we passed this emergency supplemental budget, maintaining our commitment to Maine people. I'm proud to be a Member of this Chamber. The House stayed true to its word and showed Maine people that hard, earnest negotiations; they still mean something around here. The supplemental budget amendment also includes a 1.95% COLA for direct care workers, supporting the important and valuable work they do. Again, I am proud of the House for taking the necessary action to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with those caring for aging Mainers, adults and children with disabilities. And I know that those workers are proud of this House Chamber as well. We have heard from our Colleagues that they wanted cost savings in the supplemental budget, and the agreement we reached will deliver cost savings.

When we elect leaders, we place our faith and trust in them to find agreement and common ground. We have put individuals in those roles whom we trust to do the very best to negotiate on their behalf; on our behalf. We find ourselves after days and weeks of negotiation with a motion before us to Insist. To Insist on behalf of those worried that they will lose access to health care; to Insist on behalf of those worried that nursing homes that are caring for our loved ones will close. We have a motion before us to Insist for those worried that they may lose their livelihoods due to the damage from an invasive pest that will devastate our northern and western forests. Is this the best the Maine Legislature can offer to Maine people who are waiting for us to deliver? Waiting for us to deliver on MaineCare, on tax conformity and protecting our economy from spruce budworms? The House has done its job. The House has stood with Mainers who are counting on us; hospitals, nursing homes, services for children and adults with disabilities, treatment providers. They are counting on us. Tonight, the House delivered.

Thank you to my Colleagues in this Chamber for your hard work, your earnest negotiations and willingness to stand behind difficult compromise. It's never easy. It's my ninth year in the Legislature; it is never easy. It's not meant to be. But when we come to agreement, that means something. It should mean something. Tonight, the Maine Legislature should be doing the right thing. The House will Insist because now is the time to make good on our word and to show Maine people that a deal is a deal, especially when the deal puts Maine people at the center. When Maine people come first. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **FREDETTE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. The work of the Appropriations Committee is to look at a supplemental budget in terms of paying its bills, but also as an opportunity to address and fix issues. And to a certain extent, in my opinion, Mr. Speaker Pro Tem, the box was defined as the limited items that have been talked about, and frankly, didn't address the core

issue, in my opinion, of what many Republicans were trying to communicate and trying to address. Those issues were, in my opinion, left outside the box.

We heard in Appropriations from the Administration, a presentation on MaineCare and they identified three items of why we're here today: too many people using too many services at too high a cost. It's pretty simple. Too many people, too high a cost. And the reality is that this bill didn't truly address any of those things. And for some Republicans, that was meaningful, because the reality is in paying the hospitals; which I believe people on our side of the aisle are in agreement with, that we need to pay the hospitals; but there were necessary reforms, so that we don't just continue to have the same problem every six months, every nine months, every 12 months. Because by not addressing the core problem, we will be back here again on a request on a supplemental budget to pay more hospital bills.

So, the Good Speaker from Biddeford, I agree with his comments to the extent of working together, but working together in a process in a constitutional republic is a complex process, and it may be it's even messy at times, but I believe if we were truly addressing the core problem, those three issues, then I don't think we would be here having to insist on a measure that there's no agreement on with the other Body.

So, here we are, after six, seven weeks, after something has been voted out of the Committee. And in my opinion, there have been other issues of concern on our side of the aisle which have gone unaddressed, which continue to cause an angst. And we, in my opinion, look forward to working with the folks on the other side of the aisle in passing something that makes sense, and if it takes us 'til April 1 to do that, or April 10th to do that, we roll up our sleeves and we continue to work. I don't think today is the day that it has to be done. We know that there are concerns out there about these payments being made, but again, we can roll up our sleeves and we can continue to work together to get to a deal, or we can go another route. And frankly, I think it's up to the majority party on what that other route is going to be. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have previously stated that this bill is on the one-yard line. Tonight, I believe this bill has made it to the one-inch line. And if this bill were to pass, we would see monumental welfare reform with a limit on General Assistance, we would pay our bill to the hospitals and we would give critical funding for spruce budworm, among other things.

Unfortunately, and this is important, there is a lack of trust for past reversal of Republican initiatives. We must rebuild that trust. Proverbs 15:1 says, "a soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger." The past couple weeks have born witness to more harsh words than I can remember at any time. It's been ugly, and we have all been worse off for it. Today, I choose not to cast harsh words, but to continue to work in good faith with each other and work towards the passage of this bill. So, in that spirit of unity, I say let's move forward in the most respectful and compassionate manner possible. With love for one another, and malice towards none, I support the pending motion.

The SPEAKER PRO TEM: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is to Insist on Passage to be Enacted. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken.

ROLL CALL NO. 20

YEA - Abdi, Albert, Ankeles, Arata, Archer, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Bridgeo, Bunker, Campbell, Carlow, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Cooper, Copeland, Crafts, Cray, Daigle, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faircloth, Farrin, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Griffin, Guerrette, Hall, Hasenfus, Hepler, Javner, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lanigan, Lee, Lemelin, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Matlack, McCabe, McIntyre, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Osher, Pluecker, Poirier, Pomerleau, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Simmons, Sinclair, Stover, Strout, Supica, Swallow, Terry, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, Warren, Webb, Wood P, Wood S, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Bagshaw, Bishop, Boyer D, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collins, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Haggan, Henderson, Lance, Lavigne, Mason, Mingo, Morris, Paul, Perkins, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Smith, Underwood, White J, White R, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Blier, Brennan, Crockett, Eaton, Geiger, Hymes, Jackson, Lookner, Lyman, Mathieson, Parry, Skold, Soboleski.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 108; No, 29; Absent, 13; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

108 having voted in the affirmative and 29 voted in the negative, with 13 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the House voted to **INSIST**.

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

On motion of Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, the House adjourned at 8:43 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 18, 2025, or until the call of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, respectively, pursuant to the Joint Order (S.P. 423).