

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
10th Legislative Day
Wednesday, April 23, 2025

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

The SPEAKER: Announcement from the Chair: We are going to have a Joint Convention this morning with the Other Body in recognition of Franco-American Day. There will be a series of national anthems and the prayer that's offered during the Joint Convention. We're going to get some work done before the Joint Convention starts, so, it will be a little strange, but we're not going to start with the National Anthem and prayer as we typically would; that will done during the Joint Convention.

Medical Provider of the Day, Lori Towne, FNP, Dover Foxcroft.

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

SENATE PAPERS

Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study the Future of Recreational Access in Maine

(S.P. 582) (L.D. 1441)

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

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 141)

**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:"

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

L.D. 1295 An Act to Waive Basic Law Enforcement Training Requirements for Full-time Law Enforcement Officers Who Have Successfully Completed Equivalent Courses in Other Jurisdictions

Environment and Natural Resources

L.D. 75 An Act to Update Funding for the Board of Environmental Protection

L.D. 212 An Act to Require the Valuation of Energy Produced by Hydropower Dams and Exploration of Alternative Ownership Options Before They Are Removed

L.D. 430 An Act to Impose Moratoria on Hydropower Dam Removal and on Water Release from Nonhydropower Dams and to Make Other Changes to the Laws Regulating Such Dams (EMERGENCY)

L.D. 920 Resolve, to Review Efficiencies in the Licensing of Solid Waste Disposal Facilities by the Department of Environmental Protection

L.D. 1165 An Act to Create a Fund for Safe Disposal of Hazardous Fluids from Salvage Yards

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

L.D. 1300 An Act to Strengthen Maine's Implied Warranty Laws Veterans and Legal Affairs

L.D. 951 An Act to Require Disclosure of Campaign Funding Sources

L.D. 1350 An Act to Ban Corporate Contributions to Candidates

L.D. 1527 An Act to Require Postage Prepaid Envelopes Be Provided for the Return of Absentee Ballots

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

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

The Following Communication: (S.C. 285)

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

April 22, 2025

Honorable Ryan Fecteau

Speaker of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0002

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

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

- The Honorable Donald G. Marean of Hollis for reappointment, to the State Harness Racing Commission,
- The Honorable Chandler Woodcock of Farmington for reappointment, to the State Harness Racing Commission.

Best Regards,

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The Following Communication: (S.C. 286)

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

April 22, 2025

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

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Please be advised the Senate today insisted to its previous action whereby it referred Bill "An Act to Ensure Uniformity in the Regulation of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Pesticides" (H.P. 1015) (L.D. 1557) to the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry in non-concurrence.

Best Regards,

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

**PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING
REFERENCE**

Bill "An Act to Ensure Equitable Staffing Ratios Across the State for Career and Technical Education Programs in Areas with Smaller Student Populations"

(H.P. 1183) (L.D. 1764)

Sponsored by Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford.

Cosponsored by Senator RAFFERTY of York and Representatives: ALBERT of Madawaska, CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, FARRIN of Jefferson, MCCABE of Lewiston, STROUT of Harrington, WEBB of Durham, WOODSOME of Waterboro.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Ensure Affordability and Stability in Housing for Mobile Home Park Residents"

(H.P. 1184) (L.D. 1765)

Sponsored by Representative JULIA of Waterville.

Cosponsored by Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc and Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, DEBRITO of Waterville, EDER of Waterboro, MALON of Biddeford, MINGO of Calais, OSHER of Orono, SUPICA of Bangor.

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 Regulate Nonwater-dependent Floating Structures on Maine's Waters"

(H.P. 1182) (L.D. 1763)

Sponsored by Representative HEPLER of Woolwich.

Cosponsored by Senator GUERIN of Penobscot and Representatives: DILL of Old Town, MASON of Lisbon, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft.

Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** and ordered printed.
Sent for concurrence.

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

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

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

In Memory of:

Marlene J. Libby, of Appleton. Mrs. Libby's early employment included working in the offices of Rockland Leathers and the Rockland Wastewater Department. She embarked on a 35-year career at the Camden Town Office. In 1989, she was hired as the Wastewater/Harbor Clerk for the Town of Camden. She later was appointed to serve as the Town Treasurer/Accountant, Interim Finance Director and Deputy Finance Director, the position which she held until December 2024. The Town of Appleton Select Board dedicated the 2022 Annual Report to Mrs. Libby in honor of her commitment to the town, the town office and her fellow residents. She volunteered her time to the town and assisted with many different endeavors such as organizing and conducting staff training sessions, serving in the office and serving on the Select Board. Mrs. Libby will be long remembered and sadly missed by her family, friends and community;

(HLS 204)

Presented by Representative DOUDERA of Camden.

Cosponsored by Senator BEEBE-CENTER of Knox, Representative RAY of Lincolnville.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative DOUDERA of Camden, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.
READ.

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

Representative **DOUDERA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen, Members of the House. Marlene Libby worked in the town office for so many years, our paths really intersected. I remember when she was hired; she was there I think going on 35 years. One of those steady, competent, cheerful presences that we're lucky to have in our town offices and in our town government.

She helped me with many things when I was in there, and most recently, she reached out to me when she was diagnosed with cancer. She told me of her situation and a procedure that she thought could've helped her that wasn't offered to her. And we explored putting in legislation and talked many, many times about it. Sadly, I think she was ahead of her time on what she wanted to see happen, and I hope that down the line, someone else will put that legislation in and make that happen. But I'm so pleased to be able to recognize her today and her wonderful life and all the things she did for the folks in Camden and it sounds like Appleton as well. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(S.P. 39) (L.D. 24) Resolve, Authorizing the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Convey Public Land Parcels in Lincoln Plantation and Sandy River Plantation Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-19)**

(S.P. 196) (L.D. 462) Bill "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" Committee on **LABOR** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-21)**

(H.P. 267) (L.D. 413) Bill "An Act Regarding Disclosure by Sellers of Residential Real Property of Notices of Shoreland Zoning Ordinance Violations" Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-67)**

(H.P. 320) (L.D. 491) Resolve, Authorizing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Convey and Release the State's Interest in Certain Real Property Located in the Town of Richmond Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-66)**

(H.P. 374) (L.D. 606) Resolve, to Study Barriers to Financial Assistance Programs for Farmers and Food Producers Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-65)**

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

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

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

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.

Prayer by Honorable Mark Lawrence, Eliot.

National Anthems of Canada, France and the United States by Melanie Saucier, Montreal, Quebec.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Honorable Michel A. Lajoie, Lewiston.

The Chair welcomed in the Well of the House the Quebec Delegate to New England, Mr. René Sylvestre, and the Honorary Consul of Canada in Maine, Madame Susan Morris.

ORDERS

On motion of Representative MALON of Biddeford, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 1181) (Cosponsored by Senator LAWRENCE of York)

JOINT RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE FRANCO-AMERICAN DAY

WHEREAS, the State of Maine is named after the Province of Maine in France, and the towns of Paris and Calais owe their names to the capital city of France and the French port city of Calais, respectively; and

WHEREAS, more than 1/3 of the population of Maine is of French and Canadian descent and Franco-Americans in Maine have contributed much to the beauty and quality of this State; and

WHEREAS, French is the primary language of thousands of Maine citizens and there has been a resurgence in the use of the French language and a heightened appreciation of the Franco-American heritage throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, clubs and organizations to promote French culture and language have sprung up throughout the State, including the Francophone Caucus at the Capitol; and

WHEREAS, fluent French-English bilingual people are a cultural and economic resource to the State; and

WHEREAS, cultural tourism can be greatly enhanced by the genuine Franco-American centers throughout the State, and the large Franco-American presence in Maine can further strengthen our relationships with Canada, France and the rest of the francophone world; and

WHEREAS, the first Franco-American Day was celebrated on Wednesday, March 6, 2002 at the State Capitol; 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, proclaim that Wednesday, April 23, 2025 is Franco-American Day, to be celebrated at the State Capitol; and be it further

RESOLVED: That Franco-American Day be celebrated to commemorate the rich history of the French people in the State of Maine and the United States of America.

READ.

The PRESIDENT: *La Présidente donne la parole au Représentant de Biddeford, Representative Malon.* The Chair recognizes the Representative from Biddeford, Representative Malon.

Representative **MALON**: *Madame a Présidente, Chers Députés, je suis fier de prétends aujourd'hui la parole pour célébrer l'héritage Franco-Américain demain.* And that is the extent to which I will butcher the beautiful French language.

Like many Mainers, I have varied ancestry. When people ask me what I am, I have jokingly replied that it is simple: I am French, Scottish, English, Irish, a little bit of Greek, with an Americanized version of a Slovak last name. But the fact is, when you grow up in Biddeford next door to your 100% Franco-American grandmother; when your father spoke French before he spoke English; when you attended Catholic schools and think that last names like Cody and Ouellette are as common as Smith and Johnson and learn how to pray the Rosary in French, usually as fast as humanly possible, it is hard not to feel the Franco-American part of your heritage deep in your soul.

The Franco-American story is Maine's story, and French-speaking Mainers have shaped our history and culture for nearly as long as we have been a state. When Acadian French-speaking people were forced out of the maritime provinces by the British Crown, they found refuge in Maine; particularly the St. John Valley. When American textile industry was rising, French-speaking *Québécois* came to places like Biddeford, Lewiston, Augusta, Waterville, Sanford, Brunswick and more, seeking better jobs and finding an industry which needed workers. These immigrants; who did not come through Ellis Island; were not always welcomed with open arms, and that, too, is part of our history. One hundred and one years ago, in 1924, the white supremacist terrorists, the Ku Klux Klan, were very active in Maine and picked a group of new Mainers; Franco-American immigrants and their families; as the latest targets of their vile hatred. They attempted a large-scale march into Biddeford, planning for thousands to join them, but only 300 showed up, some wearing their hooded costumes. Our community, however, was ready. Franco- and Irish-Americans and other community members stood in solidarity with one another on the Biddeford side of the bridge and refused to let them pass. The Klansmen backed off and scurried away. Community won that day, and Maine won that day.

Two of our honorees; Diane and Bob Cyr; organized an event by this very bridge last year with the mayors and city councils of both cities to mark the 100th anniversary of this occasion and commit to working together towards a more united future. This history is our shared history, and evidence of how a state can become stronger when enriched by other cultures adding to the fabric of our society. And it shows us how we benefit by embracing this diversity.

It's the story of a young man who grew up poor in Lewiston being allowed to take the Husson College entrance exam in French, and from there, going on to become successful in business, and from there, becoming the Chief Executive of Maine. It's the story of the Honorable Judy Paradis of Frenchville coming to Augusta and speaking French on this very House floor, an act of immense significance to those who remember being punished for speaking their language. And it is the story of the individuals we are honoring today through induction into the Maine Franco-American Hall of Fame. We will celebrate these extraordinary Franco-American Mainers in the Hall of Flags later, as each of them has in their own way added to the vast fabric of the amazing quilt that is our State.

Madam Chair, the story of Franco-American Mainers has much to teach us. I hope we take these lessons to heart, both in the celebration of our history and how we conduct ourselves as we march into the future. *Merci beaucoup.*

The PRESIDENT: *La Présidente donne la parole à la Sénatrice d'Aroostook, La Sénatrice Bernard.* The Chair recognizes the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Bernard.

Senator **BERNARD**: *Merci, Madame La Présidente, et bonjour mes amis.* Unfortunately, that's about all you're going to get from me, and I hope you liked it.

Senator Lawrence asked me to speak today, realizing I have French in my background, and I was too embarrassed to tell him that while I am Franco on both sides of my family, you can barely tell it from my mastery of the language. I can understand more than I speak, and I know that I've incorporated a few more French words into my vernacular, but I may not say those words today, because my mother; dear God rest her soul; she would roll over in her grave today.

But as I was thinking about it, it turns out that I'm a pretty fair example of what it means to be French-Acadian today. My grandmother had 16 children, and I was one of 76 grandchildren, and there are some 56 great-grandchildren; that's at last count, but that keeps changing. My mother grew up in Grand Falls, New Brunswick. The Levesques were a large, faith-filled family. These large families were part of growing up in my French-Acadian community. In fact, my family had the smallest number of children of all my grandmother's offspring, with only four. My family's experience is a lot like many others of French descent.

Living in Maine required certain sacrifices to be made, including the sacrifice of our language. Growing up, my older sister's first language was French. In fact, she spoke exclusively French until she went off to school at the age of six. School was taught exclusively in English, and my sister struggled, as English was not her language. My mother made the difficult decision then and there to no longer speak French to us. This allowed my sister to do better in school, and the rest of us never had to face that uphill battle. Interestingly, years later, my sister became a French teacher and taught for 26 years. So, despite the disappointment that the language did not get passed down to all of us, my mother was very proud that my sister was able to pass down that part of our heritage to the generations of students she encountered.

Growing up, my family would go across the line to New Brunswick every weekend to visit my *mémère* and my aunt and uncle who live nearby. Despite the frequent visits, the language barrier prevented us from truly getting to know each other. *Mémère* could say 'sit down' and 'morning slippers;' although I'm not quite sure why that was imperative, but she fed us well and she made us all homemade quilts. So, there was a kind of an extra connection there. Christmas also belonged to Grand Falls, and time with our cousins who were bilingual. We would attend the French Midnight Mass, we all knew the responses and the songs and we'd go back to the house for chicken stew and presents. I certainly have warm memories that I share with our daughter, and while we don't corner the market, I try to pass along the traits and the values of the French-Acadian people of putting faith and family first, of being hardworking, proud, self-sufficient, fun-loving, empathetic and generous. And somehow, they thought I belonged on the Appropriations Committee. *Tu foutue!* Well, it goes right against the brain, *mon Dieu!*

To preserve our culture, we must pass it down, whether it be through speaking, cooking; lost me there, too; or telling stories of family members and gatherings. Many people in our community are doing this today, and one example is Gordon Soucy, who's being inducted into the Franco-American Hall of

Fame today. Gordon is preserving the culture of the St. John Valley through the Greater Grand Isle Historical Society. It's the contributions of men and women like Gordon that we celebrate today. *Merci beaucoup.*

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

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

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

Recognizing:

Diane and Robert Cyr, of Biddeford, who have been inducted into the Franco-American Hall of Fame. Mr. and Mrs. Cyr are the President and Secretary of the Biddeford Cultural and Heritage Center, which is dedicated to preserving, educating, promoting and celebrating Biddeford's rich past and present historical culture, heritage and diversity. Mrs. Cyr grew up in Lyman, and Mr. Cyr in Biddeford. Together, they raised their four children in Biddeford, where she worked as a cardiac nurse, and he worked in the trucking industry. Both are avid genealogists and members of the York County Genealogical Society of Franco-Americans. Mrs. Cyr has been referred to by former Biddeford Mayor and State Representative Alan Casavant as the "heart and soul" of the Center. Mr. Cyr also volunteers his time with the Knights of Columbus and West Brook Skating Rink and can often be found behind the grill at community events. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 208)

Presented by Representative MALON of Biddeford.

Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, Representative GERE of Kennebunkport.

READ and PASSED in Joint Convention.

Recognizing:

Ben and Stella Forcier, of Biddeford, who have been inducted into the Franco-American Hall of Fame. Ben Forcier was born on March 6, 1937, in Biddeford, one of seven siblings. Stella Forcier was born in Biddeford in January 1938 to Ernest and Delia Desrochers, Canadian immigrants and first-generation American citizens. The seventh of eight children, she grew up in a French-speaking family, learning English upon starting school. Mr. Forcier served in the United States Marine Corps. He married Mrs. Forcier in 1956 at St. Andre's Church in Biddeford while living in Quantico, Virginia, where he trained future officers. After his military service, the couple returned to Biddeford. Mr. Forcier worked 31 years at what later became Saco Defense and General Dynamics, while Mrs. Forcier began as a cafeteria worker at St. Andre's Catholic School, eventually becoming the director of food services and earning state-level recognition for her work. They are pillars of the Franco-American community and dedicated to coaching youth sports, teaching CCD and assisting seniors at Atlantic Heights in Saco. Mrs. Forcier continues to volunteer at St. James School's cafeteria. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 209)

Presented by Representative EDER of Waterboro.

Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, Representative GERE of Kennebunkport, Representative MALON of Biddeford.

READ and PASSED in Joint Convention.

Recognizing:

Jacynthe Blais Jacques, of Lewiston, who has been inducted into the Franco-American Hall of Fame. Mrs. Jacques immigrated from Quebec and, with her husband Alain, raised her children to speak both French and English. As the cultural director of French programs at the Franco-American Center, she played a major role in maintaining the focus on Franco culture at the Center and forging bonds between the Franco community and the area's newest French speakers. She served as the student representative on the board of the Franco-American Collection when she was both a student at and an employee of the Lewiston-Auburn Campus of the University of Southern Maine. She later served as a community member on the board. Mrs. Jacques organized the showing of a Quebecois film for Maine high school students in conjunction with the Maine chapter of the American Association of Teachers of French. She also has been a guest at classes to speak about Franco-American music traditions. Currently, she is a member of Les Troubadours, a Franco women's singing group, serves on the board of the Alliance Francaise du Maine and volunteers with literacy volunteers and at the library. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 206)

Presented by Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston.

Cosponsored by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, Representative ABDI of Lewiston, Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston, Representative MCCABE of Lewiston.

READ and PASSED in Joint Convention.

Recognizing:

David St. Laurent, of Rockport, who has been inducted into the Franco-American Hall of Fame. Mr. St. Laurent is Camden's Public Works Director, Road Commissioner, Tree Warden, Dam Control Agent and Water Resource Manager. His grandparents emigrated from Quebec to Maine, and he grew up in Lewiston speaking English and French. He has a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies from the University Maine at Machias. Much of his career has been focused on protecting water resources. Mr. St. Laurent has over 25 years of environmental experience, including working for Beal's Island Shellfish Hatchery, the Department of Inland Fish and Wildlife, Poland Spring, Bath Iron Works, Fisher Engineering and the City of Rockland. During his 12 years of service to Rockland, Mr. St. Laurent oversaw the paving of 18 roads, the transition to single-stream recycling and the capping of the landfill. Currently in Camden, he manages the Public Works and Wastewater Departments as well as Midcoast Solid Waste, the area's regional transfer station and landfill. He is responsible for maintaining 38 miles of streets and roads, 10.5 miles of sidewalk and, for winter maintenance, another 20 miles of State Aid roads. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 205)

Presented by Representative DOUDERA of Camden.

Cosponsored by Senator BEEBE-CENTER of Knox.

READ and PASSED in Joint Convention.

Recognizing:

Susan Pinette, of Orono, who has been inducted into the Franco-American Hall of Fame. Dr. Pinette is a Professor of Modern Languages and the Director of the Franco-American Center at the University of Maine. In 1991, Dr. Pinette graduated from the University of Maine with degrees in French and International Affairs. After teaching in France as a Fulbright fellow, she earned her PhD in French Literature at the University of California at Irvine. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(SLS 478)

Presented by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot. Cosponsored by Representative FAIRCLOTH of Bangor, Representative OSHER of Orono.

READ and PASSED in Joint Convention.

Recognizing:

Annie Proulx, of Portland, who has been inducted into the Franco-American Hall of Fame. Ms. Proulx graduated from Deering High School and attended Colby College. She graduated cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Vermont with a bachelor's degree in History in 1969. In 1988, she made her literary debut with her first short story collection, Heart Songs and Other Stories. Her debut novel, Postcards, won the 13th Annual PEN/Faulkner Award for Fiction in 1992, making her the first woman to receive the prestigious award. One year later, her second novel, The Shipping News, earned the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award and The Irish Times International Fiction Prize. In 1997, Proulx's short story, "Brokeback Mountain," centered around two cowboys who develop a secret, powerful, life-long bond, was published in The New Yorker, earning her a National Magazine Award and the first of two O. Henry Awards. In 2005, "Brokeback Mountain" was adapted into an Academy Award-winning film that Rolling Stone named one of the top 10 films of the decade. Ms. Proulx has received honorary doctorate degrees from Concordia University and the University of Maine. She was honored with the National Book Foundation's Medal for Distinguished Contribution to American Letters in 2017 for her exceptional work and significant impact on American literature. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(SLS 480)

Presented by Senator LAWRENCE of York. Cosponsored by Senator DUSON of Cumberland, Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland, Representative BRENNAN of Portland, Representative CROCKETT of Portland, Representative LOOKNER of Portland, Representative MOONEN of Portland, Representative PUGH of Portland, Representative SKOLD of Portland, Representative YUSUF of Portland, Representative ZAGER of Portland.

READ and PASSED in Joint Convention.

Recognizing:

Gordon Soucy, of Grand Isle, who has been inducted into the Franco-American Hall of Fame. Mr. Soucy has been a resident of Grand Isle for most of his life. In 1970, he purchased his parents' meat and grocery business and ran it successfully for many years. He also collected artifacts that he knew would someday find a home in a museum. In July 2007, Mr. Soucy's dream became the Greater Grand Isle Historical Society. From the beginning, the Society and museum have been Mr. Soucy's project. The Society and museum have grown from one room in the Grand Isle Community Center to a four-building complex on property purchased from the Diocese of Portland. In addition, the Society owns and maintains the former Department of Transportation Picnic/Rest Area between Grand Isle and Madawaska. If you want to know something about Grand Isle or about someone who lived in the area, you ask Gordon Soucy. He was and remains the impetus for the success and growth of the Greater Grand Isle Historical Society. Mr. Soucy also served his community as a selectman, was a member of the Grand Isle Fire Department and is a Fourth Degree member of the Knights of Columbus. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(SLS 481)

Presented by Senator BERNARD of Aroostook. Cosponsored by Representative ALBERT of Madawaska, Representative DAIGLE of Fort Kent, Representative MALON of Biddeford.

READ and PASSED in Joint Convention.

Recognizing:

the late Andrea Quaid, of Lewiston, who has been posthumously inducted into the Franco-American Hall of Fame. Ms. Quaid graduated from Dartmouth College in the first class of women in 1976 with a Bachelor of Arts in French Languages and Literature. After college, she worked stateside and in London and Paris in investment management services before working in the office of Congressman Michael Michaud and as a Constituent Services Representative for Senator Angus King. Known for her wonderful sense of humor, Ms. Quaid loved reading and theater and performed for the Lewiston-Auburn Community Little Theatre. She was fluent in French and a true Francophile, loving French culture and conversing with new and native French-speaking Mainer. She served on the boards of the Franco-American Collection at the Lewiston-Auburn Campus of the University of Southern Maine, the Androscoggin Land Trust, the Lewiston-Auburn Community Little Theatre and the Dartmouth College Club of Maine. Ms. Quaid will be long remembered in the hearts and minds of her community and the State;

(HLS 207)

Presented by Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston. Cosponsored by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, Representative ABDI of Lewiston, Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston, Representative MCCABE of Lewiston.

READ and PASSED in Joint Convention.

Recognizing:

the late Louis L. Robert, of Lewiston, who has been posthumously inducted into the Franco-American Hall of Fame. Professor Robert left his position in Montreal to teach young men of the Saints Peter and Paul Parish in Lewiston. He was a pioneer in bilingual education in the Lewiston area, and many of his students became professionals, bankers and successful businessmen. Around the autumn of 1928, Professor Robert opened a private academy specializing in a business curriculum for grades 7 to 10, with instruction strictly in French. His private academy helped in the acculturation of the Franco-Americans of the area. Many adults had their naturalization papers completed by the Professor and were instructed on what was needed in order to become citizens. Professor Robert was elected Chairman of the Lewiston School Board in 1933. He also was re-elected to the Board of Water Commissioners in 1937. In the 1950s, Professor Robert was a major contributor to the French language newspaper for the Franco-American community, Le Messenger. The weekly, and sometimes daily, publication served as an information lifeline to the Canadian Province of Quebec. Professor Robert will be long remembered in the hearts and minds of his community and the State;

(SLS 479)

Presented by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin. Cosponsored by Representative ABDI of Lewiston, Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston, Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston, Representative MCCABE of Lewiston.

READ and PASSED in Joint Convention.

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.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Report

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-20)** on Bill "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)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham
HAGGAN of Hampden
LYMAN of Livermore Falls

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-20)**.

READ.

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

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Scarborough, Representative Murphy.

Representative **MURPHY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill is a one-time funding request for Southern Maine Community College, which sustained significant storm damage in 2024 and they are ineligible for other sources of storm damage remediation. A significant part of the waterfront-facing part of the campus has been blocked off, including access to Fort Preble and the Green Belt, which is a commuter pathway to Portland for people. Thank you so much.

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

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

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

Representative **LYMAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Members of the House. I rise today in opposition to LD 457, not because I question its intent, but because I question its fiscal responsibility.

We are facing a lack of available funds, and at a time when every dollar must be carefully prioritized, this proposal falls short of meeting that standard. Passing this bill under current budget constraints would be fiscally irresponsible. The goal of this bill to preserve historic structures on the campus of Southern Maine Community College can be met through alternative means that do not burden the State budget. During recent testimony, a South Portland City Council member indicated that the city would consider contributing funds to support the effort. This shows that local support exists and could be pursued further. Additionally, when asked if the Maine Community College System had attempted to establish this site as historic to access available grant funding, President David Daigler stated that they had not. That avenue, too, remains unexplored and could unlock external funding specifically designed for preservation efforts.

Before we ask the taxpayers to fund this initiative, we should ensure all other resources have been pursued. Let's be thoughtful with our spending, especially when other viable options remain on the table. I urge my colleagues to vote no. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 96

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

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

ABSENT - Foley, Fredette, Hall, Jackson, Lavigne, Pluecker, Simmons, Stover, Underwood, Wadsworth, White R.

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 Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-20)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-20)** in concurrence.

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

ENACTORS

Constitutional Amendment

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish That All Maine Residents Have Equal Rights Under the Law

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

(C. "A" H-40)

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Skowhegan, Representative Poirier.

Representative **POIRIER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe this already has a roll call where it needs two-thirds vote?

The SPEAKER: A roll call is not in order. It's just a division. Representative **POIRIER** of Skowhegan **REQUESTED** a roll call on **FINAL PASSAGE**.

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

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **POIRIER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'll try to keep this very brief this time. I know we had a belabored conversation about this previous.

But I just want to mention, you know, the Equal Rights Amendment was first proposed to Congress in 1923, and as we've heard, this bill is much different. For more than a century, we've made great strides without the ERA. In fact, I want you to ask yourself a question: What rights does this ERA bill give us that we aren't already afforded? Nobody's been able to answer that question for me yet.

Mr. Speaker, if ratified, this ERA bill before us would make it unconstitutional in all circumstances for the government to treat people differently based on sex, and not all discrimination based on sex is illegal or even harmful. For example, Title IX prohibits discrimination in education generally, but permits protections based on sex in facilities and athletics, because it is necessary to ensure equal opportunity and safety for women and girls.

I want to make a note, too, that the late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg; she called the ERA bill a symbol. It's nothing more than a symbol. She stated, "there's no practical difference between what has evolved and the ERA." And what that means is everything the ERA was proposing to do is already enacted in our laws, we have those protections and we don't need this symbol to further muddy the waters in Maine law.

So, Mr. Speaker, we're all created equal; we're not the same, but we're equal; and we don't need a symbolic ERA bill to jeopardize and undo progress that we've already made. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from York, Representative Sargent.

Representative **SARGENT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, will be crisp in my remarks.

I have three things to say about the pending measure. The ERA Amendment that we have before us basically reaffirms and makes permanent the expression that in Maine, we respect and recognize the inherent equality of all people. We reject the demonization, marginalization and exclusion of any subgroup of Maine's human family. Secondly, it strengthens legal protections against remaining real discrimination against women in terms of wage inequity, gender-based violence and female health and well-being. Three, this measure explicitly sends this issue to the people of Maine. By doing so, we embrace the importance of the issue and our respect for the people of Maine. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair will apologize for yesterday. Posing questions to the Chair is a course of debate. The Member is currently precluded from the course of debate; therefore, the Member may not pose a question through the Chair, but the Member may pose a Point of Order to procedure or make a procedural motion.

Representative **LIBBY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

This being a Constitutional Amendment, a two-thirds vote of the House being necessary, a total was taken.

ROLL CALL NO. 97

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

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

ABSENT - Foley, Fredette, Hall, Jackson, Lavigne, Pluecker, Simmons, Stover, Underwood, Wadsworth, White R.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 74; No, 65; Absent, 11; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 65 voted in the negative, with 11 being absent and 1 vacancy, and accordingly the Resolution **FAILED FINAL PASSAGE** and was sent to the Senate.

Acts

An Act to Expand the Use of the Veterans' Homelessness Prevention Partnership Fund

(S.P. 54) (L.D. 126)

(C. "A" S-15)

An Act to Require the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands to Maintain the Weld to Byron Road in Township 6 North of Weld

(S.P. 228) (L.D. 510)

(C. "A" S-14)

An Act to Support the Northern New England Poison Center

(S.P. 306) (L.D. 689)

(C. "A" S-17)

An Act to Modernize the State Supplement to Supplemental Security Income by Removing Marriage Disincentives

(S.P. 373) (L.D. 840)

(C. "A" S-18)

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.

An Act to Improve Women's Health and Economic Security by Funding Family Planning Services

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

(C. "A" S-12)

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

On motion of Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, was **SET ASIDE**.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Mr. Speaker, in the last Legislature wherein LD 1619 was passed, it became very transparent that Planned Parenthood had way too much influence over the Legislature, and I think bills like this are completely transparent and funneling that money back to Planned Parenthood. So, I would ask the Members to vote no on the pending motion.

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.

ROLL CALL NO. 98

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

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

ABSENT - Foley, Fredette, Hall, Jackson, Lajoie, Lavigne, Pluecker, Simmons, Stover, Underwood, Wadsworth.

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 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**.

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

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Ensure Data Reporting for Temporary Nurse Agencies"

(S.P. 687) (L.D. 1769)

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 Incorporate Probate Judges into the Maine Judicial Branch"

(S.P. 684) (L.D. 1766)

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 Amend the Waldo County Budget Adoption Process and Allow Residents Who Are Not Municipal Officers to Serve on the Waldo County Budget Committee"

(S.P. 685) (L.D. 1767)

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 Protect Residents of Mobile Home Parks by Amending the Real Estate Transfer Tax"

(S.P. 686) (L.D. 1768)

Bill "An Act to Provide Immediate and Long-term Property Tax Relief to Maine Households" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 688) (L.D. 1770)

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

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

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

On motion of Representative DOUDERA of Camden, the House adjourned at 11:44 a.m., until 10:00 a.m., Thursday, April 24, 2025, in honor and lasting tribute to Marlene J. Libby of Appleton.