

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE  
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION  
11th Legislative Day  
Thursday, April 24, 2025

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

Prayer by Reverend Douglas Beck, St. Francis by the Sea, Blue Hill.

National Anthem by Pineland Suzuki School, Manchester. Pledge of Allegiance.

Medical Provider of the Day, Jessica Faraci, MD, Falmouth.

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

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

**COMMUNICATIONS**

The Following Communication: (H.C. 142)

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

April 23, 2025

Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Fecteau:

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

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

L.D. 1403 An Act to Expand the Hunter Safety Course Exemption for Certain Individuals with Firearm Training

Judiciary

L.D. 1484 An Act Related to Public Access of Records of Certain Disciplinary Actions of Public Employees

State and Local Government

L.D. 136 An Act to Transfer the Responsibility for Tax Expenditure Review from the Government Oversight Committee to the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation

L.D. 247 An Act Regarding Recommendations for Changing Place Names in the State

L.D. 1155 An Act to Ensure Appropriate County Government Operations Relating to the Position of Dedimus Justice

Taxation

L.D. 1144 An Act to Reinstate the Property Tax Stabilization Program

L.D. 1168 An Act to Amend the Law Regarding the Current Use Valuation of Certain Working Waterfront Land with Respect to Commercial Boat Yards

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

**READ.**

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

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, here we are, Thursday, week five, and I have yet to be told or heard what the extraordinary circumstance is --

The SPEAKER: The Member will defer. The item before us is Communication related to bills that were, pursuant to Joint Rule 310, having voted unanimously to report the following bills out as Ought Not to Pass. Does the Member have comments related to the Communication before us about any of these items that were referred out of their Committees as Ought Not to Pass?

Representative **RUDNICKI**: I apologize, Mr. Speaker. I was trying to catch you in between each session, so, I would like to speak, but once we get past this, please. Thank you.

Subsequently, this Communication and accompanying papers were **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Fairfield, Representative Rudnicki, and inquires as to why she rises.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll start over. I am rising once again; we are now on week five of the Special Session that we have yet to be told, based on the Constitution, what the extraordinary circumstance is. I have not seen anything come on these Calendars that would justify this, and nobody has told me what would. So, I would certainly appreciate it if you can use your connections with the Chief Executive's office to please find out why we're here. Thank you.

**PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE**

Bill "An Act to Make the Possession of Under 2 Grams of Certain Schedule W Drugs a Class D Crime"

(H.P. 1190) (L.D. 1779)

Sponsored by Representative CRAFTS of Newcastle.

Cosponsored by Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, HASENFUS of Readfield, LEE of Auburn, MACIAS of Topsham, Senator: BAILEY of York.

Bill "An Act to Require Police Departments to Publish and Make Accessible Their Policies and Procedures and Require Training of Officers"

(H.P. 1195) (L.D. 1784)

Sponsored by Representative WARREN of Scarborough.

Cosponsored by Representatives: DILL of Old Town, JULIA of Waterville, PLUECKER of Warren, RANA of Bangor.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Clarify Tariff Rates for Nonresidential Customers Participating in Net Energy Billing with a Distributed Generation Resource"

(H.P. 1188) (L.D. 1777)

Sponsored by Representative WARREN of Scarborough.

Cosponsored by Representative: FOSTER of Dexter.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act Regarding Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Planning and the Juniper Ridge Landfill in the City of Old Town" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1193) (L.D. 1782)

Sponsored by Representative DILL of Old Town.

Cosponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot and Representatives: CAMPBELL of Orrington, HEPLER of Woolwich, OSHER of Orono.

Bill "An Act to Require the Department of Environmental Protection to Provide Certain Information Regarding Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances to the Public and Private Drinking Water Well Owners"

(H.P. 1197) (L.D. 1786)

Sponsored by Representative ARFORD of Brunswick.

Cosponsored by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland and Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, BELL of Yarmouth, BRIDGEO of Augusta, DILL of Old Town, GOLEK of Harpswell, HEPLER of Woolwich, MONTELL of Gardiner, SHAGOURY of Hallowell.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act to Encourage Competition by Requiring Independent Health Care Provider Cost-of-living Adjustments in Health Insurance Contracts"

(H.P. 1196) (L.D. 1785)

Sponsored by Representative BOYER of Cape Elizabeth.

Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and Representative: MATHIESON of Kittery.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Education and Experience Requirements and Add Reciprocity Privileges in the Certified Public Accountancy Licensure Laws"

(H.P. 1200) (L.D. 1789)

Sponsored by Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick.

Cosponsored by Representatives: COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, DUCHARME of Madison, JULIA of Waterville, MASTRACCIO of Sanford.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act to Authorize the Issuance of a Revenue Bond to Upgrade County Jails to Meet the Corrections Needs of Maine's Counties"

(H.P. 1186) (L.D. 1775)

Sponsored by Representative DUCHARME of Madison.

Cosponsored by Senator GUERIN of Penobscot and Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, FARRIN of Jefferson, GREENWOOD of Wales, Senators: BALDACCI of Penobscot, BERNARD of Aroostook, BLACK of Franklin, MOORE of Washington, STEWART of Aroostook.

Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** suggested.

On motion of Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act to Secure Under Authority of a Subpoena Pretrial Statements from a Witness Other than the Defendant in a Criminal Proceeding"

(H.P. 1191) (L.D. 1780)

Sponsored by Representative SINCLAIR of Bath.

Bill "An Act to Strengthen the Freedom of Access Act by Categorizing Commercial Requesters"

(H.P. 1199) (L.D. 1788)

Sponsored by Representative HENDERSON of Rumford.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

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Resolve, to Direct State Agencies to Implement the Social Security Fairness Act (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1202) (L.D. 1791)

Sponsored by Representative FREDETTE of Newport.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act Regarding Lobster Measurement"

(H.P. 1201) (L.D. 1790)

Sponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act to Establish the Interdisciplinary Advisory Board for the State House Complex"

(H.P. 1187) (L.D. 1776)

Sponsored by Representative MONTELL of Gardiner.  
Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and Representatives: BISHOP of Bucksport, COPELAND of Saco, HASENFUS of Readfield, JULIA of Waterville, ROLLINS of Augusta, SALISBURY of Westbrook, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, Senator: RENY of Lincoln.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act to Update Provisions of the Maine Administrative Procedure Act"

(H.P. 1189) (L.D. 1778)

Sponsored by Representative KUHN of Falmouth.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: LEE of Auburn, SINCLAIR of Bath, Senator: BAILEY of York.

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

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

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Bill "An Act to Clarify Municipal Affordable Housing Tax Increment Financing"

(H.P. 1194) (L.D. 1783)

Sponsored by Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, MATLACK of St. George, MURPHY of Scarborough, ROLLINS of Augusta.

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

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

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Bill "An Act to Exempt from the Gasoline Tax Act Ethanol-free Gasoline Used by Vehicles Off-road"

(H.P. 1192) (L.D. 1781)

Sponsored by Representative ARDELL of Monticello.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act to Strengthen the Maine Clean Election Act"

(H.P. 1198) (L.D. 1787)

Sponsored by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach.

Cosponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford and Representatives: FAIRCLOTH of Bangor, MALON of Biddeford, RANA of Bangor, RIELLY of Westbrook, Senators: BEEBE-CENTER of Knox, DUSON of Cumberland, TIPPING of Penobscot.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

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

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### ORDERS

On motion of Representative SAYRE of Kennebunk, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 1185) (Cosponsored by Senator BICKFORD of Androscoggin and Representatives: CARLOW of Buxton, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, LEE of Auburn, MOONEN of Portland, SARGENT of York, Senator: BENNETT of Oxford)

#### **JOINT RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE THE SEMIQUINCENTENNIAL OF THE BATTLES OF LEXINGTON AND CONCORD**

WHEREAS, the battles of Lexington and Concord took place on April 19, 1775; and

WHEREAS, in the wake of the Seven Years' War, the British government sought to pay for the costs of the war by increasing taxes on its North American territories without their consent; and

WHEREAS, British subjects in the American colonies resisted taxation without representation through political action and civil agitation, culminating in the destruction of a cargo of imported tea, an event known as the Boston Tea Party, in December 1773; and

WHEREAS, the British Government responded to the resistance in Massachusetts by passing the "Intolerable Acts," which, among other measures, revoked the charter of the Province of Massachusetts Bay, which encompassed much of today's State of Maine, concentrated power in a Governor appointed by the King, forbade town meetings without the Governor's approval and placed Boston under military occupation; and

WHEREAS, in October of 1774, the royally appointed Governor Thomas Gage dissolved the provincial assembly of Massachusetts Bay; and

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts provincial assembly defied Governor Gage, adjourning to Concord and organizing themselves as a Provincial Congress on October 7, 1774, and with John Hancock as its president, it became the de facto government of Massachusetts outside of Boston, including representatives from York and Cumberland Counties and other parts of present-day Maine; and

WHEREAS, beginning in October 1774, the Provincial Congress initiated actions for the defense and safety of the Province of Massachusetts Bay by providing for procurement and disbursement of arms and munitions, assembling a militia and appointing as the militia's commander the Honorable Jedediah Preble, Esquire, of Falmouth, now Portland, Maine; and

WHEREAS, on the evening of April 18, 1775, British forces commenced a military operation to apprehend the leaders of the Provincial Congress in Lexington and confiscate the arms and munitions stored in Concord; and

WHEREAS, local militia volunteers, distinguished by the term "Minutemen," having been notified through the night of the approaching soldiers, fought British forces on the Lexington Green and at the North Bridge in Concord, protecting their munitions from seizure and harrying the British forces throughout their retreat to Boston; and

WHEREAS, these battles launched a successful war for our nation's independence; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED:** That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to honor the courage and sacrifice of those who risked their lives by taking up public service and armed service in defiance of tyranny and in defense of the principles and practice of representative self-government that is their legacy and our heritage.

**READ.**

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

Representative **SAYRE:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It was an oversight that I did not ask to speak to my motion, which I do wish to do.

Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House, I'd like to take a moment to add a few observations to the sentiment before us. First, let me note the irony that this recognition of the Minutemen; simple farmers and tradesmen who were prepared to muster and fight within 60 seconds; is being delivered about five days late. Legislative time is real.

Second, I'd like to take a moment to reflect on what we may or may not choose to emphasize in the story we're remembering. Many of us recall that the battles were fought to protect a cache of munitions from government seizure. That's true, but it's only half the story. The King's troops were also seeking to arrest the leaders of the Provincial Congress, whom they regarded as outlaws. We, however, see them as the lawful continuation of a system of self-government that had already been in place for 150 years at that time. And that's really what I want us to recall today. Those arms were collected and stored in Concord at the direction of the Massachusetts Provincial Congress, which had reformed itself in defiance of Governor Gage's dissolution of the Provincial Assembly. Those arms were protected by a militia that was formed at the direction of the Provincial Congress. That Provincial Congress contained Representatives from York, Kittery, Wells, Berwick, Arundel, Biddeford, Falmouth, Cape Elizabeth, North Yarmouth, Scarborough, Brunswick, Harpswell, Gorham. That Provincial Congress remained in place until succeeded by the Constitution of Massachusetts of 1780 and, for the territory that became the State of Maine, by the Constitution of this State in 1820. That Congress was our predecessor. All of us who serve here, all of us, are heirs and trustees of that body that maintained public order after the military occupation of Boston began in 1774 and that served to protect the people with both civil and military leadership in fighting for our fundamental rights against an arbitrary and capricious Executive.

So, yes, this was a fight about the right to bear arms. It was about the right to bear arms in the service of the principles of self-government and against the forces of tyranny that had violated those principles. And I will close by sharing a brief description of what some of those violations were as articulated in a document prepared about a year after Lexington and Concord, a document we know as the Declaration of Independence. 'He;' the Executive; 'has made Judges dependent on his Will alone; He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil power; He has cut off our trade with all parts of the world; He has imposed Taxes on us without our Consent; He has deprived us in many cases of the benefit of Trial by Jury; He has transported us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offenses; He's taken away our Charters, abolished our most valuable Laws, and altered fundamentally the Forms of our Government.' These are

the principles that were fought for on April 19, 1775. These are the principles that it is our duty to defend today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

I wish to thank the Representative from Kennebunk for putting forward this factual and accurate Resolution, and I just want to rise for a moment and, as this is the 250th anniversary of that battle at Lexington and Concord, and just think back or imagine back to that time where history might tell it as the United States took on Britain to win their independence, but the reality of what happened is even much more amazing. It was regular citizens who took up arms in a paramilitary group known as the Minutemen, who took up arms against not only their government, but the greatest government and the greatest empire that the world had ever seen. The sun didn't set on the empire of Great Britain, and these farmers took up arms against them. And what that would lead to would be the creation of the greatest country, with the most freedom and opportunity and wealth that the world had ever seen. And it is that day where those men had the bravery and courage to actually act and be there, to stand in the face of tyranny. And if it had not been for those men that day to spark that Revolution, we wouldn't be living in the same world today; it would be a much different place. And before that time, there was royalty and there was the rich and the poor, and without the occurrence that happened at Lexington and Concord that sparked that Revolution, there would never have been a country like the United States, with a middle class like we've seen that has even spilled over into other parts of the world and a wealth that was absolutely unimaginable. The wealth that the common person has in this country is more than royalty had just a few short decades ago, because of that moment.

So, I think it is fitting that we remind people of what was done, the courage it took to take up arms against your government when your government becomes tyrannical and to remember the men of that paramilitary force, the Minutemen, and thank them for what they've done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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On motion of Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston, the following House Order: (H.O. 25)

**ORDERED,** that Representative Randall C. Hall of Wilton be excused Apr 17 for personal reasons.

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED,** that Representative Lucas John Lanigan of Sanford be excused Apr 1, 3, 8 and 10 for health reasons.

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED,** that Representative Joshua Morris of Turner be excused Apr 17 for health reasons.

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED,** that Representative Jennifer L. Poirier of Skowhegan be excused Apr 22 for personal reasons.

**AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED,** that Representative Stephen J. Wood of Greene be excused Apr 22 for health reasons.

**READ and PASSED.**

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

Representative **PLUECKER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, we recognize the dedicated State staff in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Maine Forest Service, who were deployed out of state in 2024.

Through regional and national mutual aid agreements, the Maine Forest Service partners with State and federal agencies to protect our natural resources. Through the Northeast Forest Fire Protection Compact and National Stafford Act Master Agreement, we share resources across state lines, providing and receiving assistance as needed. Our Maine Forest Rangers and Forest Service staff receive extensive training in wildfire and natural disaster response, and they continue to build their expertise through nationwide deployments. The Maine Forest Service team takes pride in their collaborative approach to emergency response, providing support both locally and nationwide. While wildfire suppression involves inherent risks and a successful mission is built on the State's robust infrastructure; which includes aviation programs, fleet of specialized engines, modern facilities, wildfire preparedness initiatives, skilled response teams including dedicated volunteers throughout Maine; we'd like to recognize the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry's Commissioner, Amanda Beal; Maine Forest Service Director Patty Cormier; Chief Forest Ranger Robby Gross and the many Maine Forest Service staff members present today. And upon your gavel, we ask that they please rise and be recognized.

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#### SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

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

##### Recognizing:

the Old School Pantry, of Mexico, which has received the Non-Profit/Leadership Award from the River Valley Chamber of Commerce. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 210)

Presented by Representative HENDERSON of Rumford. Cosponsored by Senator MARTIN of Oxford, Representative SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative HENDERSON of Rumford, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

##### READ.

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

Representative **HENDERSON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my intent to move to Table this, as well as the following one, if that helps with the reading of the Sentiment.

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

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##### Recognizing:

Island Indulgence Spa, of Rumford, which has received the Customer Service Award from the River Valley Chamber of Commerce. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 211)

Presented by Representative HENDERSON of Rumford.

Cosponsored by Senator MARTIN of Oxford.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative HENDERSON of Rumford, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

##### READ.

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

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##### Recognizing:

the Pineland Suzuki School, of Manchester, on the celebration of its 30th anniversary. On April 24, 1995, Betsy Kobayashi and Ellen Gawler founded the school in their living rooms. Today, they continue to lead and instruct students. The school follows the pedagogy of Dr. Shinichi Suzuki, which emphasizes both character and musical education. Committed to musical excellence, integrity, and beauty, the school fosters a joyful, noncompetitive learning environment. Dedicated to Dr. Suzuki's ideals, it nurtures each student's character through the beauty of music and the pursuit of excellence, sharing these values with the public through performances and presentations. Over the years, the Pineland Suzuki School has provided character and music education to more than 2,000 Maine children, each for 10 to 15 years. It has also performed over 3,000 community concerts at schools, libraries, churches, hospitals, assisted living facilities, contradances and other gathering places where Maine people come together to experience music and community. We extend our congratulations and best wishes.

(HLS 212)

Presented by Representative SHAGOURY of Hallowell.

Cosponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative SHAGOURY of Hallowell, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

##### READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Hallowell, Representative Shagoury.

Representative **SHAGOURY**: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I congratulate the Pineland Suzuki Orchestra on the 30th anniversary of their founding, and I thank them for their 30 years of providing musical education and beautiful music like we heard this morning to the central Maine region. They've taught literally thousands of young people from the area, and some of whom have gone on to become professional musicians. I hope they are able to continue with this work for many years to come. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Belgrade, Representative Frost.

Representative **FROST**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also rise to give my hearty congratulations to the Pineland Suzuki School. All three of our daughters spent many, many years with this group and still play today in different various ways. But I served on the board for years, I went to all of these things that are listed, I watched Anne McKee as a tyke on stage. So, thanks to Betsy and Ellen and all the other wonderful teachers that have come along with this group. They have brought a lot of joy to many, many people. Thank you.

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

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

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

Expression of Legislative Sentiment Recognizing Restoration Resources, of Alna

(HLS 190)

TABLED - April 17, 2025 (Till Later Today) by Representative STOVER of Boothbay.

PENDING - **PASSAGE**.

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

Representative **STOVER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Restoration Resources of Alna began in 1975, 50 years ago, and has been a highly successful small business, but is the largest business in Alna, Maine. Congratulations on their 50th anniversary. Les Fossel, a former Representative, has a crew of 15 people and they have a combined 196 years of experience in construction. Les personally has over 100,000 hours of experience running this small business while he also served in the 114th and 115th Maine Legislature and currently serves on multiple boards in Lincoln County. Continuous leadership, just like he did when he was here. So, our congratulations to him and thanks.

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

Representative **FARRIN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've known Les Fossel for many years. So, congratulations on 50 years in business. I was first introduced to Les in the late 1990s in my real estate business. My partner said, 'if you have any questions about old houses, Les is the guy to talk to.' I called him a few times and also took a couple of his "Old House" classes, which I learned a lot from. I believe he is the largest employer in my District 47 town of Alna. Again, I congratulate Les on his 50 years in business as Restoration Resources, and as a former Member of this Body, I always remembered his slogan: 'Les is more.'

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

**PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE**

Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Review the Progressive Treatment Program and Processes by Which a Person May Be Involuntarily Admitted to a Psychiatric Hospital or Receive Court-ordered Community Treatment

(H.P. 1204) (L.D. 1799)

Sponsored by Representative DEBRITO of Waterville.

Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: DAIGLE of Fort Kent, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, JAVNER of Chester, MCCABE of Lewiston, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, ZAGER of Portland.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Health Care Entities Providing Dental Plans from Requiring Dentists to Charge Fees for Uncovered Services"

(H.P. 1205) (L.D. 1800)

Sponsored by Representative MASTRACCIO of Sanford.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

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

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEE Refer to the Committee on Judiciary Pursuant to Statute**

Representative KUHN for the **Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary** on Bill "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right to Know Advisory Committee Concerning Denials of Public Records Requests"

(H.P. 1203) (L.D. 1797)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 411, subsection 6, paragraph G.

Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**.

Sent for concurrence.

**Divided Reports**

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Promote Clean and Affordable Maine-sourced Bioenergy by Amending the Law Regarding Outdoor Wood Boilers and Outdoor Pellet Boilers"

(H.P. 331) (L.D. 502)

Signed:

Senators:

TEPLER of Sagadahoc  
BRENNER of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-68)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico  
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

**READ.**

On motion of Representative DOUDERA of Camden, the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

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Majority Report of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Prohibit the Maine National Guard from Combat Deployment Absent an Act of the United States Congress" (H.P. 168) (L.D. 265)

Signed:

Senators:

HICKMAN of Kennebec  
DUSON of Cumberland  
TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin

Representatives:

SUPICA of Bangor  
CHAPMAN of Auburn  
FAIRCLOTH of Bangor  
FREDERICKS of Sanford  
FROST of Belgrade  
MALON of Biddeford  
TERRY of Gorham

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-70)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representatives:

BOYER of Poland  
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth  
HYMES of Waldo

**READ.**

Representative SUPICA of Bangor moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative BOYER of Poland **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

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

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

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. "A vital element in keeping the peace is our military establishment. Our arms must be mighty, ready for instant action, so that no potential aggressor may be tempted to risk his own destruction. Our military organization today bears little relation to that known by any of my predecessors in peace time, or indeed by the fighting men of World War II or Korea. Until the latest of our world conflicts, the United States had no armaments industry. American makers of plowshares could, with time and as required, make swords as well. But now we can no longer risk emergency improvisation of national defense; we have been compelled to create a permanent armaments industry of vast proportions. Added to this, three and a half million men and women are directly engaged in the defense establishment. We annually spend on military security more than the net income of all United States corporations. This conjunction of an immense military establishment and a large arms industry is new in the American experience. The total influence - economic, political, even spiritual - is felt in every city, every state house, every office of the Federal government. We recognize the imperative need for this development. Yet we must not fail to comprehend its grave implications. Our toil, resources and livelihood are all

involved; so is the very structure of our society. In the councils of government, we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex. The potential for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist. We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes. We should take nothing for granted. Only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of the huge industrial and military machinery of defense with our peaceful methods and goals, so that security and liberty may prosper together."

That was over 60 years ago, that was President Dwight D. Eisenhower's farewell address, a portion thereof, from 1961. I think he was ahead of his time in recognizing the risk of the military-industrial complex and today, we're asking to support the Constitution to say that if we're going to send Maine National Guard men and women to conflict zones, foreign conflict zones, then our Congress must do their job, Mr. Speaker, and declare war via the Constitution. We haven't done that since World War II.

In this Body, Mr. Speaker, how can we talk about the Constitution and how can we talk about the First Amendment or the Second Amendment or 'speedy trials' or 'due process?' We must defend all of the Constitution, Mr. Speaker, and this is part of it. Congress ceded its authority to the Executive, and it's time we take that back. Our National Guard has turned into the fighting force for our military conflicts overseas. They make up to 50% of the fighting force. This isn't just some extra reinforcements, Mr. Speaker; this is the force. And you're going to hear from a veteran after me, Representative Hymes, and he's going to explain from his point of view why we need to pass 'Defend the Guard.' Other Bodies in other states have passed 'Defend the Guard': Virginia, New Hampshire, Arizona Senate. It doesn't matter who's in the White House, who the Executive is, we need to do it the right way. We have a process, we have a balance of power, and since the War on Terror, since 2001, we've ceded that power to the Executive. We need to restore it back to the people, back to the Legislative Branch. I don't want to send Mainers to Ukraine to fight, I don't want to send Mainers to Gaza to fight and if we're going to do that, then, by golly, we can at least do our job and declare it through the Constitution if we're going to do that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Waldo, Representative Hymes.

Representative **HYMES**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Those of you that know me, know that I'm a man of little words, so, I'll try to get through this in the most succinct fashion as I can.

This is a topic that's very near and dear to me. Just a little bit of background, I did not serve in the Army National Guard, I served in the United States Navy for 20 faithful years. Seven and a half of those were direct action missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Yemen, so on and so forth. I was on the frontline. I saw the best of humanity in action, and I saw the absolute worst of humanity in action. But I signed up for that; that was my job. Active-duty military, 24/7, 365; that's what I signed up for. So, when I'm talking about this, you guys understand a little bit more of my background and why this means so much to me.

Just to clarify some things that I've heard from a couple of people; so, this bill specifically is addressing combat deployments overseas. It has absolutely nothing to do with anything that the National Guard does within the confines of the United States. Hurricane, forest fires, anything of that is completely untouched by this bill. This is combat deployments overseas. This has absolutely nothing to do with our strategic

partnership with Montenegro; it has nothing to do with our National Guard training in any country, anywhere where in the world, for anything, as long as it is not in a combat zone, doing combat missions, unless Congress declares war, which is the what the Constitution requires to send our Maine National Guard into combat zones. All I'm asking is that we follow the Constitution.

Where did we get to; how did we get to this point? So, 2001, everybody knows what happened in 9/11/2001, in a moment of panic, the term "Authorized Use of Military Force" came to be. Authorized Use of Military Force was an umbrella term to use the military force for whatever it wants to do at that particular time; obviously, fighting back against the attacks on 9/11; seceded to the President. The President had that authority. In 2003, that Authorized Use of Military Force expanded to pretty much allow the Executive Branch to do whatever it wants with all branches of the military; regardless active duty, reserve or National Guard; for whatever missions, and that's how we got into Iraq and Afghanistan and so on and so forth. I'm not here to talk about Iraq and Afghanistan, I fought in those, it is not my place to talk about the constitutionality of those wars. I had to deal with the positive effects of those and the negative effects of those; the negative effects of those being burying more friends of mine than I can count on my fingers and toes.

So, just so we're abundantly clear, this has to do with National Guard deploying into combat zones. Now, the pushback. Some other pushback on this; and I'll just put this out here, as it was also floated around in my caucus this morning; the veterans' caucus talked about this, the veterans' caucus was not for this, they were not against it, we were split, for various different reasons, because we all come from different background. Some are National Guard, Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, so on and so forth. So, the veterans' caucus was split on this, and I fully expected this side of the aisle and that side of the aisle is going to be split. And for something as grave as sending our National Guard troops into combat zones, I fully suspected it should be that way, anyway. The only argument that I've heard from this, from anybody, is; well, the biggest one is funding. That if we pass this and we tell the federal government we're no longer sending our National Guard troops into a combat zone without a declaration of war, is that miraculously, we're automatically; we're going to not get federal funding for our National Guard. I posed this question to the Adjutant General; the previous Adjutant General and the current Adjutant General; on who is telling you this and where, and I have heard nothing but crickets. Anybody who's served in the military knows that somebody somewhere controls the checkbook, and until I get an answer from that particular person that they're going to cut funding to Maine, I will never back down from this fight. I've even reached out to the federal delegation; Congressman Golden and Senator Susan Collins; to get some answers from the Pentagon, and I'm still waiting to hear back on those.

The other argument with those funding sources being cut off, which is a straw-man argument, because in the law; and this came up last session; in the law, it states that if, for some reason, the federal government; and this has to do with the Department of Defense, not anything else that's going on in the federal government right now; that if the Department of Defense is going to cut funding to the State of Maine, they have to give us a 90-day notice in which we can comply before they can cut that funding. So, if this passes, and the federal government says, hey, you guys can't do this or we're going to stop sending money to you, we have 90 days to repeal and go back forward into this.

But again, I've already talked to the previous and current Adjutant General on who this mystery person is in the Pentagon that might cut funding, with zero answers, and I'd like some answers, Mr. Speaker.

The problem that we have here is a consolidation of powers at the Executive level. That was not what the Founding Fathers wanted us to have, that's why it's written in the Constitution, in Article I, Section 8, Clause 11 that if we want to send our National Guard troops into combat zones, Congress needs to do its job.

I'll close on one more thing here, and it involves some sea stories that we're not going to get into here, because sea stories are 95% true and 5% fictional, as most good sea stories are. I'm told that if an order comes from D.C. to our AG that we need to deploy our National Guard troops; that we are supposed to just blindly follow that order. I will tell you; and I have no problem saying this on record; that anybody that blindly follows an order, I question their leadership. And I'm not specifically questioning the leadership of the current AG, I'm saying anyone who blindly follows an order without ever questioning orders, I have questions for their leadership. And I'll point out three specific times in my career where it almost cost me my career. Three specific times in my career, I directly disobeyed a lawful order that was eventually found out to be an unlawful order, put my career three times on the line because I didn't want something to happen to my troops that I didn't think was unlawful. And I went to the mat for that, and I won all three times. I don't understand why people in leadership are not willing to go to the mat and question orders from people above them, and that's kind of how we've gotten to where we are right now at the federal level and at the state level, where people will choose to just be told what to do and follow, and I am not a follower. Anybody who's served with me in my military career and knows me personally, knows that I am not a follower. I question everything, even if it's the most straightforward, black-and-white thing, it should be questioned and have a debate and discussion about it.

And in closing, sir, Mr. Speaker, I would just like everybody to consider here, and I know a lot of people ran on this and I know a lot of people get up and say this and they post on social media that they stand with our troops and stand for our veterans. Well, the best way to stand for them is to never send them into the combat zone that they shouldn't be in, anyway, if Congress hasn't even declared war. So, I ask you today to vote on your conscience on whether or not we should be sending the National Guard into combat without Congress doing its job. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **FREDETTE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. And it is with the most profound respect that I rise to speak in support of the current motion of Ought Not to Pass. And first of all, I want to recognize anybody in the Body who has served in the military, whether that be active duty, reserve or guard.

And I do want to provide a little bit of background, so that people sort of understand, because it is a little bit complicated. I think most of us are probably fully aware of those people who maybe graduate from high school and decide to go directly into the military, and those are our active-duty folks that are on the line for a certain four-year or six-year commitment and, like the previous speaker, maybe stay for 20 years. We then have what's called an active-duty reserve component. That is a federal branch of the military, and those are folks that do two weekends a month, two weeks a year, and the distinction there

is that they serve under Title 10 orders; they are federally controlled. And then we have a third component, which is the National Guard. And just for background, I will tell the Body that I just completed 25 years and just retired less than three weeks ago after serving as a Judge Advocate General for the Maine Air National Guard. And I served in that capacity as the highest-ranking Judge Advocate General in the State on behalf of the Air National Guard. And one of our primary roles and functions is to advise leadership. But I want you to understand that in the context of the National Guard, the National Guard is state controlled. It is not federal controlled, it is what we call Title 32, and there's certain missions that the state National Guard can do that the federal reserves or the federal active duty can't do. And I think that's the distinction. Oftentimes, if we see floods or we see some sort of crisis, maybe it's at the border, they'll be the National Guard that's typically sent to do that, because it's an in-country, state mission.

Now, I agree with the previous speaker that I don't think anybody should blindly follow orders, and I will only tell you that in Maine, for example, on the air side, where we have roughly 1,500 Air National Guard Members, we have three; actually, we have four Air National Guard JAGs which provide legal advice and counsel to leadership, which include the TAG, which is the highest ranking person in the State for both the Army and the Air. In addition to those folks, on the Army side in the National Guard, they have eight JAGs; Judge Advocate Generals; which provide legal advice and counsel to leadership, whether it be at the command level or whether it be at the highest level in the State. So, if you kind of add all of those up, you have 12, maybe sometimes 15 lawyers providing legal counsel to leadership for the National Guard in the State. And so, if there is an order that comes down from Washington; be it, for example, COVID, which happened recently; there was lots of legal opinions, lots of conversations, lots of advice about what had to happen and what didn't have to happen, what would be the consequences if we didn't do X, what would be the consequences if we did Y.

Now, to give you sort of all of that background, I will only tell you that the context within which this is conversation, and this bill is set is to impact only the National Guard. We're not talking the active duty, we're not talking Air Force Reserve, we're talking about those Army and Air National Guard folks here in the State of Maine. And so, I first want to just say, as somebody who served as a lawyer in the military, a Judge Advocate General, nobody blindly looks at orders from Washington and says, 'oh, yes, you know, they said we should do X and we're going to go do X.' There's an analysis that gets done; there will be conversations with other regions within New England, maybe conversations with other JAGs throughout the country. There are very, very fluid conversations which happen when orders come down from Washington.

Now, the other reason that I want to tell you a little bit about the active duty, the active reserve and the National Guard is, you need to understand that they all work together. We don't go to war without the active duty; we don't go to war without the active reserve or the National Guard. If anybody is familiar with the 101st Air Refueling Wing in Bangor, it is one of the best Refueling Wings in the world. And we pump gas, that's essentially our mission, because when you fly planes from, oftentimes in the center of the country, maybe over to the Middle East, oftentimes those planes don't want to land or they don't have the time to land or because of some sort of secret component of the mission, we don't want them to land. And so, our planes from the 101st Air Refueling Wing can go up in the air and fuel those planes, so that they can continue on to their mission.

So, my point in all that is, is that you don't go to war without the National Guard. And on the Army side, it's no different in terms of, maybe they have a specific mission; which I don't want to talk about, because I don't want to breach any secrets; but they may have a mission as well that they need to be a part of the fight. And so, if in passing this bill, we say to our national leaders in the Pentagon, usually, that 'hey, when you go to war, don't call Maine,' there's going to be an impact to that. As the previous speaker previously indicated, he's never gotten a direct answer from X, but it only stands to reason that when you say to our national folks that plan these sorts of things, 'don't call Maine,' why would you continue to fund that?

Now, let me give you a little bit broader perspective; and I just told you, for example, in Maine, we have the 101st Air Refueling Wing, that's a \$100 million enterprise. And this isn't just about money; that's \$100 million to the local economy in Bangor, Maine. And if you want to remove that \$100 million from the economy in Bangor, Maine, you should vote for this. Because I will tell you that a very short distance away, down in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, they have a Refueling Wing as well. And I'm no genius, but I can certainly look at a map, and I can say, well, look, if Maine isn't going to do this, and New Hampshire's willing to do it, let's just take that \$100 million from Bangor, Maine, and let's put it down in Portsmouth. That's what's going to happen, I mean, that's just common sense. I mean, I'm not necessarily sure I need to hear it from somebody at National Guard Bureau or the Joint Chiefs of Staff to tell me that, but as soon as we say, 'we're not going to war, don't include us in your plans,' you're going to see that money going down there. And I will tell you this as well, and I think this is important for everybody to know; we fly an airplane in Bangor that's 60 years old, and we've been maintaining those planes for 60 years, and we have some of the best maintainers in the Air Force to keep those things flying, but they're getting old. Now, the Air Force is replacing those with new planes. Guess what? Pease Air Force Base has the new planes. So, again, if you want to put money somewhere, you put the money where the new planes are or where the old planes are? Now, I don't think I'm sharing anything secret when I say Bangor would like to get the new planes. Because with that becomes longevity. With that becomes the ability to keep the people that provide the fuel coming to the base, or the people that provide the food, the people that provide the housing, and it'll be for the next half-century we'll have a mission in Bangor, Maine, not to mention probably construction projects and the 10s of millions of dollars.

So, if you want to send a bad message to the folks in Washington, saying, 'we don't want the new plane; send it to Pennsylvania, send it to New Hampshire, don't send it here to Maine,' that's what this bill would do. Because once we see that, the message that we're sending, they're going to say Maine's not a good place for us to be. Now, I'm old enough, unfortunately, to remember Loring Air Force Base. Now, I suspect there's one or two other people in the room that may be as old as I and can remember Loring Air Force Base up in Aroostook County. And when Loring Air Force Base left the County, that was a big deal. Some people would argue that was the beginning of the depopulation of Aroostook County. And certainly, a loss of significant revenues to Aroostook County and to a lot of people who maybe went to Aroostook County, went to Loring Air Force Base and upon retirement said, 'hey, I like the County, I'm going to stay here, I'm going to raise my kids here.' So, when they closed Loring Air Force Base, that was a big deal. Now, I suspect even down at Brunswick Naval Air Station, when we closed the Naval Air Station down there, we lost all those people that came in and brought that money into the economy.

It's a little easier down there to fix that, because it's a different location, and they've done a better job, probably, of being able to repurpose the base, but there's a real loss there.

So, this is not an insignificant bill, because I think it sends a message, and I think people can reasonably disagree on this bill, but I think it would send a very bad message, and I think at a time when Maine is fighting; and I really need you to listen for two seconds and put your phone down; Maine is really fighting to get those new airplanes in Bangor, Maine. And I know we have some Representatives over there from Bangor that have probably met with the folks from the Air Force that have said, 'hey, please come in here and bring these new planes to Bangor, Maine, bring this mission, keep this mission here in Bangor, Maine, because we understand that what that does for not only the Bangor economy, but for the greater Bangor economy.' This is a piece of legislation, to my knowledge, which has not passed anywhere else in the country. It's been proposed in lots of places, but to my knowledge, has not been passed.

And again, to one of the prior comments, and I'll close with this, in terms of the role of Congress in this, in terms of declaring a war, well, Congress has one other tool that they can use, and that's funding. And so, if Congress has a problem with something that the Chief Executive has done, whether it be a Democrat or a Republican, Congress merely needs to shut the funds off. They don't even need to declare a war or not declare a war, they can just say, 'we're not funding this.' And so, there are checks and balances in the system, and for somebody that's proudly served for the last 25 years in the Maine Air National Guard, I can tell you that we have some of the best Guardsmen in the country serving right here in the great State of Maine, and I couldn't oppose this bill more and I ask you to follow my light in supporting the Ought Not to Pass. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **SUPICA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I actually concur with the previous speaker that Bangor does love planes, but for all the Representatives that reside in Brunswick, we also love trains, too. Sorry.

This wasn't an easy subject for the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee. It wasn't easy for me, personally, and I wanted to rise and speak as on to my thought process on this, because for quite a while, I was going to vote Ought to Pass. I was seriously considering it. And what I took away from the discussions is that everyone on the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee cared deeply about those who serve and their veterans, no matter how they're voting here. It's all coming from a place of desiring to protect the people who serve and sacrifice. And we see it in a lot of the bills that we unanimously pass that deal with supporting folks who are in the Guard who are escaping abusive situations, people who are trying to come to Maine and relocate who are vets and looking for good jobs and also making sure that we have adequate funding for our Maine veteran homes. We've come together on all of these things, so, I know on this issue, we're all coming from the same place.

And one of the things that was proposed in testimony that made me pause was when somebody said that, 'well, the idea that this current President could call up our Maine National Guard and have them serve over there to create the Riviera of the Middle East' struck fear in me and got me thinking about how we're beginning to also fear our own law enforcement, and we're beginning to fear our Guard and this division that has taken root in this country, and as I was wading through all of these thoughts, I kind of had to settle on one side, and what really stood out to me, what I really came to understand, is that when

the Pentagon is deciding how to disburse these funds, they will look at what different states can bring to the table. And then, I started thinking, what does Maine bring to the table? And so, I would like to share that, with the "shortage of first responders nationwide ... small Maine departments rely on each other to get the job done. In reflection of the tragic events of September 11," 24 years ago soon; "the brotherhood remains strong as ever. 'The New York City Fire Department, which is the biggest fire department in our country, had to call for mutual aid.'" The fire chief, Cody Sullivan of Hermon Fire Department, is quoted there. "'They had to have help from other people.' This significant moment in history showed that in times of need, even the most prepared must rely on those around them. The largest benefit the 101st in Bangor provides to the greater community is their manpower. Last year, the 101st Fire and Emergency Services crews responded to 97 mutual aid calls. These calls ranged from structure fires to car accidents to health emergencies, and everything in between." And this is a quote, "'we're here to serve our state and community,' said MS Anthony Melanson, Station Captain at the 101st Fire and Emergency Services. 'We're already here, we're trained to do it, so, it's important that we're actually getting out in our community to help support them as well,' to find success and cohesion on these calls, surrounding departments take part in mutual training as often as they can. 'At the end of the day, we all do the same job,' said MSgt Ryan McGuire, Station Captain at the 101st."

I asked for some updates on what our Maine Guardspeople are doing. "Chief Warrant Officer 5 Eric Couture, commander of the 1/224th [Aviation], and Chief Warrant Officer 2 Max Santagata had just returned from a training flight when they were alerted of the search and rescue mission" put out by the Maine Warden's Service. "'It's always satisfying as a crew to be able to utilize the skills and equipment that we train on every day to support the Maine Warden Service. Partnerships with local organizations and community support are the backbone of our program.' 'One of the most gratifying parts of any mission is a favorable outcome for all those involved. We are extremely grateful the two missing men were found;'" I could go on.

I have many lists of what folks in Bangor have done to contribute to the local community, so, I might, actually, since I have the floor. Chief Warrant Officer 2 Kevin Real, a Blackhawk pilot in the 142nd, competed in the United States Weightlifting Masters Championships. "He placed third overall in his class, qualifying him for ... [the] World Championships in December." He thanked not only his coaches, gym and the team, but also the Maine Army National Guard "'for allowing me to pursue not only my amazing career as a [Blackhawk] pilot, but also my passion for Olympic Weightlifting.'" Master Sergeant Joshua Hartsgrove, currently serving as the senior medical instructor in the 240th regional training institution, was also just inducted into the Order of Medical Military Merit. He is the first enlisted person in Maine to be inducted for his contributions to the Army medical department. Brigadier General Ian Gillis, commander of the 101st Refueling Wing, received the recognition of the National Guard Bureau as Family of the Year. BG Gillis alone has contributed over 85 hours of volunteer time with the family and youth program, youth camps, this past summer.

And so, I am an inherently anti-war person, Mr. Speaker, and I grieve for those who have gone overseas, sacrificed their time and themselves, put themselves on the line for our freedoms, to come home and at times, I imagine, fall through the cracks. I know that PTSD and rates of self-harm and suicide amongst those who serve are high. But the way we support them and the way we push back is that we fund services that

keep them whole, that keep them housed, and that is something that I will continue to fight to do every day as the Chair of Veterans and Legal Affairs, and Congress is the only body that can pass a law to affect overseas contingency operations. And so, this Act will have no practical effect, Mr. Speaker. Constitutional and legal issues make this akin to a protest vote, but with none of the deep meaning or sacrifice that has accompanied the great protests of the past. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **SOBOLESKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen. The AUMF, the Authorization for Use of Military Force, was signed as a Joint Resolution in Congress on September 18, 2001; unanimously. Why? Because terrorists move very quickly. We learned that on 9/11. We chased Bin Laden around for how long after that? There were reports of him here, reports of him there, reports of him there, in the caves, and they chased him and chased him, and they couldn't find him, okay? We needed our military to be able to move very, very quickly. And that's why the AUMF was passed.

Here in the State of Maine, this; and around the nation; this 'Defend the Guard,' as it's known as, has been tried multiple times. I think 30-some-odd states tried to pass it this last time around. It failed everywhere. General Farnham, who is the Commanding General of our National Guard; he sent a statement in, and I'd like to read a bit of that statement to be sent from the last session. "A national group is trying to limit the use of the National Guard, in a Title 10 status, to only those missions for which Congress has issued a declaration of war. Last year there were attempts in 31 states, with none succeeding to date. The group believes that if states adopt the legislation, Congress would be forced to act. It is my concern and belief that the State would risk a loss of federal units and equipment, as passage of this legislation would be seen by DOD as unwillingness by the State to uphold the federal obligation required by the dual oaths taken by National Guard members. It puts at risk the National Guard standing as a primary combat reserve" for the United States Air Force and the Army. "It is this status that leads to the funding of our nearly 3,000 members of the Maine National Guard and our equipment, including the 10 KC-135 air refueling aircraft in Bangor. This represents over \$130 million in federal payroll" that comes into our State.

I talked with the General about this. He went on to explain they'll lose one of the KCs. They want them updated now; they need new ones, but they'll lose one, instead. As well as what will happen at our local bases: We'll lose personnel; we'll lose income, funding, population; we'll lose a lot if this actually goes through. I had a conversation with the new Commanding General, General Dunn, and she echoed General Farnham's sentiments as well. The last National Guard breakfast that I went to, I talked to a bunch of our courageous military soldiers, and they said that we are a fighting force. We're ready to fight anytime, anywhere that we're told to. We don't need anybody to defend us. Thank you, sir.

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

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't get to my microphone in time, because the Representative from Phillips just echoed everything that I was going to say in my floor speech, so, we agree to disagree within the military.

I was stationed at Pease Air Force Base in the 509th Air Refueling Wing. We had what we called the European Tanker Task Force, and those were the gentlemen that used to; and ladies; that used to fly and; contrary to what the Representative

from Newport said; their motto was, 'we pass gas at 10,000 feet.' But when it comes to what's happened in the State of Maine, the BRAC; the Base Realignment and Closure; efforts, we lost Pease Air Force Base, which was our close neighbor and border, and the economy of the southern Maine area relied greatly upon that location and base because of its proximity to Maine and the people that lived and spent their money at the restaurants and stores within that area. We then lost Loring Air Force Base, which was a considerable detriment to the entire Maine economy and especially the Aroostook County economy. And then, we went on to lose Brunswick Naval Air Station, which was another severe blow, and we always hoped that we'd rebuild those with commercial activities that somehow rejuvenate that money lost from those military members being at that location as an Air Force Base or a Naval Air Station.

The clear, succinct point that I would like to make is that I asked the current Adjutant General and Commissioner for the National Guard and Reserve for the Maine, General Dunn, and she said, vehemently, this is not the bill to help the Maine people. It will be another devastating blow when federally, they say, 'if we go, don't call on Maine.' Unless you're going to declare war, don't count on anything else. And there's a lot of gray areas that the military is called upon. The other one is the former Command Chief Master Sergeant for the Maine Air National Guard, he gave me two words: "horrible bill." With a period after it. Mr. Speaker, I urge those in the Body to vote for the pending motion. Thank you.

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

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm a co-sponsor of this bill, and the main reason why I co-sponsored the bill is; and this is my belief, so, I'm not putting them on anyone else; but I do feel that Congress is shirking its duty and Presidents have overstepped theirs.

I come from a long line of military people within my family. My grandfather was at Pearl Harbor; he received the Purple Heart. My stepfather was in the Navy, I had a brother in the Navy, a brother in the Army, a sister in the Army and a brother-in-law in the Army. And at one time, I had two brothers and a sister over in the Middle East at the same time. So, I know what it's like to be a family member left behind praying for safety of family members. But in particular, one reason why this bill really hit home for me is my brother had joined the Guard; and this was shortly before 9/11; and at the time, he was down in North Carolina. Then, the National Guard did things, like, they helped with, you know, hurricanes, just local things when you join the National Guard. And then, suddenly, my brother, who thought he would be helping people with hurricanes, was sent away to war. And I understand that the young people signing up today do realize when they're going into the National Guard, there is that potential. However, the main purpose for the National Guard when it was originally founded was to do things within our border. And I once again, just as I said before, I think Congress is shirking its duty, presidents are overstepping theirs and that we need to protect our young people that are joining the National Guard. Thank you.

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

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This isn't about funding; despite what I think some of my colleagues have said; but imagine for a moment if it was about funding. We're okay with skirting the Constitution, putting our men and women in harm's way, because it might mess up some money coming to our State? That is not why we should vote; that's not how we should run our government.

Some folks are saying this is a protest vote, others saying it's the end of the world. I'm not sure that it could be both. If it is a protest vote, then, so what? We do lots of symbolic things in this Body, in this Chamber. For good reason. What other power do we have as a Chamber at the state level? I mean, we have virtually zero say in foreign policy, and I think a lot of this in this Body are probably not happy with our foreign policy under this President, the last or both, like me. So, if it is symbolic, then good. Let's show something. Let's show we stand for the Maine Guardsmen, that we're not willing to risk their lives unless Congress does its job. We're not asking for them not to go, we're not asking them to not be in weightlifting competitions; or, you know, whatever; we're just asking if we're going to send them to war, Congress does its job. Congress does its job, send them to war. It's really simple. If you think we should be able to send Maine National Guardsmen and women to foreign conflict zones without declaring war through the Constitution, vote yes. If you think Congress should do the bare minimum before we do that, vote no. It's really simple.

So, with that in mind, you know, I did want to also address the idea that this is some national group. It's a little insulting. It's insulting to the people that brought this bill in the past, the supporters of the bill, members of the National Guard that do support this bill, Mr. Speaker, one of which was a friend of mine, and I got to know him in 2018, he worked security for Senator Brakey's federal campaign; I helped that campaign, Mr. Speaker; Sergeant Aaron Rollins. And we have a friendship, and he came to the VLA Committee last session to support this bill. He wasn't here this session, and we have a real issue with the mental illness and suicide with our troops, and like Representative Hymes said, I think, let's protect them by making sure when we do send them to fight, that it's a worthwhile fight. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will remind Members to refer to other Members using the name of their town first. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Newport, Representative Fredette.

Representative FREDETTE: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Very briefly, I would just indicate to everyone in the Body that members of the Maine Air and Army National Guard are volunteer members. They sign up voluntarily. They have an enlistment period, typically. Most people stay for their 20 years to get the benefits, and I would indicate the benefits are many, including we have a housing shortage now, but people that serve in the National Guard are able to get VA loans; which are government-guaranteed loans without a down payment; health insurance for a very small amount of money every month, along with many other benefits.

I would ask the Clerk to read the Committee 10-to-three report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Representative FREDETTE of Newport REQUESTED that the Clerk READ the Committee Report.

The Clerk READ the Committee Report in its entirety.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Ought Not to Pass Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

**ROLL CALL NO. 99**

YEA - Abdi, Adams, Albert, Ankeles, Arata, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Beck, Bell, Bishop, Blier, Boyer M, Brennan, Bunker, Campbell, Carlow, Chapman, Cimino, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collins, Cooper, Copeland, Crafts, Cray, Daigle, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Frost, Gattine, Gere, Golek, Gramlich, Guerrette, Haggan, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lanigan, Lee, Lyman, Macias, Malon, Mason, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mingo, Montell, Morris, Murphy, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Osher, Parry, Perkins, Pomerleau, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Rollins, Rudnicki, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Schmersal-Burgess, Shagoury, Simmons, Skold, Soboleski, Stover, Supica, Swallow, Terry, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Walker, Webb, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Archer, Bagshaw, Boyer D, Caruso, Collamore, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Friedmann, Geiger, Gifford, Graham, Greenwood, Griffin, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lookner, McIntyre, Paul, Pluecker, Poirier, Quint, Roeder, Sinclair, Smith, Strout, Warren, White J.

ABSENT - Bridgeo, Crockett, Foley, Jackson, Mitchell, Moonen, Pugh, Wadsworth.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 109; No, 33; Absent, 8; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

109 having voted in the affirmative and 33 voted in the negative, with 8 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**First Day**

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

(S.P. 104) (L.D. 238) Bill "An Act to Protect Emergency Medical Services Persons' Right to Work in Multiple Health Care Settings" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-22)**

(H.P. 252) (L.D. 398) Bill "An Act to Amend the Definition of 'Transient Occupancy' in the Laws Governing the Maine Land Use Planning Commission" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 755) (L.D. 1150) Bill "An Act to Require Reporting of Sheltering or Aiding Missing Children" Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 196) (L.D. 296) Bill "An Act to Appropriate Funds to the Department of Environmental Protection, Lake Water Quality Restoration and Protection Fund" Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-69)**

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

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

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**ENACTORS**  
**Pursuant to the Constitution**  
**Public Land**

Resolve, Authorizing the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Convey Public Land Parcels in Lincoln Plantation and Sandy River Plantation

(S.P. 39) (L.D. 24)  
(C. "A" S-19)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. In accordance with the provisions of Section 23 of Article IX of the Constitution, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 113 voted in favor of the same and 2 against, and accordingly the Resolve was **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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**Acts**

An Act to Fund Climate Resiliency Projects Related to the Repair of Campus Infrastructure Used for Active Transportation and Outdoor Recreation

(S.P. 190) (L.D. 457)  
(C. "A" S-20)

An Act to Amend the Eligibility Criteria for Creditable Service in the Armed Forces of the United States Under the Maine Public Employees Retirement System

(S.P. 196) (L.D. 462)  
(C. "A" S-21)

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

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

**SENATE PAPERS**

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 693)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, April 29, 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.

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Bill "An Act to Strengthen Oversight of Kennels by Changing the Licensing Authority from Municipalities to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry"

(S.P. 689) (L.D. 1771)

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

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

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Bill "An Act to Criminalize Certain Offenses Related to Gift Card Thefts"

(S.P. 691) (L.D. 1773)

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

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

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Bill "An Act Regarding the Energy Policy of the State"

(S.P. 694) (L.D. 1792)

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

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

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Bill "An Act to Improve Management and Reduce the Volume of Solid Waste"

(S.P. 695) (L.D. 1793)

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

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

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Bill "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission to Design a Plan for Sustained Investment in Preventing Disease and Improving the Health of Maine Communities"

(S.P. 690) (L.D. 1772)

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.

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Bill "An Act to Provide Protection from Unfair Parking Tickets on Lots Accessible to the Public"

(S.P. 696) (L.D. 1794)

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

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

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Bill "An Act to Protect Domestic Workers"

(S.P. 692) (L.D. 1774)

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

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

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Bill "An Act to Change the Calculation for Municipal Service Charges for Tax-exempt Organizations"

(S.P. 697) (L.D. 1795)

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

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

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEE**  
**Refer to the Committee on Judiciary**  
**Pursuant to Statute**

Report of the **Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary** on Bill "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services to Clarify the Types of Cases for Which the Commission Is Responsible for Providing Counsel"

(S.P. 698) (L.D. 1796)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 4, section 1804, subsection 3, paragraph H.

Came from the Senate with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**.

The Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** in concurrence.

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**SENATE PAPERS**

Bill "An Act to Increase Revenue Sharing and to Control Property Taxes"

(S.P. 699) (L.D. 1798)

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

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

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**REPORTS OF COMMITTEE**  
**Change of Committee**

Report of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Amend Certain Laws Regarding Gender-affirming Health Care Services"

(S.P. 145) (L.D. 380)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**.

Came from the Senate with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**.

The Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** in concurrence.

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

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On motion of Representative MALON of Biddeford, the House adjourned at 12:37 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 29, 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. 693).