

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
18th Legislative Day
Tuesday, May 20, 2025

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

Prayer by Honorable Paul R. Flynn, Albion.

National Anthem by Michele Gonya, Winslow.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Medical Provider of the Day, Susan Doughty, MSN, CNS, AGNP, WHNP-BCR, FAANP, Scarborough.

The Journal of Wednesday, May 14, 2025 was read and approved.

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

At this point, the Speaker announced the presence in the Hall of the House of Representative REYNOLDS of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians.

Pursuant to his authority under House Rule 401.1, the Chair assigned Representative REYNOLDS of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians to Seat 7.

At this point, Representative REYNOLDS of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians was added to the roll call of the First Special Session of the 132nd Legislature.

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

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 778)

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE LAST UNITED STATES COMBAT
MISSION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AT THE END OF THE
VIETNAM WAR**

WHEREAS, United States involvement in the Vietnam War ended 50 years ago with the Mayaguez Incident at Koh Tang, from May 12-15, 1975, the final United States combat mission in Southeast Asia during this conflict; and

WHEREAS, in May 1975 the Cambodian Khmer Rouge navy seized the American cargo ship SS Mayaguez and its crew of 39 in international waters. The Mayaguez was anchored at Koh Tang Island near the Cambodian coast, and military planners believed the crew was on the island. Air Force gunships sank 3 Cambodian patrol boats to prevent their taking the Mayaguez's crew from Koh Tang to the mainland. Soon after, Marines boarded the Mayaguez and found it abandoned; and

WHEREAS, Marines landed on Koh Tang in Air Force helicopters to rescue the crew, but incomplete intelligence made the operation a near disaster. Expecting only light opposition, the Air Force helicopters instead faced heavy fire from a large force. The Cambodians shot down 4 helicopters, damaged 5 more and killed 14 Americans. More United States troops and aircraft urgently moved to reinforce the 131 Marines and 5 Air Force aircrew trapped on Koh Tang; and

WHEREAS, as the assault unfolded, the Mayaguez crew appeared in a small boat and were rescued unharmed. The operation immediately shifted from an offensive to rescuing the trapped Marines; and

WHEREAS, another 100 Marines moved into Koh Tang to reinforce and extract the trapped Marines. Coordinated Air Force support by attack aircraft, forward air controllers, rescue helicopters and gunships pounded Cambodian targets while the Americans on the ground fought hard to maintain their positions; and

WHEREAS, only 3 Air Force helicopters were left to extract more than 200 troops. They tried time and again, braving fierce, accurate fire, but were repeatedly driven off. Finally, they reached the beach and recovered 129 Marines in multiple trips, landing them quickly on Navy ships and returning to the island for more. On the last trip to the beach, Air Force pararescueman Tech. Sgt. Wayne Fisk left his helicopter to find 2 missing Marines still laying down covering fire. He led them to the helicopter, and the 14-hour rescue ended as the aircraft left under fire; and

WHEREAS, there were 3 Marines who were inadvertently left on the island in the darkness and confusion and were killed and buried there within a few days by the Khmer Rouge. Total United States casualties included 18 dead and 50 wounded. Twenty-three more Air Force personnel died in a support force helicopter crash in Thailand due to mechanical failure; and

WHEREAS, there were 48,000 men and women from the State of Maine who served in Vietnam, while an additional 16,000 Mainers were serving worldwide during the Vietnam War era; and

WHEREAS, the names of 343 Mainers who laid down their lives are etched on the black granite of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., and 11 of our men are still missing in Southeast Asia; 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 recognize the 50th anniversary of the last United States combat mission in Southeast Asia at the end of the Vietnam War and to celebrate with the utmost gratitude the service and sacrifice of every Mainer who fought in Vietnam and Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War, especially those who paid the ultimate price and cannot be with us here today.

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

READ and **ADOPTED** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Automatically Seal Criminal History Record Information for Certain Crimes"

(S.P. 752) (L.D. 1911)

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

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Refer to the Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Pursuant to Resolve

Report of the **Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety** on Bill "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Stakeholder Group to Examine and Improve the Recruitment, Retention and Wellness of Law Enforcement Officers"

(S.P. 775) (L.D. 1980)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** pursuant to Resolve 2023, chapter 165, section 3.

Came from the Senate with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**.

The Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** in concurrence.

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

SENATE PAPERS

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Eliminate Barriers to Reentry into the Community After Incarceration by Repealing Certain Driver's License Suspension Provisions"

(H.P. 275) (L.D. 421)

Majority (7) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** **READ** and **ACCEPTED** in the House on May 13, 2025.

Came from the Senate with the Minority (4) **OUGHT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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

Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill moved that the House **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 143

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

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Farrin, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Frost, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin,

Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Hasenfus, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lajoie, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lyman, Mason, Mastraccio, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Roberts, Rudnicki, Schmursal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Stover, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome, Mr. Speaker.

ABSENT - Chapman, Crockett, Lanigan, Osher, Pugh.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 65; No, 80; Absent, 5; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

65 having voted in the affirmative and 80 voted in the negative, with 5 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR FAILED**.

Subsequently, the House voted to **INSIST**.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Automatically Seal Criminal History Record Information for Class D and Class E Crimes Relating to Marijuana Possession and Cultivation"

(H.P. 1277) (L.D. 1916)

Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** **READ** and **REJECTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** in the House on May 6, 2025.

Came from the Senate Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

The House voted to **INSIST**.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Allow the Sealing of Criminal History Record Information Related to Convictions for Conduct That Is No Longer a Crime in the State"

(H.P. 1278) (L.D. 1917)

Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** **READ** and **REJECTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** in the House on May 6, 2025.

Came from the Senate Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

The House voted to **INSIST**.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Clarify the Criminal History Record Information Act with Respect to Criminal Charges Dismissed as the Result of a Plea Agreement"

(H.P. 1279) (L.D. 1918)

Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** **READ** and **REJECTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** in the House on May 6, 2025.

Came from the Senate Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

The House voted to **INSIST**.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Expand the Types of Convictions Eligible for Sealing Through a Post-judgment Motion to Seal Criminal History Record Information"

(H.P. 1280) (L.D. 1919)

Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY READ** and **REJECTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** in the House on May 6, 2025.

Came from the Senate Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

The House voted to **INSIST**.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.P. 1326)

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

May 15, 2025

Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House
132nd Legislature
Honorable Matthea Daughtry
President of the Senate
132nd Legislature

Dear Mr. Speaker and Madam President:

On May 15, 2025, 1 bill was received by the Clerk of the House. Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, this bill was referred to a Joint Standing Committee on May 15, 2025, as follows:

Environment and Natural Resources

Bill "An Act to Ensure Uniformity in the Regulation of PFAS" (H.P. 1325) (L.D. 1982) (Sponsored by Representative ARATA of New Gloucester) (Cosponsored by Senator BERNARD of Aroostook and Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, CRAY of Palmyra, DILL of Old Town, GUERRETTE of Caribou, HEPLER of Woolwich, JACKSON of Oxford) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.)

Sincerely,

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

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.
Sent for concurrence.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 167)

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

May 14, 2025

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

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (l) (a), I am appointing Representative Brian P. Reynolds of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians to the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, effective immediately.

Do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding this appointment.

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

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 170)

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

May 20, 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. 333 An Act Regarding County Jails

L.D. 334 An Act Regarding County Jail Funding

L.D. 423 An Act Regarding Technical Violations

L.D. 1000 An Act to Require Correctional Facilities and Substance Use Disorder Treatment Facilities to Release Prisoners and Patients to a Responsible Adult

L.D. 1693 An Act to Establish a Sustainable Housing Development Prison Work Program

L.D. 1909 Resolve, to Provide a Comprehensive Analysis of Criminal Legal System Data

L.D. 1950 An Act to Authorize the Inclusion of Additional Counties in the Lincoln and Sagadahoc Multicounty Jail Authority

Education and Cultural Affairs

L.D. 680 An Act to Support Higher Education in Maine by Providing Funds to Maine's Community Colleges

L.D. 701 Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Report on Financial Literacy Education in the System of Learning Results

L.D. 803 An Act to Address Certification Violations for School Staff

L.D. 972 An Act to Change the Entity Responsible for Operating the Career and Technical Education Center in Machias to Regional School Unit 37

L.D. 988 An Act to Allow Hunting on University of Maine System Property

- L.D. 1369 An Act to Provide Emergency Medical Services Training Through the Maine Community College System
- L.D. 1627 An Act Regarding Workforce Development, Education Reform and Talent Retention
- L.D. 1753 An Act to Establish the Upper St. John Valley Recovery High School Program
- L.D. 1833 An Act to Expand Law Education and Training by Creating a Night Law School Program
- L.D. 1891 An Act to Address the Dental Professional Workforce Shortage by Establishing Scholarship and Loan Programs and Updating the Dental Care Access Tax Credit
- Energy, Utilities and Technology
- L.D. 359 An Act to Prohibit Net Energy Billing by Certain Customers
- L.D. 1250 An Act to Provide That Portfolio Requirements for Renewable Electricity Resources Apply Only to Actual Retail Sales
- L.D. 1317 An Act to Promote Responsible, Cost-effective Energy in Maine by Amending the Tariff Rates Applicable to the Commercial and Institutional Net Energy Billing Program
- L.D. 1346 An Act Regarding the Supply of Water to the Town of New Sharon (EMERGENCY)
- L.D. 1675 An Act to Provide Just Compensation in Cases of Taking by Eminent Domain by Transmission and Distribution Utilities
- Environment and Natural Resources
- L.D. 1698 An Act Regarding Changes of Ownership of Dams
- L.D. 1721 An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Commingling of Beverage Containers
- L.D. 1808 An Act to Enact the Maine Climate Superfund Act
- Health and Human Services
- L.D. 1316 An Act to Amend the Mandated Reporter Laws Regarding Medical Records, Additional Information and Immunity
- L.D. 1397 An Act to Fund Community-based Organizations to Prevent and Reduce the Risk of Children's Involvement in the Child Welfare System
- L.D. 1459 An Act to Make General Assistance Officers Mandated Reporters
- L.D. 1606 An Act to Require Data Collection and Major Substantive Rulemaking for the Lifespan Waiver Providing Home and Community-based Services for Individuals with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Autism Spectrum Disorder or Other Related Conditions (EMERGENCY)
- L.D. 1703 Resolve, to Establish the Adverse Childhood Experiences Screening and Resiliency Assessment Pilot Project
- Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
- L.D. 91 An Act to Authorize Employees of the Maine Association of Retirees to Be Eligible for Participation in the State Employee Health Insurance Program
- L.D. 955 An Act to Ensure Human Oversight in Medical Insurance Payment Decisions
- L.D. 1084 Resolve, to Alleviate the Behavioral Health Workforce Shortage by Allowing the Training and Granting of Behavioral Health Certifications by Community-based Agencies and Hospitals
- L.D. 1115 An Act to Expand Eligibility Under the State's Group Health Plan to Employees and Members of the Maine Association for the Education of Young Children
- L.D. 1192 An Act to Increase the Commercial Insurance Reimbursement Rate for Ambulance Services
- L.D. 1590 An Act to Reduce the Counselor and Social Worker Shortage by Amending Reciprocity Requirements for Those Professionals from Other Jurisdictions
- Judiciary
- L.D. 1351 An Act to Require Antisemitism to Be Considered as Motivation When Determining a Violation of a Criminal or Civil Law
- L.D. 1660 An Act Creating a Private Right of Action Against a Government Employer
- Labor
- L.D. 357 An Act to Establish a State Minimum Hourly Wage for Agricultural Workers
- L.D. 539 An Act to Repeal the Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program (EMERGENCY)
- L.D. 575 An Act to Ensure Equitable Access to the Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program by Removing the Requirement That Leave Must Be Scheduled to Prevent Undue Hardship on the Employer
- L.D. 1249 An Act to Delay Payment of Benefits Under the Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program (EMERGENCY)
- Marine Resources
- L.D. 1678 An Act to Allocate Commercial Menhaden Fishing Licenses for Island Communities
- L.D. 1679 An Act to Allocate Scallop Dragging Licenses for Island Communities
- Taxation
- L.D. 1603 An Act to Eliminate the Property Tax on Business Equipment With a Value of No More Than \$50,000
- L.D. 1621 An Act to Allow Municipalities to Use Tax Increment Financing Revenues to Support Lake Restoration and Protection Activities
- L.D. 1630 An Act to Amend the Open Space Tax Law
- L.D. 1732 An Act to Allow a Municipality to Waive the Excise Tax on an Antique Automobile Owned by a Person 65 Years of Age or Older
- Transportation
- L.D. 329 An Act to Increase the Fine for Passing a Stopped School Bus
- L.D. 433 An Act Relating to Requirements for School Bus Drivers
- L.D. 547 An Act to Modify Maine Motor Vehicle Inspection Standards to Permit Exterior, Nonstructural Corrosion That Does Not Directly Affect the Passenger Compartment
- L.D. 622 An Act to Implement a Surcharge on Electric Vehicle Registration
- L.D. 661 An Act to Amend Motor Vehicle Inspection Requirements
- L.D. 773 An Act to Provide for the Issuance of Enhanced Driver's Licenses and Enhanced Nondriver Identification Cards in Maine
- L.D. 1015 An Act to Require a Minimum of 2 Persons on a Crew for the Operation of Freight Trains
- L.D. 1305 An Act to Improve Access to Transportation to Work for Forestry Workers and Migrant and Seasonal Farm Workers
- L.D. 1644 An Act to Require Train Axle Bearing Sensors to Be Installed on Passenger Rail Lines
- L.D. 1659 An Act to Raise Revenue to Fund Firefighting Equipment Purchases and Training Related to Electric Vehicle Fires Through a Fee on Electric Vehicles

- L.D. 1709 An Act Regarding Antique Automobiles
 - L.D. 1714 An Act to Create a New Pathway to Licensure to Drive School Buses
 - L.D. 1846 An Act to Amend the Law Governing Notification to Vehicle Owners and Lienholders When a Vehicle Is Towed or Left Without Permission on Residential or Business Property
- Veterans and Legal Affairs
- L.D. 302 An Act Regarding Maine's Cannabis Industry
 - L.D. 392 An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Cannabis
 - L.D. 684 An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Liquor and Lottery Operations
 - L.D. 959 An Act to Require the Development of Better Cannabis Testing Criteria and Processes
 - L.D. 1116 An Act to Protect the Constitutional Rights of Petition Circulators
 - L.D. 1415 An Act to Expand Reporting Requirements for Legislators and Lobbyists
 - L.D. 1567 An Act to Require Labeling of Radiation Treatment and Ozonation of Adult Use Cannabis and Inspection and Registration of Associated Equipment
 - L.D. 1717 An Act Regarding Background Checks for Medical Cannabis Providers
 - L.D. 1862 An Act to Provide That Authority over In-person Sports Betting Resides Solely with the Gambling Control Board

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

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 171)

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

May 20, 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 Committee on Health and Human Services has approved the request by the sponsor, Senator Talbot Ross of Cumberland, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

- L.D. 842 An Act to Improve the Health of Maine Residents by Amending the Laws Governing the MaineCare, Maine Rx Plus and Emergency MaineCare Programs

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the Committee on Health and Human Services has approved the request by the sponsor, Representative Morris of Turner, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

- L.D. 1151 An Act to Protect Access to Health Insurance Under the MaineCare Program

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the Committee on Labor has approved the request by the sponsor, Representative Brennan of Portland, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

- L.D. 655 An Act Establishing a State Minimum Hourly Wage for Agricultural Workers

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the Committee on Labor has approved the request by the sponsor, Representative Roeder of Bangor, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

- L.D. 664 An Act to Improve Unemployment Insurance
- Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the Committee on Marine Resources has approved the request by the sponsor, Representative Hepler of Woolwich, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

- L.D. 619 An Act Related to Marine Resources and Maine's Working Waterfront

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

- L.D. 1045 An Act to Expand the Use of Tax Increment Financing District Revenue by Adding Public Safety as an Authorized Project Cost

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

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 172)

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

May 20, 2025
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:
Please be advised that pursuant to her authority, Governor Janet T. Mills has nominated the following:
on May 14, 2025

Randall J. Bates, Esq. of Yarmouth for reappointment and Taylor Sawyer Kilgore of Turner and Anne H. Jordan, Esq. of South Portland for appointment to the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services.

Pursuant to Title 4, MRSA §1803, this reappointment and appointments are contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

Honorable Patricia G. Worth of Belfast for reappointment and the Honorable Michael P. Roberts for appointment as Active Retired Judges of the Maine District Court.

Pursuant to Article V, Part First, §8, of the Maine Constitution, this reappointment and appointment is contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

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

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

The Following Communication: (S.C. 389)

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

May 14, 2025

Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0002

Dear Speaker Fecteau:

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

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

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

Best Regards,

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

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:

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

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

Recognizing:

Terri Conley, of Glenburn, on her retirement after over 43 years of devoted service to Christian education and ministry. Her early years at New Testament Christian School in Norton, Massachusetts were filled with purpose as she taught grades K4 through 6 and served as elementary supervisor. In 1992, Mrs. Conley moved to Maine and continued her ministry at Bangor Christian Schools, where she spent the next 22 years contributing in vital ways. Whether managing study halls, organizing school resources or running the front office for the middle and high school divisions, she brought structure, care and a quiet strength to everything she touched. Her final chapter of service came with the Christian Civic League of Maine, where she has spent the last decade as Assistant Development Director. There, her administrative expertise and heart for ministry played an essential role in supporting the League's mission. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(SLS 653)

On **OBJECTION** of Representative ARATA of New Gloucester, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

Subsequently, this Expression of Legislative Sentiment was **PASSED** in concurrence.

Recognizing:

Carroll Conley, of Glenburn, on his retirement after more than 44 years of dedication to nurturing Christian education and influencing public life with biblical values. His career began at New Testament Christian School in Norton, Massachusetts, where he served as a teacher, coach, athletic director and principal. In 1992, he returned to Maine to become the Headmaster at Bangor Christian Schools, while also leading music ministry and development efforts at Bangor Baptist Ministries, which is now Crosspoint Church. For 18 years, he shaped young lives, mentored fellow educators and advanced Christian education in Maine. In 2010, he stepped into a new arena of ministry as Executive Director of the Christian Civic League of Maine, working to inspire pastors and church leaders to engage with the cultural and political landscape through the Church Ambassador Network. From the classroom to the Capitol, Mr. Conley's legacy is one of faithful stewardship, courage and compassion. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(SLS 654)

On **OBJECTION** of Representative ARATA of New Gloucester, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from New Gloucester, Representative Arata.

Representative **ARATA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, our faith often collides with policy as we do our work in this building. And when this happens, Carroll and Terri Conley have always been available with encouragement and prayer.

The Conleys embody the instructions given to us in the book of Micah, which says, 'He hath shown thee, O man, what is good; and what the Lord requires of thee, but to do justice, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?' The effectiveness of living out this command was particularly evident on Saturday at the Conleys' retirement celebration, when both former Chief Executive Paul LePage and the current Chief Executive, Janet Mills, spoke about their friendships with Carroll and Terri Conley. Those two disagree about everything, but they both agree that the Conleys are amazing people. And what an incredible testament to the power of love and kindness to cross party lines. And that's something that we can all learn from.

So, congratulations to Carroll and Terri on your retirement from the Christian Civic League, and may your legacy of valuing people above parties continue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Dexter, Representative Foster.

Representative **FOSTER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, stand to congratulate the Conleys on their retirement from their duties with the Christian Civic League of Maine. And more particularly, Terri's support for Carroll in much of his work that he's done as well as the last few years working alongside of him.

I would especially like to mention that I always looked forward to Carroll's attendance, usually in October, before an election year, especially, to the Central Maine Men's

Scholarship monthly meeting, when we would invite him to come and speak to us. This included men from small churches all the way from Canaan up to Old Town. And Carroll didn't come and talk to us about politics; he talked to us about life and our place in it. He always encouraged us. He encouraged us to participate in the electoral process, in supporting candidates and, more importantly, in supporting all of us that serve here in Augusta. He always had a word of encouragement for the men who attended those evenings with a message from the Word, and I would like to thank him for that, and I will miss that opportunity as they move from the area. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Levant, Representative Griffin.

Representative **GRIFFIN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, just want to congratulate Carroll Conley. Not only was he a blessing to see in the halls of this State House, but also, I was a single mom for a while, and I had two teenage children who needed some extra guidance, so to speak. And so, he was such a blessing to be their principal, and especially for my son, who had made some bad choices and allowed him to come into school. So, he was definitely a blessing for me. Thank you.

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

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, too, wanted to rise and congratulate Carroll on his retirement. I don't know if Members could believe that we didn't agree on every issue, but he always treated me with respect, kindness and dignity, and I always appreciated that about him. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Madison, Representative Ducharme.

Representative **DUCHARME**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to congratulate Carroll, and I'm probably the only person in this building that went to high school with Carroll; although, I graduated a year before him, and he always comments about cheating off my physics tests.

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

Representative **MOONEN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Colleagues of the House, I want to echo my colleagues and offer my congratulations to Carroll on his retirement.

I think most people here probably know that I have a long history with EqualityMaine, including seven years as the Executive Director of that organization, while Carroll was the Executive Director of the Christian Civic League, and it won't surprise anyone here to know that we disagreed on pretty much every issue we ever talked about. But Carroll was always kind, always gracious, always willing to take a phone call, talk about what we were about to go to work against each other on, try and see if there was some middle ground. And surprisingly enough, there were two times, at least, that I can think of where we found issues where we actually agreed with us other. Probably not for the same reasons, but we agreed on what the outcome should be. And those were some of my most enjoyable times working with Carroll, him on the Republicans, me on the Democrats, articulating very different points of view but trying to get the same outcome on a bill. And I just want to say thank you, Carroll, for the years that we overlapped with each other, for being kind and gracious in battle; kind and gracious in defeat as well, and really look forward to staying in touch. Thanks, Carroll.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Carroll and Terri

on their retirement, but more importantly, on a lifetime of serving the Lord. And I also want to thank Carroll for his friendship and support over the last six and a half years, and I look forward to crossing paths in better places, like basketball tournament games and places like that more, and less here. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **ZAGER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to add to the chorus of praise for Carroll Conley. I've only recently gotten to discuss with him, get to know him a little bit, and I think, you know, I've heard and appreciated many of the same things that he's been praised for today. I would also add that he's got a beautiful voice. So, in retirement, if anybody has a chance to hear him sing, I think it would be well worth your time.

Subsequently, this Expression of Legislative Sentiment was **PASSED** in concurrence.

Recognizing:

Amanda Stewart, of St. Albans, who has been named the Valley Grange Community Citizen of the Year. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 242)

Presented by Representative PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft. Cosponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin, Representative CRAY of Palmyra.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Dover-Foxcroft, Representative Perkins.

Representative **PERKINS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my Friends and Colleagues in the House. There's an old saying that 'if you want something done, you give it to a busy person,' and Amanda Stewart is one of those people. Even though she has the same 24 hours a day as the rest of us, she just seems to be one of those people that accomplishes quite a few things, and the best part is, the things that she is accomplishing are community service-oriented things.

In addition to being deeply involved and an integral part of the Dexter Development Association; which is responsible for their hot dog festival and bringing back the local beach there; she's also a Kiwanian and she's the head of the Ridgley booster club. But I met Amanda last October, when we found out in Dover-Foxcroft that we were going to lose our YMCA. And Amanda immediately sprung into action, she got a bunch of us together, community leaders and business people, former board members and just volunteers from the community, and she said, 'this isn't going to happen.' And she has been a driving force behind that and it's solely because of her, I believe, that we still have that building and that endowment and we're able to operate now, under a different name, but the building is still there. And we couldn't be more proud than to call her a friend and a colleague, and we couldn't be more proud of the work that she's been able to accomplish, Mr. Speaker. And she does all this with a quiet humility. She faces every challenge with just a serene sureness about herself. She has amazing organizational skills, attention to detail, professionalism and I just couldn't give her any more accolades, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to stand up and express my gratitude for all the hard work she's done for our community. Thank you.

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

Recognizing:

Mary Bonauto, of Portland, who is a recipient of the Presidential Citizens Medal for "securing the right of every American to marry whom they love." We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 244)

Presented by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator DUSON of Cumberland, Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland, 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.

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, Colleagues in the House. I first met Mary in 1979, when we were both freshmen at Hamilton College in Clinton, New York. Hamilton's a really small school, so, I think our paths would've crossed no matter what, but we ended up choosing the same major; comparative literature; so, we were in many classes and seminars together. And I remember her going across the frigid Hamilton campus always with her head down, kind of very intent and off to work, and she was a hard worker even then and it paid off, because she graduated Phi Beta Kappa.

After Hamilton, Mary went to law school, and then she joined a law firm in Maine, where she did *pro bono* work for those who had been discriminated against with AIDS. And she's worked ever since then for the rights of all citizens, regardless of their sexual orientation. She receives this award, the Presidential Citizen's Medal, because of her tireless efforts to legalize same-sex marriage in Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Maine; before arguing before the Supreme Court to make that the law of the land. And, you know, her efforts have made millions of American families whole.

So, I'm very proud to have known her way back when. Hamilton's motto is 'know thyself,' and I like to think that her sense of justice and determination were forged back there during our college days. Whether that's indeed the case, I don't know, but I do know that we are very lucky that she settled here in Maine, and I hope you'll join me in congratulating her on this well-deserved recognition. Thank you.

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

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Increase the Total Amount of Credits Authorized Under the Maine Seed Capital Tax Credit Program"

(S.P. 52) (L.D. 125)

Signed:

Senators:

GROHOSKI of Hancock
TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:

CLOUTIER of Lewiston
FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor
LAVIGNE of Berwick
QUINT of Hodgdon
RUDNICKI of Fairfield
WHITE of Ellsworth

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-75)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

BICKFORD of Androscoggin

Representatives:

CROCKETT of Portland
MATLACK of St. George
SAYRE of Kennebunk
SWALLOW of Houlton

Came from the Senate with the Minority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-75)**.

READ.

On motion of Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston, **TABLED** pending **ACCEPTANCE** of either Report and later today assigned.

Majority Report of the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Resolve, to Aid Municipalities, Animal Control Officers and Other Parties in Complying with Electronic Dog Licensing Requirements (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 686) (L.D. 1057)

Signed:

Senators:

TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland
INGWERSEN of York

Representatives:

PLUECKER of Warren
DILL of Old Town
FROST of Belgrade
HEPLER of Woolwich

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-174)** on same Resolve.

Signed:

Representatives:

COOPER of Windham
CRAY of Palmyra
GUERRETTE of Caribou
JACKSON of Oxford

READ.

Representative PLUECKER of Warren moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative GREENWOOD of Wales **REQUESTED** a division on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

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

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this item before us today was brought to me by one of my three towns, and if you have a dog and you've registered your dog since January 1 to be in compliance with the new dog license requirements, your Town Clerk probably hates this.

The system that had been working for years was upgraded and gone to an electronic dog licensing program. The State didn't fund anything, but it required it, so, the department did the best they could, and they purchased a \$3,000 box program that was actually intended for 24Pet microchip pet health services. That system doesn't intertwine with any municipal program. Most communities use TRIO or MUNIS. It doesn't connect.

Speaking with my town office this morning, they said that it takes over 20 minutes to register a dog. They can process a marriage license in less time. We heard testimony from the Maine Town and City Clerks Association regarding this. The rollout of the new PetPoint database and process was disastrous, occurring during the immediate leadup to the November 4th, 2024 presidential election, when clerks are managing absentee ballot requests, voter registration activities and planning for Election Day. In addition, the weeks after the election are so busy with the post-election activities, it's nearly impossible.

Training and documentation for the new dog licensing program was extremely sparse to nonexistent. A few optional Zoom trainings were provided, but left more confusion than clarification. Members of the Maine Town and City Clerks Association supported the establishment of a software user group and that program was abandoned pre-COVID. Nobody has an issue with licensing their dog; they just want to make it so that it works within your town office.

Mr. Speaker, we heard testimony from Rebecca Graham of the Maine Municipal Association, providing testimony in support of LD 1057. MMA, their 70-member policy commission, voted to support this bill, because it's just common sense. The Department provided no training whatsoever and is actually; I can't use props in here, but I'm just going to briefly say; that the larger municipalities have done a few spreadsheets to try to help things, but it is a 20-step process, going through this PetPoint software microchip program to register your dog. It gets worse, Mr. Speaker. It's 23 steps if you have multiple dogs. And it doesn't get easier next year when you go to re-register, because you have to start the process all over.

The gist of this bill was to put a one-year moratorium on the program and ask for the Department to come up with a stakeholder group to make it so that registering your dog is not more complicated than getting a marriage license, Mr. Speaker. I urge you to vote no on the pending motion of the Ought Not to Pass. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Warren, Representative Pluecker.

Representative **PLUECKER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Animal Welfare Program did acknowledge that the rollout of this program was difficult. They did start training; the program did not go into effect until October; they started trainings back in September. Unfortunately, because of the election, timing of the election, November, it came at the same time. There was a lot

of work coming to our town clerks to both implement the new program as well as run the new election. One hundred and five thousand licenses have been successfully implemented through this program. It is working for many towns across the State.

The program has also found that 24 different municipalities were not submitting any license fees for over a year, so, the program is working in a large way. They're continuing with training, making sure that municipal clerks are brought up to speed on what's going on, and my argument would also be that a moratorium doesn't necessarily fix the program that already exists. And we must create an alternative, so; because there is a law that the State does need to look at these licenses and have access to them, they would need to create a different sort of program to run this if there was a moratorium, so, there is a Fiscal Note on this bill of \$104,000.

The Chair ordered a division on **ACCEPTANCE** of the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

A vote of the House was taken. 74 voted in favor of the same and 64 against, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-162)** on Bill "An Act to Improve Training Opportunities for Law Enforcement Officers" (H.P. 407) (L.D. 639)

Signed:

Senators:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox
CURRY of Waldo

Representatives:

HASENFUS of Readfield
ABDI of Lewiston
BUNKER of Farmington
LAJOIE of Lewiston
LOOKNER of Portland
MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

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

Signed:

Senator:

CYRWAY of Kennebec

Representatives:

ARDELL of Monticello
MCINTYRE of Lowell
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

READ.

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

Representative NUTTING of Oakland **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: 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. 144

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, 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, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

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

ABSENT - Lanigan, Osher.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 73; No, 75; Absent, 2; Excused, 0; Vacant, 1.

73 having voted in the affirmative and 75 voted in the negative, with 2 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **NOT ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, on motion of Representative HASENFUS of Readfield, the Minority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Establish the Hope and Inclusion Scholarship Program in Order to Provide Funding for Students Attending Certain Private Schools and Students Receiving Home Instruction" (H.P. 143) (L.D. 220)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-182)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham

HAGGAN of Hampden

LYMAN of Livermore Falls

READ.

Representative MURPHY of Scarborough moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative LYMAN of Livermore Falls **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 Windham, Representative Bagshaw.

Representative **BAGSHAW**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I rise today in opposition to the pending motion on my bill.

Families who apply for and receive a Hope and Inclusion Scholarship; also known as Educational Savings Account, ESA; will be empowered to direct the State portion of their kid's education funding to build a learning experience that best fits their individual's needs. Among many parents, there is a feeling that they have less and less of a voice in public education and see their rights as guardians being eroded. I have heard from more than one of my constituents that this is 'taxation without representation.' They are forced to fund an education system which is not working for their kids' needs.

We all want to do what's best for our kids. It's time that we trust families with power to decide for their children. They deserve to have hope for their kids' future. Education should bring hope and include every student equally. It is my hope that LD 220 can do just that. Seventeen states across the nation have seen their Educational Savings Accounts program grow in popularity in recent years. This is because they work for families who choose to use them. Even still, on an average, less than five percent of eligible students in ESA program states opt to use one. Less than five percent.

ESA simply provides more options for kids who need them. While resident district schools may work for the vast majority of students, one size simply does not fit all. Some kids need some extra attention. Unlike traditional vouchers or town tuitioning, ESAs empower families to work with educators to create a learning experience for each child. For instance, a child can purchase curriculum materials, book part-time programming at a local learning center, even take a gymnastics class lessons, even take a class or two in a public school, all with ESA funds. ESAs ensure that those closest to the child are making the decisions about their education. Families with an ESA will have access to an account for each of their eligible students.

New Hampshire, West Virginia, Indiana, Florida, North Carolina and Tennessee have active Educational Savings Accounts programs with success. How to qualify for a Hope and Inclusion Scholarship: a student must be under 21, they must live in Maine, the student has not completed secondary education. More freedom benefits everyone. Nobody loses any freedom because someone else has voluntarily applied for School Choice program. This bill trusts the families to build a unique education for their kids' needs, making it more helpful for

home-schooling families than previous choice bills if they choose. If they choose; let me repeat that; to use the program. It offers families to have the power to curate a real alternative to traditional schoolings with Hope funds if they choose to, not only within State approved schools. Still, families that want to home-school as they do today, without the use of a Hope Scholarship, will retain their freedom to do so. The program is voluntary. The bill does not change Maine home-schooling laws.

Politicians and bureaucrats can't possibly know how each kid learns the best, but that's who has the power today. Why not trust families to determine that which is best for themselves, then watch academic results and satisfaction with education rise? So, please vote against the pending motion and help deliver more educational options to the families of Maine who desperately need them. Thank you.

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. 145

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

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

ABSENT - Lanigan, Osher.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 81; No, 67; Absent, 2; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

81 having voted in the affirmative and 67 voted in the negative, with 2 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Fund the Carleton Project to Provide Additional Access to a Nontraditional Secondary School"

(H.P. 274) (L.D. 420)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
LIBBY of Cumberland
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

MURPHY of Scarborough
BAGSHAW of Windham
BRENNAN of Portland
CROCKETT of Portland
DODGE of Belfast
HAGGAN of Hampden
LYMAN of Livermore Falls
MITCHELL of Cumberland
SARGENT of York

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-180)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representative:

CARLOW of Buxton

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-181)** on Bill "An Act to Establish the Community Partnerships with Public School Systems Grant Program"

(H.P. 633) (L.D. 973)

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
CARLOW of Buxton
HAGGAN of Hampden
LYMAN of Livermore Falls

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-181)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-181)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-183)** on Bill "An Act to Provide Funding for MaineCare-related Services for Public Schools"

(H.P. 742) (L.D. 1123)

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
CARLOW of Buxton
HAGGAN of Hampden
LYMAN of Livermore Falls

READ.

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

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

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

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

Representative **LYMAN**: Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, I rise in opposition to the pending motion, "An Act to Provide Funding for MaineCare-related Services for Public Schools."

While I understand the importance of maximizing federal reimbursements to support our schools, Maine is currently facing a significant budget deficit, and allocating additional funds for new positions may not be the most prudent use of limited resources. The bill proposes funding two full-time MaineCare Coordinator positions within the Department of Education, aimed at helping local school districts navigate Medicaid billing and reimbursement processes. While streamlining these processes is beneficial, the DHHS MaineCare in Education program already offers extensive resources and information related to school-based health services and MaineCare funding. This program provides training, technical assistance and

support to help schools improve their billing practices and increase participation in Medicaid reimbursements. Given these existing supports, creating new positions may be unnecessary at this time. The current resources could be expanded or better promoted to ensure that more districts are aware of and utilize the available assistance, thereby increasing MaineCare reimbursements without additional staffing costs.

Focusing on enhancing these existing services would be a more cost-effective approach, especially during a period of fiscal constraint. Furthermore, many districts are already working to improve their billing practices, and increased outreach and targeted training could result in significant gains in federal funding. Investing over \$200,000 annually in new coordinators when existing programs are capable of providing similar support would not be an efficient use of State resources.

In conclusion, while supporting school-based health services and maximizing Medicaid reimbursement is important, the current DHHS MaineCare and Education program provides sufficient resources to assist districts. Therefore, I oppose this bill and encourage a focus on strengthening and promoting existing support systems, rather than creating new positions during these challenging economic times. Thank you.

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

Representative **BRENNAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I try not to engage in hyperbole, but in this case, I might say this is the most cost-effective bill that will come before the Legislature this Session. And why do I say that? In the last two to three years, the State of Maine has left almost \$95 million of Medicaid money that is eligible for services within schools, for students who need mental health services, students with disabilities, students with learning issues. That money has stayed in Washington, it has not come to the State of Maine, to our schools and our students. For a modest amount of money in this bill, less than \$200,000, we will be able to access that \$96 million for Maine students. So, again, for the amount of return that we will receive for families, schools and students across Maine for this modest investment, I think it deserves a vote of everybody in this Chamber. 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. 146

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

NAY - Adams, Albert, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Frederick, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmursal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout,

Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Hymes, Lanigan, Osher.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 78; No, 69; Absent, 3; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

78 having voted in the affirmative and 69 voted in the negative, with 3 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-183)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-183)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-194)** on Resolve, to Establish a Working Waterfront Infrastructure Engineer Corps Pilot Program and to Conduct a Feasibility Study of a Higher Education Service Corps Program

(H.P. 942) (L.D. 1433)

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 Resolve.

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham
CARLOW of Buxton
HAGGAN of Hampden
LYMAN of Livermore Falls

READ.

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

The Resolve was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-194)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Resolve was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-194)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-193)** on Bill "An Act to Enact the Safe Cosmetics Act"

(H.P. 217) (L.D. 317)

Signed:

Senators:

TEPLER of Sagadahoc
BRENNER of Cumberland
MARTIN of Oxford

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 Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representatives:

CAMPBELL of Orrington
SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

READ.

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

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Orrington, Representative Campbell.

Representative **CAMPBELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to advise the Body that on this bill, the Department; the DEP; advised and spoke Ought Not to Pass. And they did so because they already handle this issue. Thank you.

Subsequently, the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-193)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-193)** and sent for concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Resolve, Directing the Department of Environmental Protection to Report on Air and Soil Chemical and Metal Levels and on Soil Testing on Solar Panel Farm Sites

(H.P. 600) (L.D. 935)

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

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-192)** on same Resolve.

Signed:

Senator:

MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

CAMPBELL of Orrington
SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico
SOBOLESKI of Phillips
WOODSOME of Waterboro

READ.

Representative DOUDERA of Camden moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative CAMPBELL of Orrington **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 Orrington, Representative Campbell.

Representative **CAMPBELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. We have many bills before the ENR concerned about either the soils, the water, the air around these many solar farms. And this is basically a report to look at the effects of those farms on those areas of the environment. So, I think if we could get that report from the DEP, it would be valuable in our decision making and I would recommend that we move to defeat the motion and go on to approve this Resolve. Thank you.

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

Representative **DOUDERA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Colleagues of the House, LD 935 requires that the Department submit two reports by December 3, 2025. One would be in regard to available information on the level of chemicals and metals airborne and in the soil in the State, including information on any periodic sampling. And the second would include soil testing done by the Department on solar panel farm sites in the State.

So, this first report is a very broad ask. The Department said that it appears to ask for all air and soil data, but it doesn't require any analysis of that data, nor does it specify if it applies to solar farms in particular. The Department testified that they don't believe that a report of this nature will be helpful, nor is it necessary, and some of the information that's already asked for

is available on the Department's website and is organized by program.

Secondly, the second report requires that the Department issue a report about soil testing on solar panel sites, including testing done before installation, after installation and any ongoing testing and any results of that testing. So, we have over 700 solar sites in Maine, so, for the Department to try to set up a program to do this is going to be; the Fiscal Note was over a million dollars to do this.

And then there is the question over whether, you know, this type of thing is really needed and really necessary. We had testimony that a guide from the Massachusetts Department of Energy discusses the public and environmental health concerns of PV panels, and they conclude that they're enclosed panels, Mr. Speaker, they don't mix with water or vaporize in the air, so, there's little to no chance of contamination. But regardless, the Department's already on top of this, so, we felt this bill was unnecessary. Thank you.

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

Representative **SOBOLESKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen. I rise in support of LD 935, a critical step in ensuring the environmental safety and sustainability of solar panel farms in Maine. While we all recognize the importance of clean energy, we must also acknowledge the potential risks that come along with larger scale installations, particularly the presence of toxic chemicals that could threaten our soil, water and our public health.

One of the key concerns we must address is cadmium, a toxic heavy metal commonly used in certain solar type panels. Cadmium contamination can persist in the environment, leaching into the soil and the groundwater, creating long-term ecological and health hazards. Without regular monitoring and testing, we risk unintended pollution that could harm Maine's agricultural lands and our drinking supplies.

Additionally, per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, PFAS, known as forever chemicals, must be taken into account. PFAS has been linked to serious health risks, including cancer, reproductive issues and immune system disruptions. These substances do not break down easily and can accumulate in the environment over time. If solar panels contain coatings or materials that introduce PFAS into the soil, we must have a system in place to track and mitigate potential contamination. LD 935 provides a productive solution by directing the Department of Environmental Protection to conduct air and soil testing on solar farm sites before and after panel installation. This approach ensures that Maine can expand its renewable energy infrastructure responsibly, without compromising public health or the integrity of our land.

Let's be clear, this is not a debate against solar energy. We must move toward a cleaner, more sustainable future. However, we also have an obligation to ensure that renewable energy developments do not bring unintended environmental consequences. Thank you.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this issue, to me, is eerily reminiscent of the sludge that was used in the '80s and '90s that came from wastewater treatment plants, and it was used as fertilizer for agriculture. Now, imagine if during that time someone had said, let's test the fields that we're going to use this sludge on. Mr. Speaker, we've recently passed some of the most extreme PFAS laws in the country, because of this problem that exists

because of a lack of testing. This bill before us right now is a way to preempt that type of catastrophe in the future.

Mr. Speaker, we don't know what's coming off of these solar panels. We don't know what's leaching into the ground. Why turn a blind eye to it, when we can simply enact a testing such as this bill proposes and stay ahead of it, so we don't have the same catastrophe happen with the PFAS in the past? I urge the Members to vote no on the pending motion.

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. 147

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

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

ABSENT - Lanigan, Osher, Rollins.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 75; No, 72; Absent, 3; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 72 voted in the negative, with 3 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-156)** on Resolve, to Study Maine's Absolute Dominion and Beneficial Use Laws Relating to Water Rights

(H.P. 1131) (L.D. 1696)

Signed:

Senators:

TEPLER of Sagadahoc
BRENNER of Cumberland

Representatives:

GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach
ANKELES of Brunswick
BELL of Yarmouth
BRIDGEO of Augusta
CAMPBELL of Orrington
OSHER of Orono
RIELLY of Westbrook

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

Signed:

Senator:

MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico
SOBOLESKI of Phillips
WOODSOME of Waterboro

READ.

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

The Resolve was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-156)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Resolve was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-156)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-179)** on Bill "An Act to Amend Maine's Prescription Drug Labeling Law by Allowing the Removal of the Name of a Prescriber of Mifepristone, Misoprostol and Their Generic Alternatives"

(H.P. 357) (L.D. 538)

Signed:

Senators:

BAILEY of York
BALDACCI of Penobscot

Representatives:

GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach
ARFORD of Brunswick
BOYER of Cape Elizabeth
CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham
MASTRACCIO of Sanford

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

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

CIMINO of Bridgton
FLYNN of Albion
FOLEY of Wells
MORRIS of Turner
OLSEN of Raymond

READ.

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

Representative CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham **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 Bowdoinham, Representative Cluchey.

Representative **CLUCHEY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Colleagues of the House. I rise today in support of LD 538, a simple but essential bill that allows health care providers in Maine to request that the name of their health care facility, rather than their personal name, be listed on the prescription labels for mifepristone and misoprostol.

This request comes directly from providers who are concerned for their own safety and the safety of their families. These health care providers have faced harassment through phone calls, text messages and online threats. Their personal information has been shared publicly to incite violence. They have been stalked, targeted with bomb threats and harassed at their homes. In far too many cases, these incidents escalate into death threats. This Session, this Body has already acted unanimously to protect the privacy of trappers and insurance reviewers. LD 538 is about extending that same protection to health care providers, so that they can do their jobs without putting their safety at risk.

It is our responsibility as legislators to ensure that Mainers can engage in lawful work and activities without fear of being targeted, regardless of how we feel personally about those activities. The people of Maine deserve to have us apply this common-sense principle fairly and consistently, and I urge my colleagues and you to support the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Wells, Representative Foley.

Representative **FOLEY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I rise in opposition to the pending motion.

While I understand the genesis and the reasoning for this bill, if enacted, the bill requires that Maine pharmacists break federal law. Current federal law requires all prescription drug labels to contain specific information, including prescriber's name. While the bill before us states pharmacists may remove the prescriber's name and instead use the prescriber's facility's name, there are no allowable substitutions for replacing the prescriber's name under federal law. Testimony from the Retail Association indicated that the pharmacies here in Maine will not go against federal law.

We should not be passing laws that require Maine pharmacists to break federal law. There is a simpler solution to this issue that does not go against federal or State law, and that is simply for the person receiving the prescription to simply black out the prescriber's name, which is fully legal in the State of Maine. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Winterport, Representative Paul.

Representative **PAUL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in strong opposition to the pending motion, and I do so with full awareness of the diverse convictions represented in this room.

Whatever your views are on the abortion issue, I ask you to consider this bill not as a referendum on access to abortion pills, but as a question of basic medical transparency, patient protection and the public's right to know who is prescribing controlled, high-risk drugs. This bill would allow the prescribing practitioner's name to be omitted from the prescription label for mifepristone and misoprostol, powerful drugs that are used to end the lives of babies in the womb. Instead, the name of the health care facility could be listed in place of the practitioner. But let me be clear, this is not a neutral administrative change. It is a deliberate move to shield prescribers from accountability, and in doing so, it compromises patient safety, regulatory oversight

and public trust. Every other category of prescription drugs maintains a standard; the prescribing practitioner is identified by name. That is not a clerical detail, it's a safeguard. It ensures that if something goes wrong, the patient and regulators know exactly who is responsible. It ensures continuity of care, ethical responsibility and regulatory traceability. Why should abortion drugs be exempt from that standard? Why are we creating a carveout here?

No matter where you stand on the abortion issue, none of us should support reducing transparency around drugs with well-documented medical risks, especially those increasingly distributed through the mail, often with little to no direct patient oversight. A recent analysis by the Ethics and Public Policy Center using data from the CDC, the FDA and insurance claims found that 10.93% of women experience serious complications from just the first abortion pill. The study also revealed that the chemical abortion regimen is 22 times more dangerous than previously reported, with thousands of women suffering from sepsis, hemorrhaging, severe infections and, in some cases, even death. This proposal opens the door for broader, untraceable use of remote prescribing, where a patient may never meet or even know the name of the individual providing the drug, and that is a dangerous precedent. If a young woman experiences complications; hemorrhaging, infection or worse; she deserves to know the name of the medical professional who prescribed her the drug. Her family deserves to know. The public deserves to know whether providers are acting responsibly.

This is not about privacy for patients, this is about privacy for prescribers, privacy from public accountability, and that is a slippery slope. We cannot allow a system in which individual medical professionals operate behind institutional anonymity when prescribing drugs that end the lives of pre-born children and carry significant medical risk. Regardless of your position on these drugs, we should all agree that they not should be dispensed under a veil of secrecy. But obviously, we do not all agree on that, or this bill would not be before us.

The fact that legislation this dangerous, this reckless and this morally bankrupt has made it this far in the legislative process is almost unfathomable. We are talking about a bill that deliberately strips away transparency, shields prescribers from accountability and weakens oversight for a drug regimen known to carry serious medical risks. The fact that such a proposal is being seriously considered should give every Member of this Body pause, regardless of where they stand on the broader abortion issue. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **CIMINO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Today, I rise in strong opposition to the pending motion.

When LD 538 came before the Health Coverage Insurance and Financial Services Committee, the stated intent of the bill was to protect the identity of doctors prescribing mifepristone and misoprostol and other generic alternatives. Proponents argue that these medications are used to treat various medical conditions. While these medications can be used to control hyperglycemia in adults with Cushing's Syndrome, who have type 2 diabetes and cannot have surgery, the main use of these drugs is to induce chemical abortion. Indeed, data shows that states with total or six-week abortion bans, an average of 7,700 people a month were prescribed and took mifepristone and misoprostol to end their pregnancy by out-of-state doctors practicing in states with shield laws.

Mifepristone and misoprostol, when used together, stop the supply of hormone that maintain the walls of the uterus. Without these essential hormones, the pregnancy cannot endure, and the contents of the uterus are expelled. According to the Mayo Clinic, quote, "appropriate studies have not been performed on the relationship of age to the effects of mifepristone tablets in the pediatric population. Safety and efficacy have not been established." End quote. The Mayo Clinic also stresses the importance –

Representative **CLUCHEY**: Point of Order.

The **SPEAKER**: The Member will defer. The Chair would inquire as to the Point of Order from the Representative from Bowdoinham.

Representative **CLUCHEY**: What the Member is talking about is not germane to the bill that's before the Body. This is not about the safety and efficacy of these medications. These medications are safe, they're effective and they are legal. We are here to debate whether or not we want to protect the privacy of health care providers.

On **POINT OF ORDER**, Representative **CLUCHEY** of Bowdoinham asked the Chair if the remarks of Representative **CIMINO** of Bridgton were germane to the pending question.

The **SPEAKER**: The Member will defer. The Member is to raise a Point of Order, not to engage in further debate. The Chair would rule that the Member's comments are in order, talking about the subject matter at hand.

The Chair **RULED** that the remarks of Representative **CIMINO** of Bridgton were germane to the pending question.

The **SPEAKER**: The Member may proceed.

Representative **CIMINO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate that.

The Mayo Clinic also stresses the importance of following up with one's doctor, as there can be minor side effects as well as severe side effects; although, severe side effects are not nearly as common. So, how can a doctor who sends prescriptions or pills to a patient in another state follow up with that patient? If, in the rare case a patient does experience severe complication and lives in states where abortion is banned, how likely is it that someone would go to her emergency room and admit to breaking the law, only to be prosecuted in that state?

The purpose of this bill is clear: to protect doctors from criminal prosecution when prescribing these abortifacients to patients living in other states where abortion is restricted. This bill provides an additional shield to doctors who willingly defy the laws of other states where abortion access is limited. These doctors in many cases prescribe medicine without ever meeting with these patients and without knowing their medical history. Clearly, removing the name of the doctor from the label protects these doctors from being identified and prosecuted. The question remains, should these doctors be allowed to avoid accountability? With all the potential risks of prescribing medication, should they be allowed to not take responsibility for not only what they are prescribing, but for any adverse outcomes associated with their actions?

Maine is not the first state to advocate for this kind of legislation. In the aftermath of the *Dobbs* decision, which overturned *Roe v. Wade* and returned to the states the power to regulate or ban abortion, eight states including New York passed legislation allowing doctors to request their names be left off abortion pill bottles. Rather, the name of the health care practice with which the doctor is affiliated is recorded. The New York law was in response to the indictment of a New York doctor, Margaret Carpenter, by a grand jury in West Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana. Dr. Carpenter was indicted for

allegedly prescribing abortion pills online for a pregnant minor and shipping them to Louisiana. She was indicted alongside the mother, who allegedly received the mail package and gave the pills to her minor daughter. The teen did not want to end the pregnancy and called 9-1-1 after being forced to take the pills. Louisiana discovered the name of the doctor because it was on the medicine bottle. Louisiana Governor Jeff Landry signed an extradition warrant for Dr. Carpenter in an effort to enforce his state law with respect to abortion. The New York Governor denied extradition. Undoubtedly, this will be resolved by federal courts.

Ask yourselves this hypothetical question. Fentanyl is a prescribed drug, like misoprostol and mifepristone. Maine has banned fentanyl from its borders unless dispensed by a Maine doctor. What if a state that legalizes fentanyl has doctors that think Mainers should have free access to fentanyl? Should doctors in those states be able to ship fentanyl into Maine and then be protected? Or should Maine law prevail, because Maine is a sovereign state and has the right to make its own laws? Should Maine prosecute those doctors who illegally ship fentanyl into Maine? Hopefully, this is a resounding yes.

By removing the name of doctors from prescription bottles, we are interfering with another state's right to make and enforce its own laws. By placing the name of the clinic on the bottle instead, aren't we making it easier to target the clinics and the people who work in those clinics? Protecting doctors while exposing the clinic does not sound like a solution. Currently, Planned Parenthood does not send abortion pills to states where abortion is banned. However, it does offer abortion services to people who come to Maine from states where abortion is banned. Those individuals then return to their home state with prescription bottles which have the doctor's name on them. Should this legislation pass, it will only be a matter of time before these doctors and entities in the State of Maine ship or prescribe abortifacients to states which ban abortions. This law would provide these entities an extra layer of protection, enabling them to knowingly violate the laws of another state to further their own agenda. If this bill is passed, it will remove the doctor's name while increasing the exposure of the now-identified clinic. Frankly, why can't the recipient of a prescription black out the doctor's name, their own name, or just be responsible for their prescription bottle? Do we really need legislation for this?

Finally, as more states pass shield laws and the sovereignty of individual states is undermined; as in the case of Louisiana; the federal courts will become involved and will rule on the legality of these shield laws. Federal law will certainly trump state law. For these reasons, please join me in voting no on the pending motion. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Kittery, Representative Mathieson.

Representative **MATHIESON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to make a note about the federal violation. LD 538 does not violate federal law or regulation regarding prescriber names and prescription labeling. No such requirement exists. States regulate the practice of medicine, and it's left to the states to determine what prescriber information must appear on prescription labels. The notion that this bill is in conflict with federal labeling requirements is incorrect.

Manufacturing packaging, however, is regulated at the federal level. Manufacturer packaging labels are not the same as individual prescription labels. States remain free to determine prescriber labeling requirements and allow for labeling privacy protection such as these proposed in the bill. This bill is simple; it is about protecting the privacy of our health

care providers doing work that is legal in the State of Maine. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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. 148

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

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

ABSENT - Lanigan, Osher, Rollins, Sinclair.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 75; No, 71; Absent, 4; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 71 voted in the negative, with 4 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-179)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-179)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Permit Telehealth Services Across State Lines Following Referral from a Primary Care Provider Based in the State"

(H.P. 484) (L.D. 742)

Signed:

Senators:

BAILEY of York
BALDACCI of Penobscot
HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach
ARFORD of Brunswick
BOYER of Cape Elizabeth
CIMINO of Bridgton
CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham
FOLEY of Wells
MASTRACCIO of Sanford
MORRIS of Turner
OLSEN of Raymond

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-177)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representative:

FLYNN of Albion

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-165)** on Bill "An Act to Update Major Policy-influencing Positions Within the Maine Human Rights Commission"

(H.P. 184) (L.D. 284)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth
BABIN of Fort Fairfield
CARUSO of Caratunk
HENDERSON of Rumford
LEE of Auburn
O'HALLORAN of Brewer
PUGH of Portland
SATO of Gorham
SINCLAIR of Bath

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

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representative:

POIRIER of Skowhegan

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-165)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-165)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Require the Attorney General to Seek Legislative Approval Before Filing Any Civil Suit on Behalf of the State and to Authorize Citizen-initiated Petitions to Move for Dismissal"

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

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth
BABIN of Fort Fairfield
CARUSO of Caratunk
HENDERSON of Rumford
LEE of Auburn
O'HALLORAN of Brewer
PUGH of Portland
SATO of Gorham
SINCLAIR of Bath

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-169)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representative:

POIRIER of Skowhegan

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-166)** on Bill "An Act Regarding Occupational Licensing Reform"

(H.P. 349) (L.D. 530)

Signed:

Senator:

TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

CARUSO of Caratunk
LEE of Auburn
POIRIER of Skowhegan
PUGH of Portland
SATO of Gorham
SINCLAIR of Bath

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

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth
BABIN of Fort Fairfield
HENDERSON of Rumford
O'HALLORAN of Brewer

READ.

Representative KUHN of Falmouth moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Minority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on her motion to **ACCEPT** the Minority **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 Skowhegan, Representative Poirier.

Representative **POIRIER**: Thank you. I was just going to request a Roll Call.

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

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Mr. Speaker, just because the House Chair of the Committee is on the Minority Report doesn't mean that you should run that Report. It's about overturning the will of the Committee. If you run the Majority Report, you take the vote on it, and then you go back to the Minority. But here we are basically saying because we can, we will. And to me, it's a constant poke in the eye. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. This is my bill. It came after discussing with a gentleman, Christopher Poulos, who was formerly incarcerated, turned his life around, became a lawyer and in that process, he had to spend a considerable amount of money hiring a lawyer to represent him to the Bar after he went to law school, after he passed the bar, just because he had a prior conviction that was punishable by one year or more.

So, what this bill here does, Mr. Speaker, it removes the presumption that anyone convicted as an adult of a crime; ever; that is punishable by one year or more of incarceration, we're saying that there's a presumption that these people lack good moral character. And given our lawyer shortage, I don't know that we would want to turn anyone away from this profession. As we talk about second chances in this Body, as we talk about justice and access to justice.

And this bill doesn't go as far as some of the recommendations the American Bar Association has made regarding this issue, Mr. Speaker. Recently, the American Bar Association House of Delegates passed a resolution urging folks to limit the scope of what can be looked into and take a different tact. But let's be clear, nothing in this bill changes the power of the Bar, of the court to qualify and possibly deny an applicant. All it is doing is removing the presumption, Mr. Speaker. So, I hope folks follow my light. Thank you.

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

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in opposition to this motion for largely the same reasons that we've just heard.

In particular, when we look at our criminal justice system and our carceral system, we hear about how it's supposed to be a system of rehabilitation. That when you come out of the carceral system, you can reenter society. Anytime we place limits on how well people can reenter society, how successful they can be once they leave the carceral system, I think we're doing a great disservice to the people of Maine. And we have that dire shortage of attorneys, and the ABA guidance does go further. We would align ourselves with other states, such as Washington. I just think it's a smart move given the climate that we have in this State, the dire need for attorneys and the fact that I believe people leaving the carceral system deserve to have a fair chance. Thank you.

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

Representative **KUHN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to clarify that my support for the Minority Report is on a little different basis than what we've heard. And it relates to the strong assertion of separation of powers that we receive from the Judicial Branch.

Unlike other professions, attorneys are licensed through procedures within the Judicial Branch. The requirements for how they become a member of the Bar, how to maintain their license, oversight, investigation of ethical matters, all of that happens within the Judicial Branch. And we had an assertion from the Chief Justice that "the Judicial Branch of government has the exclusive jurisdiction and the Legislative Branch can in no way limit this inherent power and authority. Courts may and sometimes do honor implementing legislation, but clearly are not bound to do so." And in that light, we were advised in the Committee that in fact even if this is passed, the Judicial Branch will not enforce it. It is their view that the Legislature sets the minimum standard and they can put anything on top. And in the context of a lot of separation of powers disagreements that we had over the course of the Session so far, in this instance, since it wasn't going to be implemented and effective, this seemed the better Report. Thank you.

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

Representative **LEE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm on the Majority Report here.

To become an attorney in Maine, one needs to pass the multi-state performance test, the multi-state essay exam, the multi-state bar exam, to have graduated law school; stay tuned on that one; and finally, one must demonstrate that they are of good moral character. My good friend from Falmouth is correct, the Judicial Branch told us that they're not going to listen to what we do with regard to this in any circumstance. From my perspective, the one pronouncement we have on it shouldn't be that if you were convicted of a crime, no matter when, that you start out with two strikes against you as to good moral character, and that's why I will be voting in opposition to the motion.

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

Representative **FREDETTE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. As an attorney who's been practicing for a number of years, you know, I think it's important in the profession, I mean, particularly given the kinds of cases many people, as attorneys, will get involved in; handling money, they work with the elderly; there's lots of cases where the credibility of the attorney and how they represent their clients is critically important in terms of how they get their job done representing the court and ultimately, seeking justice, Mr. Speaker. I mean, that's ultimately what an attorney is trying to do. I think that the standard is proper and fair for the time being.

I recall when I went to law school, we actually had a felon who had been admitted to the law school and graduated from law school with me. So, it's not a bar that says somebody can never do X, but it certainly is something where I think it's important to highlight, in a position when you're working with people in a position of certain knowledge, it's critical that, I think, credibility is really important. I just think that the bill as proposed just goes a little bit too far, and I'll be supporting the Ought Not to Pass. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 149

YEA - Albert, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Bagshaw, Bell, Blier, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Carlow, Cimino, Cloutier, Copeland, DeBrito, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Fredette, Gattine, Geiger, Greenwood, Haggan, Kuhn, Mastraccio, Meyer, Mitchell, Murphy, O'Halloran, Rielly, Roberts, Rudnicki, Shagoury, Stover, Tuell, Walker, Woodsome, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Abdi, Adams, Ankeles, Archer, Beck, Bishop, Boyer D, Bunker, Campbell, Chapman, Cluchey, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Crafts, Crockett, Daigle, Dhalac, Dill, Ducharme, Eaton, Eder, Faircloth, Farrin, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Friedmann, Frost, Gere, Gifford, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Griffin, Guerrette, Hall, Hasenfus, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Julia, Kessler, Lajoie, Lance, Lavigne, Lee, Lemelin, Lookner, Lyman, Macias, Malon, Mason, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, McIntyre, Milliken, Mingo, Montell, Moonen, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pluecker, Poirier, Pomerleau, Pugh, Quint, Rana, Ray, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Skold, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Supica, Swallow, Terry, Thorne, Underwood, Wadsworth, Warren, Webb, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Yusuf, Zager.

ABSENT - Arata, Caruso, Cray, Lanigan, Osher, Sinclair.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 38; No, 106; Absent, 6; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

38 having voted in the affirmative and 106 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Minority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **NOT ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, on motion of Representative KUHN of Falmouth, the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-166)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-166)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-168)** on Bill "An Act to Remove Barriers to Becoming a Lawyer by Establishing a Law Office Study Program" (H.P. 480) (L.D. 738)

Signed:

Senators:

HAGGAN of Penobscot
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

BABIN of Fort Fairfield
CARUSO of Caratunk
HENDERSON of Rumford
LEE of Auburn
POIRIER of Skowhegan
PUGH of Portland
SINCLAIR of Bath

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

Signed:

Senator:

CARNEY of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth
O'HALLORAN of Brewer
SATO of Gorham

READ.

Representative KUHN of Falmouth moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Minority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on her motion to **ACCEPT** the Minority **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 Newport, Representative Fredette.

Representative **FREDETTE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Again, this is a bill in regards to; I guess, to oversimplify it; becoming an attorney. And as one of the previous speakers spoke on another bill, there's a certain process that you have to go through which includes attending essentially a three-year institution to receive a Juris Doctorate degree.

I would turn the Members' attention to one of the bills on the Consent Calendar, which is "An Act to Require the University of Maine School of Law to Provide an Online Degree Program," which I believe is one of the ways in which the Legislature is attempting to address the shortage of attorneys in Maine. It's not something right now that's available in the State of Maine. Other institutions do do it outside of the State, so, I do think this is an important step forward in terms of addressing the shortage. But I think certainly, the discussion here in terms of the proposal of working in an office just doesn't meet really the threshold of the requirements of this certain skill set that I think someone should have representing somebody in a courtroom or whatnot. And so, as an attorney, I would support the Ought Not to Pass motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of justice and fairness. We know we have a Sixth Amendment crisis in this State, we know we don't have enough lawyers, we don't have enough rural lawyers in this State.

There's one law school in this State, it's in Portland. There's no online bill; the bill that was just represented by the Good Representative from Newport, that's a study bill, alright? So, it's going to be years and years and years before there's online law school in this State. I guarantee it. There's no satellite campuses. You're from the County, and you want to be a lawyer? You've got to move to the most expensive city in the State, live there for three years. Are you going to move back to the County to pay off your student debt? No, you're going to move to probably Boston. Maybe you can stay in Maine, if you're lucky.

So, what we're doing right now is not working. And, you know, our previous Legislature has contemplated a hybrid-type curriculum. In fact, in State law, you can do two years at the law school and then have a third year go work for a lawyer. That's current law. It's never been used, ever. So, our options aren't working, and we're asking for an alternative. Some people don't do well at school, some people do better at work. There's paralegals that have been with law offices for years and years and years. They should be eligible to take the bar. And as a reminder, I'm not suggesting that anybody become licensed as a lawyer without passing the bar. So, if we set the standard; that's the bar, that should be the bar; that should be the standard. It shouldn't matter if you learned it at school, you learned it under another lawyer or a little bit of both.

So, really, I think there's some good, you know, points made on the other side of this issue, but when we're contemplating letting out folks that broke the law because they don't have representation, I think the Judicial Branch has failed in that regard, and this is an Act to help out in that regard. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **HASENFUS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, many moons ago, when I was at the University of Maine, it was late in session; this was before Obamacare had passed; and I was wondering what am I going to do, I don't have health insurance.

So, I ultimately ended up applying for and going to law school. I didn't know what a tort was. I had an entire class designated to torts, right? I didn't know how to think like a lawyer yet. Right? That is what law school does. It doesn't teach you how to be a lawyer, it teaches you how to think like a lawyer. And then, fast forward three years after I took my torts class, and I learned what a tort was; for all those of you who are wondering what a tort was, it's essentially when you sue somebody in a civil case, because you slipped and fell or whatnot; and then, I had an internship, and I was asked to draft a complaint and a note saying on a de-caption. What was a caption? I didn't know what a caption was in law school, what is a caption? A caption; for those of us in the know; is the title that goes on the top of a complaint.

But like I said, they did not teach us how to be a lawyer in law school; they taught us how to think like a lawyer in law school. And there are a number of different areas of the law, just like there is in medicine and other professions. And when we go see a doctor, we expect them to have a certain degree of understanding of, you know, the circulatory system, the cardiovascular system, the nervous system, all of these things, and then they specialize later, but they all have gone to that preliminary medical school, where they teach them how to think like a doctor. And I just worry that allowing a path forward that is just in practice, just out there on the ground practicing law, working under a lawyer, learning how to file cases, to make motions, to respond to pleadings; all of that stuff is very

important lawyer work, but that is part of lawyer work, and you lose an incredible element of the thought, the pedagogical aspect of how to think like a lawyer and be a lawyer and reason and pull different areas of law together to fashion one coherent structure.

And that being said, there are online programs that can provide that programming. In my hometown, I know of a lawyer who worked in a law firm while she was going, fully remotely, to law school in another state. Maine does not yet offer that, but it perhaps could. So, I just think while we're contemplating how to vote on; just think that there are two very distinct differences between going to law school and practicing law, and that perhaps a well-rounded lawyer should have both, and not just one. So, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **KUHN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to just share that I agree that the problems that this bill is trying to address are real and they're important. It should be easier for folks in Maine, especially in rural Maine, to be able to access legal education. It ought to be easier in terms of moving to Portland and relocating your whole life; it ought to be easier when you get out to go back to rural Maine because you're not facing a huge student loan debt that makes it more efficient for you to take a job in Portland than to open a general practice in Poland. For all these reasons, I think these are real, but I think the solution is to run a new pathway through our ABA-accredited law school, not alongside it. And this Body will have a chance to vote on that bill a little bit later.

But in this case, I do have concerns about operating something outside the law school, because the law school offers a comprehensive, time tested, effective means of training lawyers. And outside of that system, with very little information about what curriculum is provided and no information about whether the apprentice is paying for this training and what they can expect to get out of it, there are real risks that the apprentice could be subject to exploitation. And I'll just give you an example. We were provided with information in Committee about the bar exam performance results for individuals who went to an ABA-accredited law school versus individuals in states who are permitted to do an apprenticeship. And I just want to demonstrate: in California, for example, the bar passage rate is 43.88%; for apprentices, it's six percent; 6.04%. In Virginia, the bar passage rate is 67.64%; for apprentices, it is 17.78%. And it goes on. There is a very substantial disparity, and I worry about these folks spending their time, very likely spending their money and not getting the results that they're looking for, let alone the potential consumer protections for the people who they someday will be representing in life-changing situations that they may or may not have ever had an apprentice experience on, a protection from abuse order in an eviction case, we can't speak to whether they will be adequately prepared to serve the people of Maine. So, thank you.

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

Representative **MILLIKEN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wasn't planning on speaking on this one, but I wanted to rise in opposition to the pending motion.

As a person who lives in a rural community in the Second Congressional District of this State and would love to attend law school, but because I have multiple children and because of the distance that is between me and the city of Portland, there would be no chance that I could possibly make that work. I think this is an opportunity for my side of the aisle to support an effort to offer rural Maine a minor; I mean, this is a pretty minor

opportunity for us to improve a situation that is dire in rural Maine. I don't expect that this will open the floodgates and multiple people will go out and take this option up. In fact, I think that the State of California had this for several years, and they, with a population of 30 million, had four people who were successful in doing this.

So, I am in opposition to the pending motion. I think this is a good chance for us to support rural working people in the northern part of the State. Thank you.

Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan **REQUESTED** that the Clerk **READ** the Committee Report.

The Clerk **READ** the Committee Report in its entirety.

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

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the Good Representative from Falmouth for reminding me that California, Vermont, Virginia, Washington all have this similar process on the books, and I was the one that brought that data forward about bar passage rates in these states. It is lower if you don't go to law school. So, law school helps you pass the bar. Agreed. But what is the harm in letting someone not go to law school, take the bar, especially given how difficult it is with those rates that were allowed? Abraham Lincoln read the law and, you know, I heard about some worry about people would be paid or not paid. I mean, you go to law school, you pay a bunch in tuition and you're not guaranteed to pass the bar. If people don't pass the bar and go to law school, do they get a refund? Do they get, you know, another extra year? No. So, there's some personal responsibility. I'm sure anybody that would use this program would know full well that they're on the hook for their own education, and they're deciding to pursue it in that manner instead of the current status quo. So, I appreciate folks considering this, and hope they follow my light.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Presque Isle, Representative Underwood.

Representative **UNDERWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to direct a question to the Chair regarding this.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **UNDERWOOD**: Who determines or who writes the bar exams for the State of Maine?

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Presque Isle, Representative Underwood, has posed a question through the Chair to any Member who wishes to answer.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 150

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Bishop, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Carlow, Cloutier, Copeland, Crafts, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Faircloth, Foster, Fredette, Frost, Gattine, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Julia, Kuhn, Lajoie, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Meyer, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Nutting, O'Halloran, Pluecker, Rielly, Roberts, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Stover, Terry, Wadsworth, White R, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Cluchey, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Crockett, Daigle, DeBrito, Dhalac, Ducharme, Eaton, Eder, Farrin, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Fredericks, Friedmann, Geiger, Gere, Gifford, Golek, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Kessler, Lance, Lavigne, Lee, Lemelin, Lookner, Lyman, Mason, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, McIntyre, Milliken, Mingo, Morris, Olsen, Parry, Paul,

Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Pugh, Quint, Rana, Ray, Roeder, Rollins, Rudnicki, Sargent, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Skold, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Supica, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Walker, Warren, Webb, White J, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome, Yusuf, Zager.

ABSENT - Cray, Lanigan, Osher, Sinclair.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 54; No, 92; Absent, 4; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

54 having voted in the affirmative and 92 voted in the negative, with 4 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Minority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **NOT ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, on motion of Representative KUHN of Falmouth, the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-168)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-168)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Resolve, to Direct the Attorney General to Drop the Lawsuit Filed Against Big Oil Companies Concerning Climate Change

(H.P. 403) (L.D. 635)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland

TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth

BABIN of Fort Fairfield

CARUSO of Caratunk

HENDERSON of Rumford

LEE of Auburn

O'HALLORAN of Brewer

PUGH of Portland

SATO of Gorham

SINCLAIR of Bath

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-167)** on same Resolve.

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representative:

POIRIER of Skowhegan

READ.

Representative KUHN of Falmouth moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on her 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 East Machias, Representative Tuell.

Representative **TUELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hate to say the cliché that I hadn't planned to speak, but I truly had not.

I wanted to speak briefly to the motivation behind this bill, for many folks in rural Maine are frustrated with the Attorney General's lawsuit against Big Oil. Many I've spoken to see it as a backdoor way of funding environmental policy, instead of bringing such policies before this Body and the Other Body and through the appropriations process. They see this suit as a means of funding climate change policy that we have through other means.

And another issue that folks have raised, that I had when I first saw this suit back in November, was that it didn't come before this Body, that the Attorney General acted unilaterally and chose to do so, and chose to pursue this lawsuit without consent of the Legislature. And that really was my biggest motivation for bringing it forward.

So, I plan to be opposing the motion before us and would encourage others who feel likewise to do the same. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **KUHN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to address the assertion about this bill having to do with resources, and that's true. The fossil fuel companies; who are the defendants in this case; have promoted and profited from the extraction and consumption of fossil fuels while failing to warn Mainers about the dangers that it would pose to us and to the tune of billions and billions of dollars in profit. And meanwhile, Maine taxpayers have been left to foot the bill for all the climate change-induced harms. I would also add that; well, I'll leave it there. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **LEMELIN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's a reason why the oil companies didn't warn Mainers, and that reason is because there is no reason.

This lawsuit is a waste of tax dollars, because it's 100% physically impossible to prove that oil companies or any use of fossil fuels has anything to do with climate change. So, of course, it's just going to die, unless the oil companies are stupid enough to settle out of court just to get rid of it. So, there's no reason for Big Oil, in any way, shape or form, to tell Mainers of the effects of it.

The storms that happened on the east coast, happened on the east coast, and they're going to happen again and again and again, and it has nothing to do with oil. All the horrible things that have happened throughout history have not happened because of cars, planes, trains and automobiles. The seven-year drought years ago; there were no cars. So, they couldn't blame it on oil. We can't blame it on oil either, and this is a joke.

It's just sad that so many people have fallen to this; you know, it used to be instead of climate change, it was global warming. And nobody here knows why we got rid of the term; Al Gore and his gang; got rid of the term global warming. They got rid of it because it was proven false, so, now they needed to go in a different direction. So, they got together in Europe, and they said, hey, how can we continue fooling the people, and they said well, let's use the term 'climate change.' Well, I hate to tell you, Mr. Speaker, but I know a lot about the weather, I studied it for 40 years and there's one thing that I can never, ever challenge, and that's climate change. Why? Because for the last 8,000 years, the climate's been changing, and it'll keep changing, but it changes naturally.

What's kind of interesting, real quick, is we had a bill before us not too long ago about climate, and it was about the use of the HAARP machines. And everybody said, oh, that didn't matter. Well, when I was at Purdue University back in the '70s,

the HAARP machine was something new. And so, I was asked to call the University of Alaska and find out, 'hey, what is this?' And they told me, 'well, we're just shooting microwaves up into the sky, we just want to see the effects that it has on weather.' Well, 50 years later, they're still doing it. Not only that, they have multiple units all over the world. Why would they continue research 50 years later if shooting microwaves into the air wasn't actually changing the weather? But nobody here wants to look into that. They want to look into fossil fuels. Why? This is a joke. It has to stop sooner or later. This is a hoax.

I sent in to Channel 6, VERIFY, and I said, 'would you just do me a favor, would you verify the 1,600 of the top scientists in the world signed a declaration stating that climate change is a hoax?' They ignored me. Sent it again. Ignored me. Sent it a third time, Representative Michael Lemelin, because I thought, 'hey, now, I'm really baiting them.' If they can prove Representative Lemelin's a fool, we're going to do that. Nope. Heard nothing. So, I contacted VERIFY themselves. I didn't know they were a private organization. The lady sends me something back and she says, 'could you send me a link of some sort to this?' I said, 'sure,' sent it to her. Nothing. Now, Mr. Speaker, you know that if Channel 6 and if VERIFY could prove that 1,600 scientists did not sign that declaration saying it's a hoax and make Representative Lemelin, of all people, look like a fool, they would've been all over it. They would've been over it like there's no tomorrow. But it never happened. Why did it never happen? Because 1,600 of the top scientists said that this climate crisis that we're voting on right now is a hoax. People need to wake up and stop drinking the Kool-Aid, Mr. Speaker. We need to get rid of this now. Thank you.

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

Representative **FAIRCLOTH**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I rise in defense of Exxon scientists and their assessment of this issue.

In 1978, James Black, an Exxon scientist, said, and I quote, 'the most likely manner in which mankind is influencing the global climate is through carbon dioxide release from burning fossil fuels. There are potentially catastrophic events that would have agricultural output reduced or destroyed and once the effects are measurable, they may not be reversible,' close quote. He concluded that climate change could endanger humankind. In 1982, Exxon's own science laboratory director reported unanimous agreement that CO₂ from fossil fuels will cause climate disaster without change policies. Quote, "our ethical responsibility is publication of our research; to do otherwise would be a breach of Exxon's public position and ethical credo on honesty and integrity," close quote. An Exxon research manager described this as an opportunity for Exxon leadership on a project aimed at benefiting mankind. And indeed, Exxon did move in the early 1980s to do some embracing of renewables. Lee Raymond became an Exxon director in 1980s and CEO in 1993. He made, by the way, \$144,573 per day as Exxon's CEO. That's about a quarter million in today's dollars. And he effectively put the *kibosh* on these Exxon scientists who were asking this giant, massive corporation which has a scale that is larger than most nations, and ended those policies and, indeed, advocated, including traveling overseas to a foreign nation, to put the *kibosh* on the Kyoto Climate Treaty.

So, I defend the reason, thoughtfulness and integrity of many Exxon scientists, and I think we should heed them, and thus I support the Committee Chair's position. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Albion, Representative Flynn.

Representative **FLYNN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise on this issue as I'm not a lawyer, I'm not a scientist, but we're all suffering the effects of this thing called global warming. And at a time in the State of Maine and in the counties which I represent, we have a very serious problem. It's called a drug epidemic, with drug cartels in our backyards. Our families, our neighbors are being eviscerated by this disease. Yet we find it in our way to spend the peoples' money on chasing after Big Oil. I would simply make a soft recommendation that our AG look closer to home and put our resources into battling what we have in our backyards. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I want to thank the Representative from Albion for sort of bringing up the point that I wanted to bring up. The reason why this bill is before us is not to argue whether there is climate change or isn't climate change, it's because we want our Attorney General to take his job seriously and not mess around with lawsuits like this, like we shouldn't be messing around with debates that seem this silly when in 2023, we had 9,275 overdoses, 606 dead. In 2024, over 8,000 overdoses, 490 dead. Deaths from overdoses, over a thousand. Most of these people are young people, are children, our most valuable resource, right here in the State of Maine. Over a thousand dead in the last two reported years. And most of this is coming from fentanyl, Mr. Speaker, being funneled into our country from the Chinese Communist Party, our enemy, and right here in the State of Maine, we have hundreds of illegal grow houses and operations being run by illegal Chinese organizations. There's plenty of work to do here, Mr. Speaker --

Representative **ROBERTS**: Point of Order.

The SPEAKER: The Member will defer. The Chair would inquire as to why the Representative rises.

Representative **ROBERTS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe the Member's comments are not germane to the bill at all.

On **POINT OF ORDER**, Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick asked the Chair if the remarks of Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor were germane to the pending question.

The SPEAKER: The Chair has given generally good deference for folks to argue why they think the bill does not have merit.

The Chair **RULED** that the remarks of Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor were germane to the pending question.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's about choices. To address the Point of Order, it's about the choices of the Attorney General. That is why this bill is before us, because we do not agree with the choices. We do not agree with the choices to waste time and resources on suing oil companies over climate change. And you might think that this isn't mutually exclusive, but I would argue that it is. The Attorney General's Office has limited resources at their disposal, and we think it should go to addressing this fentanyl crisis that's killing our children, here and now in this moment. That is why this bill is before us. Vote no on the pending motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am gratified that my colleagues have brought up the opioid crisis in the State, but I did want to point out that the AG joined a suit, an opioid suit, and we received and are continuing to receive funding from that. So, we have success in taking on large manufacturers, large corporations, large industries as a whole and winning funding to help offset the problem in this State. Thank you.

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. 151

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

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

ABSENT - Cray, Lanigan, Osher, Sinclair.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 81; No, 65; Absent, 4; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

81 having voted in the affirmative and 65 voted in the negative, with 4 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Tie Judicial Salaries to the Average Judicial Salaries of Other New England States"

(H.P. 894) (L.D. 1371)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth
BABIN of Fort Fairfield
CARUSO of Caratunk
HENDERSON of Rumford
LEE of Auburn
O'HALLORAN of Brewer
POIRIER of Skowhegan
PUGH of Portland
SATO of Gorham
SINCLAIR of Bath

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-196)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representative DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe - of the House - supports the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass** 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)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
HAGGAN of Penobscot
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth
BABIN of Fort Fairfield
CARUSO of Caratunk
HENDERSON of Rumford
LEE of Auburn
PUGH of Portland
SATO of Gorham
SINCLAIR of Bath

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

Signed:

Representatives:

O'HALLORAN of Brewer
POIRIER of Skowhegan

READ.

On motion of Representative KUHN of Falmouth, the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Modify the Laws Regarding Driver's License Applications"

(H.P. 933) (L.D. 1411)

Signed:

Senators:

NANGLE of Cumberland
FARRIN of Somerset
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

CRAFTS of Newcastle
ANKELES of Brunswick
BISHOP of Bucksport
EATON of Deer Isle
MASON of Lisbon
MONTELL of Gardiner
PARRY of Arundel
RAY of Lincolnville

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

Signed:

Representatives:

ALBERT of Madawaska
WHITE of Guilford

READ.

On motion of Representative CRAFTS of Newcastle, the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-184)** on Bill "An Act to Increase the Sales Commission of Retailers Selling Lottery Tickets"

(H.P. 136) (L.D. 213)

Signed:

Senators:

HICKMAN of Kennebec
TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin

Representatives:

SUPICA of Bangor
BOYER of Poland
CHAPMAN of Auburn
FAIRCLOTH of Bangor
FREDERICKS of Sanford
FROST of Belgrade
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth
HYMES of Waldo
TERRY of Gorham

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

Signed:

Senator:

DUSON of Cumberland

Representative:

MALON of Biddeford

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-184)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-184)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-154)** on Bill "An Act to Authorize the Release of Military Records to the Office of Chief Medical Examiner for the Purposes of Suicide Reporting and Prevention"

(H.P. 73) (L.D. 108)

Signed:

Senators:

HICKMAN of Kennebec
DUSON of Cumberland
TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin

Representatives:

SUPICA of Bangor
FROST of Belgrade
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth
GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach
MALON of Biddeford
TERRY of Gorham

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-155)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representatives:

BOYER of Poland
CHAPMAN of Auburn
FREDERICKS of Sanford
HYMES of Waldo

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-154)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-154)** and sent for concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Withdraw from the National Popular Vote Compact" (H.P. 161) (L.D. 252)

Signed:

Senators:

HICKMAN of Kennebec
DUSON of Cumberland
TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin

Representatives:

BOYER of Poland
CHAPMAN of Auburn
FREDERICKS of Sanford
FROST of Belgrade
HYMES of Waldo

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

Signed:

Representatives:

SUPICA of Bangor
FAIRCLOTH of Bangor
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth
MALON of Biddeford
TERRY of Gorham

READ.

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

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

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Maine's current way we allocate presidential electors through Congressional districts is unique, special and should be replicated across the country. And for that reason, I request a Roll Call.

Representative BOYER of Poland **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Minority **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 Fairfield, Representative Rudnicki.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Once again, just because the House Chair of the Committee is on the Minority Report does not mean that we should be running the Minority Report. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, this is just a poke in the eye to the Committees. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Windham, Representative Bagshaw.

Representative **BAGSHAW**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I rise today to speak in support of repealing Maine's participation in National Popular Vote Interstate Compact. So, that would've been in the Majority Report, and I'm asking you to vote against this pending motion.

At first glance, the idea of national popular vote seems simple, even democratic, but beneath the surface, the compact threatens to undermine the very system that gives states like Maine a true meaningful voice in presidential elections. The legislation is rooted in one simple principle; our electoral vote should reflect the will of Maine voters, not the voters of other states.

The Electoral College is not an accident. It was a deliberate design. Our founders built it to balance influence of large and small states. Under the current system, Mainer's votes matter. Our rural communities matter, our peoples'

priorities matter. But under the national popular vote, Maine's influence would be cast aside for larger population centers thousands of miles away. In practice, the Compact forces every participating state to surrender control of their electors to the outcome of a nationwide count. However, that count conducted and those votes tallied in states with different rules and standards and yet, the Compact compels our electors to disregard the choice of our own citizens. It is not just unfair, it's confusing and fundamentally undemocratic. This should be concerning to all Maine voters of both parties. This bill is not a partisan issue; it's a Maine issue. It is an issue to empower the voters of our sisters and brothers and mothers and fathers. It is an issue for our neighbors and vote that cast as an individual.

At the core, this legislation is to preserve every Mainer's true vote in the next presidential election. Maine voters should not be asked to place blind trust in an election system that they didn't vote for and can't oversee. Consider this: if the Compact had been in effect in the 2024 presidential election, Maine would've been forced to cast all four electors to Donald Trump, even though Kamala Harris won three of the four. It's not representative, it's not democratic.

Maine has long embraced an independent spirit. We were the first state in the nation to split its Electoral College votes by Congressional district, a system that reflects our political diversity and values every voice, whether rural or urban. It's a matter of preserving the voice of smaller states in the Union, built on balance. Repealing the Compact is not a rejection of democracy, it's a defense of it. Let's send a clear message that Maine's voice is Maine's voice, not the surrender to the demands of a far-off and distant majority's. I urge you to support this, and let's repeal; keep Maine's strong voice.

Let me repeat again; if the compact were in effect in 2024 presidential election, Donald Trump would have won the Electoral College 521 to 17, despite 52% of Mainers preferring Kamala Harris, all of the four Maine's Electoral College votes would've gone to Donald Trump. Thank you.

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

Representative **LEE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am not afraid to say to the American people that it is dangerous to trust any great power of government to them, direct or inconsiderate control. More and more, American government has become democratized, and the sense is that the voters taking power directly into their own hands. In some state governments, this has been carried to absurd lengths. Offices are chosen by an electorate who know next to nothing of the nature of the work to be done or of the candidate's qualifications for such service. This is an indication of the demise which is certain if Senators are elected by popular vote. Those are the words of George F. Hoar, Senator from Massachusetts in 1912, talking about the horrors that would befall this nation if, God forbid, we elected U.S. Senators by popular vote. You see, it used to be that State Legislatures, not the people, by popular vote, who elected Senators, until the 17th Amendment was ratified in 1913. Despite what people like the Good Senator Hoar thought at the time, the sky did not fall. In fact, as a result, we the people have more control over our election of the Senators, not less.

Quite simply, the National Popular Vote Compact is fundamentally American. One person, one vote. Contrary to that, similar to the notion that State Legislatures, not voters, should elect U.S. Senators, the Electoral College is based on the idea that regular citizens can't be trusted to elect the president. That issue was resolved by the 17th Amendment and this Compact seems to resolve the anti-democratic aspects of the Electoral College.

Two arguments I have heard persistently; one, if we don't have the Electoral College, presidential candidates won't come to Maine. I hate to break it to you, neither of the presidential candidates came to Maine in 2024. Why? Because we only have four Electoral College votes. In fact, because of the Electoral College, there are really only seven states that matter. News flash, we're not one of them.

The other I hear is one that drives me absolutely mad, and one that I've been spending hours trying to probe the legitimacy of in the year or so since I've heard it; that the Electoral College protects the small states. This argument makes no logical sense, since the Electoral College is proportional to the relative populations of the states. It's also not supported by the historical evidence. In the off-season; this is a bizarre thing I do; I pulled down several of my books on the Constitutional Convention, with their many dog-eared pages, in search of evidence to support this argument. I reread *The Framers' Coup* by Klarman, *The Summer Of 1787* by Stewart, *Miracle at Philadelphia* by Bowen and, of course, *The Federalist Papers*. I even took a deep dive into *The Anti-Federalist Papers* to see, maybe, is it in there? The Electoral College was not a bulwark for small states. Otherwise, it wouldn't be divided by population proportionally, which it is. The protection for small states is the Senate, which provides each state; irrespective of its population; two senators.

What I did find were some direct quotes of the one day that they did the most debate in the Constitutional Convention regarding the Electoral College. That was September 4, 1787. Here are some of the notes that were made by statements of folks who were at the Constitutional Convention. Gorham of Massachusetts didn't like the idea of a person in second place becoming Vice President. He said, quote, "a very obscure man with very few votes may arrive at the appointment." Come on, guys, that's funny. Sherman of Connecticut defended the report, saying that the Electoral College would keep Congress from having undue influence over the President. I don't know about that one. Randolph of Virginia and Charles Pinckney of South Carolina were put off by the committeemen who had taken it upon themselves to change from the previously agreed-to method of election of Congress. Okay. Gouverneur Morris of Pennsylvania thought the Electoral College would reduce the risk of a scheming cabal picking the President, since the electors would be scattered at great distances from each other. Gouverneur Morris did not know about the internet. Mason of Virginia worried that 19 times in 20, no one would win votes from a majority of electors, leaving the Senate almost always in charge of choosing the winner. Baldwin of Georgia thought the concern was overblown. Baldwin of Georgia was correct. Butler of South Carolina said the plan was far from perfect, but still better than election by the Legislature. Randolph didn't like the Electoral College.

As I did in the 131st, I ask that you do read *Federalist 68*, which explains the foundational notion and basis for the Electoral College; distrust in the people to make the right decision. Mr. Speaker, I'll acknowledge from my perspective, we don't always make the decision that I would prefer. But I trust the American people. Senator Hoar was wrong a century ago; he's wrong now. Please trust the American people.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Westbrook, Representative Rielly.

Representative **RIELLY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to push back against the common talking points against national popular vote that will lead to candidates prioritizing cities over rural areas. Equal parts of the electorate reside in cities and rural areas; it's about 20% each. National popular vote will force candidates to take all votes seriously, and not a

handful of swing counties in the Rust and Sun Belt states. We will have candidates focused on putting forward policy that will build broad support, and to go to places that rarely receive the focus of candidates, including our State here. Mr. Speaker, this is why we must keep the national popular vote. Thank you.

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

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Obviously, the Good Representative from Auburn went to law school; I didn't, but I'm going to speak with some facts and figures as well.

Maine has 1.3 million folks here out of about 325 million in this country. So, that puts us at 0.4% of the total population. Meanwhile, Maine has four of the nation's 538 Electoral College votes; 0.74% of the total vote. So, under the current system, Maine's impact as a state is nearly double what it would be under national popular vote. Because of the Electoral College, because we split our electors via Congressional districts, presidential candidates come to Maine, they come to the Second District to get that one electoral vote, because it's not winner-take-all. And, you know, I appreciate the idea of one person, one vote, but if it's about being selfish, then I'm happy to be selfish for Maine, Mr. Speaker. It's clear that the Electoral College benefits our small state, Maine, and voting to keep us in the Compact, Mr. Speaker, will continue to diminish our voice, our standing.

If we follow the same logic folks are saying today, should we give up our two U.S. Senators, since we're a small state, too? That's 10 times worse if we measured it based on population that we're getting. So, I'm happy to be selfish for Maine, make us a spot where presidential candidates are going to come to. Otherwise, we know it's going to be the big cities where they spend all their time, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

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

Representative **FAIRCLOTH**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I begin by complimenting my colleague and Committee Member, Representative Boyer, who's always articulate and even when I don't agree with him, I find him often very persuasive. I also commend Representative Bagshaw for bringing this legislation before us, but I respectfully and strongly disagree.

I note that we have to obey the system that we have, Mr. Speaker, and I, for one; it would never cross my mind to say in this most recent election that I would reject the results. The Republican nominee won the popular vote and won the Electoral College, and I accept what is the current system, because that is the law of the land. However, I am sympathetic with people who I think many of us have heard sometimes say, 'listen, my vote just doesn't matter.' And I sympathize with that thought, given that twice, twice in this century, the popular vote loser has become President of the United States. I understand this sentiment, because in the most recent election, out of 262 presidential visits, 246 of those visits, Mr. Speaker, were to seven states. And that's rational, because that is our system; because of a quirk, because of the coincidence of demographics, these are the seven swing states, and they shall be the ones who decide for all the rest of us. So, I understand the sentiment that 'my vote doesn't matter' that I hear so often expressed. And indeed, the most powerful person on earth; or someone aspiring to be the most powerful person on earth; understandably goes quickly and gives specific favor to those seven states, of which Maine is not one.

The Founders have been raised with various counter-arguments. And maybe in a sense as to the Constitution, the

ultimate founder was James Madison, called the 'Father of our Constitution.' And James Madison, the Father of our Constitution; I'm not holding him up as perfect, we all know the history of that time, we know that there was slave owning, we know there was all these very difficult things; but yet, I do revere our founders, because they were trying to form "a more perfect union," to use their quote. And you know what it was? Kind of like here, it was politics, people making decisions, and you know what James Madison confided? He said he thought, his words, that 'the people at large are the fittest to make the decision regarding the President.' But he's dealing with a system where people had different votes, and so, he went along with the Electoral College, and the Father of the Constitution went along with it not thinking it was the best idea. What was the best idea was to form "a more perfect union," meaning that continually we evolve, we move forward and try to find a better way each time and do not remain stuck in previous methods.

You know, the Supreme Court, in the 1960s, when they were issuing rulings on 'one person, one vote' in state legislatures; which, by the way, is only 60 years old, this 'one person, one vote' concept in our legislatures by constitutional law; they looked back at our nation. They looked back at the 15th Amendment, where African Americans were granted the right to vote, and tragically, it took a century to really implement that. Or the 19th Amendment, where women were granted the right to vote. And they said; looking at that perspective, the Justices said, 'we accept this heritage of evolution and that is meaningful.' And they moved closer and closer to one person, one vote.

We have organizations that support national popular vote and thus oppose the legislation that would remove Maine from the Compact. Organizations like the League of Women Voters, which I highly respect. Organizations like the Maine Civil Liberties Union, which I highly respect. The Coalition of Racial Equality, which I highly respect. Because they think one person, one vote is the right thing to do. Also, Eric Holder, the Attorney General under President Barack Obama, wrote Maine, wrote us specifically, and said, 'please, please, please Maine, stay within the National Popular Vote Compact.' And you know who else I find persuasive is Maine people. Fifty-one percent of Republicans in Maine favor national popular vote, 70% of Congressional District Two residents support national popular vote, 75% of unenrolled, 88% of Maine Democrats. That's a lot of folks who support this concept.

The Supreme Court, when they were looking back on their 'one person, one vote' ruling, looked to the words of Lincoln: 'of the people, by the people and for the people.' If we want people to really feel, embrace, understand that my vote does count, then this Compact is very meaningful, and we should not retreat from it; we should boldly embrace it. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will remind the Member to refer to other Members by their town first and then their name. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Newport, Representative Fredette.

Representative **FREDETTE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, very briefly, I would just remind the Body that in 2000, *Bush v. Gore*, we had a very close, contested national presidential election. Since then, we've seen many analyses where many of the presidential elections since then could be determined by the structure of how Maine voted. And so, Maine could have a real impact on who, in fact, does get elected under the system of the allocation of the votes based on Congressional districts.

So, I think it's very important to know that we are unique, I think we can play an important role. Today and in the past, we

have a very divided country, but the president is something that all the people in the country get to vote on, I think it's critically important. I think that the Body ought not to support the Ought Not to Pass. I'd ask the Clerk to read the Majority Report on the Committee Report, sorry.

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

The Clerk **READ** the Committee Report in its entirety.

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

Representative **RANA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to urge this Body to reject LD 252 and keep Maine in the compact for the national popular vote.

The national popular vote ensures that every American's vote matters and undoes the injustice of the Electoral College. When the Electoral College was conceived at our nation's founding, it was done so to advance the political power of slave states. It did this by counting the enslaved people among those states' populations, even though they had no vote and no rights. The Electoral College was not a brilliant expression of this nation's democratic ideals. It was a political compromise to strengthen states that built their economies on slave labor. The racist history of the Electoral College is a stain on our history, and we should collectively work to undo it.

Even today, we see the racial legacy of the Electoral College distort our elections. The safe states, both red and blue, that have high percentages of voters of color get less attention than the highly contested battleground states. As a result, these voters of color are not campaigned to, and their policy preferences are not prioritized in presidential campaigns. Since the electoral votes of the states they live in are taken for granted, presidential campaigns don't spend time trying to win these votes over. Therefore, voter education is suppressed.

The Electoral College's racist legacy persists today, but we can change this. National popular vote ensures that every vote, in every state, counts equally. By eliminating the battleground state phenomenon, we can advance the ideals of equality and a democracy of and for the people. When Ben Jealous, the former CEO and the President of the NAACP, delivered testimony in opposition to LD 252 last month, he said, "it is long past the time to right our historic wrongs, and empower citizens in every state, in every election;" we must empower citizens in every state, in every election, "so they can meaningfully participate and know that their vote is exactly as important as everyone else's." National popular vote is the path toward a more equitable democracy and a president elected by the voters. This is a vision Maine should uphold by staying in the national popular vote and rejecting LD 252. I urge you to follow my light and vote yes on this pending motion.

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

Representative **MACIAS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Colleagues, on January 2, 2021, the sitting President of the United States called the Secretary of State of Georgia and said these now infamous words, 'I just want to find 11,779 votes.' Not recount them, not verify them, just find them, enough to flip the outcome of that one state. He didn't call Maine, he didn't call Utah or California or Mississippi, he called Georgia. Because in our current system, a handful of states and a few thousand votes in them decide who becomes the President of the United States. That's not a democracy; that's a lottery, and the ticket is jerrymandered, lawyered up and winner takes all.

That's exactly why we joined the National Popular Vote Compact. It doesn't erase state lines, it doesn't bypass the Constitution, it simply says every American's vote should count

equally, no matter what state they live in. It says we should elect a president based on who gets the most votes from the American people, not who can flip the fewest counties in the fewest swing states. And it says to future presidents, don't call one state and ask for 11,779; try earning 80 million the honest way. Thank you.

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

Representative **CIMINO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, it's very heartwarming to hear my colleagues on the other side of the aisle talk about; that every vote matters, every vote counts. And yet, in this Body, as Representative Rudnicki has mentioned, every single time, there's a Minority Report that's being put forward. So, where does the vote matter for those of us who sit in Committee and vote a certain way? We vote hands extended to our colleagues on the other side of the aisle and we come out with a Majority Report. And then, we come into this Body, and it doesn't matter about the Majority Report that both sides of the aisle voted for that majority.

The SPEAKER: The Member will defer. First and foremost, the Member is to address her comments to the Chair. Secondly, the Member is veering off into a path of questioning the motives of other Members. The question before the Body is this bill. The procedures of the House and what Reports are moved is perhaps germane to the argument the Member is making, but is really getting into sort of a personal back-and-forth and a sort of attack on other Members. I would prefer the Member defer on those comments. The Member may proceed.

Representative **CIMINO**: I'm not questioning the motives of the other side; I am actually just stating fact on how these votes are going. We continuously have the Ought Not to Pass even though it is a Minority Report, and I don't think that's fair. I don't think that's fair to those of us who show up in Committee every day, we finally get a consensus on a bill that both Democrats and Republicans support, and then we come into this Body and the Minority Report is what prevails and what's presented. So, I am not questioning peoples' motivations on the other side, I am accusing the other side of what they're doing. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Yarmouth, Representative Bell.

Representative **BELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I sponsored the national popular vote last session when we finally got it over the finish line. However, we celebrated quietly, because the NPV still had a long way to go. Maine was the 16th state to join the Compact. Big states: New York, California. Smaller states: Vermont, Rhode Island. Blue states, red states.

People want this change, Mr. Speaker. And I think it's because they look at the way campaigns happen, and they know it's broken. In 2024, a mere seven battleground states received 94% of the general election attention. We are in an era of political divide. We need to let voters know that they matter and that they can have faith in our elections. What better way than advancing the principle of one person, one vote? To me, it's as simple as every vote should be equal. I'd appreciate it if you would stick with me. We can't take a step backwards. Please support the basic concept of whoever has the most votes should win the election. It's how I got elected; it's how you all got elected. Please join me in voting Ought Not to Pass on the pending motion.

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

Representative **SOBOLESKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be brief. The numbers that we're throwing around about the percentage of population in our State that was in favor of this; I've just taken a look, the University of New Hampshire Survey Center on 8/22/24 showed the Republicans in the State of Maine with a 73% disapproval rate and a 2% approval rate of it. Overall, between both Republicans and Democrats, it showed a 23% overall approval and a 33% overall disapproval. So, I don't know where the previous numbers came from, but that was the most recent survey I could find. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 152

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

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

ABSENT - Cray, Osher, Sinclair.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 71; No, 76; Absent, 3; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

71 having voted in the affirmative and 76 voted in the negative, with 3 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Minority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **NOT ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, on motion of Representative SUPICA of Bangor, the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Require the Updating of Voter Registration Signatures" (H.P. 169) (L.D. 266)

Signed:

Senators:

HICKMAN of Kennebec
DUSON of Cumberland

Representatives:

SUPICA of Bangor
FAIRCLOTH of Bangor
FROST of Belgrade
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth
MALON of Biddeford
TERRY of Gorham

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-187)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin

Representatives:

BOYER of Poland
CHAPMAN of Auburn
FREDERICKS of Sanford
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 Palermo, Representative Smith.

Representative **SMITH**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, this is a very common-sense solution to an actual problem: voter registration signatures or signatures on the voter registration card.

In my last election, I went door to door for my number of signatures I needed to get on the ballot; 25; I stopped at registered Republican houses and got their signatures, but when I got my signatures back from the Town Clerk, seven of them had been crossed off because they did not match what was on their voter registration card. The reasons for that included a couple old folks who had had strokes, so, their signature changed; my own son, who at 18 had signed his voter registration card and now had a different signature, as they do; some names of people who had remarried that had different names than what they had originally done on their voter registration card. This, I feel, is disenfranchising voters, and the Amendment says that it just asks a Town Clerk to go ahead and notify a person that their signature has been rejected and that they should come in and redo their signature.

So, it's something that's very common sense. I believe it would help both sides of the aisle to make sure that we're serving our people and the will that they have to sign a petition, a referendum or such. Thank you very much, I hope that you all vote against Ought Not to Pass.

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

Representative **SUPICA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill is unnecessary.

Under current law, Mainers already have the opportunity to provide new signatures as they progress through their lives and their signature changes. They do this by filling out a new voter registration card, which happens for many voters throughout their lives as they move, change their name, change their party enrollment. Requiring clerks to contact voters each time a signature on a referendum or candidate petition is an inappropriate burden, both in terms of staff time and mailing costs, to place on our municipalities. We should stick to current practice, and if any candidates or petition proponents are concerned that voter signatures on their petitions are not accurately being verified, they should contact the Elections Division, just as they do now. We have a process that works, and I don't see a reason to change it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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. 153

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

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

ABSENT - Cray, Drinkwater, Osher, Perkins.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 77; No, 69; Absent, 4; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

77 having voted in the affirmative and 69 voted in the negative, with 4 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Repeal the Laws That Allow Same-day Voter Registration" (H.P. 249) (L.D. 349)

Signed:

Senators:

HICKMAN of Kennebec
DUSON of Cumberland

Representatives:

SUPICA of Bangor
FROST of Belgrade
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth
GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach
MALON of Biddeford
TERRY of Gorham

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-185)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin

Representatives:

BOYER of Poland
CHAPMAN of Auburn
FREDERICKS of Sanford
HYMES of Waldo

READ.

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

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on her 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 Winter Harbor, Representative Faulkingham.

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

I remember very well the 2011 people's veto, and I remember the results of it were very loud and clear. I was on the winning side of that vote. Over 60% of Mainers voted against that law in 2011. I stand with my vote then, as I will today, that Mainers support same-day voter registration, and I would ask the Members to support the pending motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I was surprised to see in a recent analysis of Maine's 2024 presidential election, more Republicans registered on the same day than any other party. So, I think the idea that this same-day voter registration cuts in any political way is not true, and it depends on the people at the top of the ticket that bring people out. Thank you.

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

Representative **SUPICA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Same-day voter registration is the single greatest safety net we have to ensure that every eligible voter is able to cast a ballot. Same-day voter registration ensures that no matter how much a procrastinator you are; guilty; no matter if you just moved to a new town or a new apartment, no matter if you wait until the very last minute before you go to the polls, if you are 18 years or older, you are a Maine resident, you are a U.S. citizen, you can

register and cast your ballot on the same day, even Election Day.

And what's important to remember here is it is a successful program that we have implemented since 1973, and changing it to say that two o'clock is the deadline or placing any arbitrary deadline would do a lot of damage to our wonderful system that we have here in Maine. So, I want to thank the Good Representative from Winter Harbor, and I'm glad that I will be following his light.

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. 154

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

NAY - Adams, Bagshaw, Chapman, Cimino, Foster, Fredericks, Griffin, Haggan, Hymes, Lance, Lavigne, Lyman, Morris, Paul, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Underwood.

ABSENT - Cray, DeBrito, Eaton, Murphy, Osher, Skold, Walker.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 125; No, 18; Absent, 7; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

125 having voted in the affirmative and 18 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Save Tax Dollars in Maine's Elections by Amending the Laws Governing When a Ranked-choice Voting Count Must Be Conducted"

(H.P. 424) (L.D. 656)

Signed:

Senators:

HICKMAN of Kennebec
DUSON of Cumberland

Representatives:

SUPICA of Bangor
FAIRCLOTH of Bangor
FREDERICKS of Sanford
FROST of Belgrade
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth
HYMES of Waldo
MALON of Biddeford
TERRY of Gorham

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-186)** on same Bill.

Signed:
Senator: TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin
Representatives:
BOYER of Poland
CHAPMAN of Auburn

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-188)** on Bill "An Act to Improve Access to Absentee Ballots for Municipal Elections for Uniformed Service Voters and Overseas Voters"

(H.P. 753) (L.D. 1148)

Signed:
Senators: HICKMAN of Kennebec
DUSON of Cumberland

Representatives:
SUPICA of Bangor
BOYER of Poland
FAIRCLOTH of Bangor
FREDERICKS of Sanford
FROST of Belgrade
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth
HYMES of Waldo
MALON of Biddeford
TERRY of Gorham

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

Signed:
Senator: TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin
Representative:
CHAPMAN of Auburn

READ.

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

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on her 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**: 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. 155

YEA - Abdi, Adams, Albert, Ankeles, Arata, Archer, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Bagshaw, Beck, Bell, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, Daigle, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faircloth, Farrin, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Gifford, Golek,

Graham, Gramlich, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Hasenfus, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lance, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lee, Lemelin, Lookner, Lyman, Macias, Malon, Mason, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, McIntyre, Meyer, Milliken, Mingo, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pluecker, Poirier, Pomerleau, Pugh, Quint, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Rudnicki, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Schmearsal-Burgess, Shagoury, Simmons, Sinclair, Skold, Smith, Soboleski, Stover, Strout, Supica, Swallow, Terry, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Warren, Webb, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - NONE.

ABSENT - Cray, DeBrito, Eaton, Murphy, Osher, Walker.
RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 144; No, 0; Absent, 6; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

144 having voted in the affirmative and 0 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-188)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-188)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Extend a One-year Lobbying Prohibition to Partisan and Nonpartisan Staff of the Legislature"

(H.P. 1034) (L.D. 1576)

Signed:
Senators: HICKMAN of Kennebec
TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin

Representatives:
SUPICA of Bangor
BOYER of Poland
CHAPMAN of Auburn
FAIRCLOTH of Bangor
FROST of Belgrade
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth
HYMES of Waldo
MALON of Biddeford

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

Signed:
Representative:
TERRY of Gorham

READ.

Representative SUPICA of Bangor moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report.

Representative BOYER of Poland **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report.

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 156

YEA - Abdi, Adams, Albert, Arata, Archer, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Bagshaw, Beck, Bell, Blier, Boyer D, Boyer M, Bridgeo, Bunker, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Cluchey, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Copeland, Crockett, Daigle, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faircloth, Farrin, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Friedmann, Frost, Geiger, Gere, Gifford, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Hasenus, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lance, Lavigne, Lee, Lookner, Lyman, Macias, Malon, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, McIntyre, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Poirier, Pomerleau, Pugh, Quint, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roeder, Rollins, Rudnicki, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Sinclair, Smith, Stover, Strout, Supica, Swallow, Thorne, Underwood, Warren, Webb, White J, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome, Yusuf, Zager.

NAY - Ankeles, Bishop, Brennan, Campbell, Cloutier, Crafts, Faulkingham, Flynn, Fredette, Gattine, Lanigan, Lemelin, Mason, Mastraccio, Meyer, Milliken, Mingo, O'Halloran, Perkins, Pluecker, Roberts, Shagoury, Soboleski, Terry, Tuell, Wadsworth, White R, Mr. Speaker.

ABSENT - Cray, DeBrito, Eaton, Murphy, Osher, Skold, Walker.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 115; No, 28; Absent, 7; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

115 having voted in the affirmative and 28 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** and sent for concurrence.

Eight Members of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** report in Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-170)** on Bill "An Act to Prevent Domestic Violence by Providing Adequate Funding Support for Court-ordered Certified Domestic Violence Intervention Programs"

(H.P. 434) (L.D. 666)

Signed:

Senators:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox
CURRY of Waldo

Representatives:

HASENFUS of Readfield
ABDI of Lewiston
BUNKER of Farmington
LAJOIE of Lewiston
LOOKNER of Portland
MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

Four Members of the same Committee report in Report "B" **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-171)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

CYRWAY of Kennebec

Representatives:

MCINTYRE of Lowell

NUTTING of Oakland

PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

One Member of the same Committee reports in Report "C" **Ought Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representative:

ARDELL of Monticello

READ.

Representative HASENFUS of Readfield moved that the House **ACCEPT** Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended**.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on his motion to **ACCEPT** Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended**.

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 157

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

NAY - Ardell, Bagshaw, Chapman, Cimino, Collins, Haggan, Hymes, Perkins, Underwood, White J.

ABSENT - Cray, DeBrito, Eaton, Murphy, Osher, Skold, Walker.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 133; No, 10; Absent, 7; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

133 having voted in the affirmative and 10 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended** was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-170)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-170)** 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. 170) (L.D. 375) Bill "An Act to Require the University of Maine School of Law to Provide an Online Degree Program" Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-78)**

(S.P. 222) (L.D. 504) Bill "An Act to Improve Family Court Procedure" Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-79)**

(S.P. 470) (L.D. 1139) Bill "An Act to Provide Funding for Essential Services for Victims of Crimes" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-80)**

(S.P. 597) (L.D. 1456) Bill "An Act to Expand the Number of On-premises Retail Liquor Licenses a Liquor Manufacturer May Be Issued" Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-77)**

(H.P. 883) (L.D. 1360) Bill "An Act to Preserve Traditional Driver's Licenses and Nondriver Identification Cards" Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 913) (L.D. 1391) Bill "An Act to Update the Maine Self-service Storage Act" Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 1070) (L.D. 1616) Bill "An Act to Eliminate Requirements for Drivers to Surrender Their Physical Driver's Licenses During a Temporary Suspension" Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 29) (L.D. 65) Bill "An Act to Update the Definition of 'Coastal Wetlands' Under the Natural Resources Protection Act" Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-161)**

(H.P. 31) (L.D. 67) Bill "An Act to Establish Minimum Standards for Certain Urgent Care Facilities" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-189)**

(H.P. 47) (L.D. 83) Bill "An Act Concerning the Filing of Marriage Licenses and the Recording of Intentions as Part of the Electronic Vital Records System" Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-198)**

(H.P. 91) (L.D. 158) Bill "An Act to Direct the Secretary of State to Establish a Date Each Year for Voting by Absentee Ballot" Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-150)**

(H.P. 92) (L.D. 159) Bill "An Act to Require Vehicle Registrations to Include the Next of Kin of the Vehicle Owner" Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-153)**

(H.P. 100) (L.D. 167) Bill "An Act to Provide 2 Hearing Aids to MaineCare Members with Diagnosed Hearing Loss" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-190)**

(H.P. 151) (L.D. 228) Bill "An Act to Allow Coastal Seawalls to Be Raised by up to 2 Feet in Order to Accommodate Predicted Sea Level Rise" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-164)**

(H.P. 238) (L.D. 338) Bill "An Act to Increase the Size and Balance of Jury Pools" Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-159)**

(H.P. 379) (L.D. 611) Bill "An Act to Allow the Secretary of State to Collect Excise Taxes on Motor Vehicles Owned by Residents Who Are Unhoused" Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-151)**

(H.P. 473) (L.D. 731) Bill "An Act to Prohibit Municipalities from Barring the Creation of Homeless Shelters" Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-176)**

(H.P. 509) (L.D. 802) Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Design a Mentoring Program for Youth Who Have Extended Care and Support Agreements with the Department Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-172)**

(H.P. 637) (L.D. 977) Resolve, Requiring the Maine Health Data Organization to Develop a Plan for Measuring Gaps in Home and Community-based Services Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-175)**

(H.P. 703) (L.D. 1081) Bill "An Act to Support Access to General Assistance at Municipal General Assistance Offices and Designated Places" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-191)**

(H.P. 730) (L.D. 1111) Bill "An Act to Provide Water Service Infrastructure to Fairfield Residents Affected by Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances" Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-158)**

(H.P. 747) (L.D. 1128) Bill "An Act to Modernize the Formulary for Naturopathic Doctors" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-178)**

(H.P. 763) (L.D. 1158) Bill "An Act to Expand Appliance Energy and Water Standards" Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-157)**

(H.P. 949) (L.D. 1440) Bill "An Act to Amend the Maine Uniform Probate Code" Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-200)**

(H.P. 1039) (L.D. 1581) Bill "An Act Regarding the Motor Vehicle Excise Tax Exemption for Certain Veterans" Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-152)**

(H.P. 1056) (L.D. 1598) Bill "An Act to Provide Relocation Assistance to Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Sex Trafficking" Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-195)**

(H.P. 1072) (L.D. 1618) Resolve, to Study the Feasibility of Establishing a Dedicated Family Court in Maine (EMERGENCY) Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-199)**

(H.P. 1214) (L.D. 1813) Bill "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right to Know Advisory Committee Concerning State Boards and Commissions" Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-163)**

(H.P. 1221) (L.D. 1826) Bill "An Act to Protect the Confidentiality of Personally Identifiable Information in Records of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Racial, Indigenous and Tribal Populations" Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-197)**

There being no objections, the above items were ordered to appear on the Consent Calendar tomorrow under the listing of Second Day.

(H.P. 145) (L.D. 222) Bill "An Act to Establish a Take-back and Disposal Program for Firefighting and Fire-suppressing Foam to Which Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Have Been Added" Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-160)**

On motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, was **REMOVED** from the First Day Consent Calendar.

The Committee Report was **READ**.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on **ACCEPTANCE** of the **Unanimous 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 Brunswick, Representative Ankeles.

Representative **ANKELES**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and fellow House Members. I know it's relatively unusual to pull items off the Consent Calendar, but since we've done that, I wanted to take the opportunity to express my support for the motion and my heartfelt thanks to a few people for the good work they did.

We've already supported as a Body two of the major bills responding to the August 19, 2024 toxic firefighting foam spill in my district, and I could not be more grateful. This bill establishes a voluntary statewide takeback program for all of the remaining toxic firefighting foam in our State, so that what happened in Brunswick doesn't have to happen anywhere else.

First, I want to thank both the DEP Commissioner, Melanie Loyzim, and the State Fire Marshal, Chief Essler; Chief Shawn Essler; for workshopping this idea with me back in the fall, so that it would be ready before Session even started. Second, I wanted to thank Defend Our Health, the Environmental Priorities Coalition and especially my own constituents for helping our community make a silver lining that we could share with the rest of the State. Third, I want to thank my colleagues on the other side of the aisle for delivering a unanimous Committee Report on my bill. I especially want to thank my Colleague from Phillips. When the bill title went public, lists went public, the Representative called me up, and I could tell right away that he knew why a bill like this would be so important for towns across the State, and especially all of the firefighters and other first responders because this foam gets into their equipment, covers their gear, and then later in life makes them sick. The Representative from Phillips brought his caucus along and

deserves my sincere gratitude for his good work. So, I hope we keep up that good work today, and I appreciate everyone's patience after we did all these Divided Reports. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 158

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

NAY - Chapman, Collins, Haggan, Underwood.

ABSENT - Cray, DeBrito, Eaton, Fredericks, Mitchell, Osher.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 140; No, 4; Absent, 6; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

140 having voted in the affirmative and 4 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the **Unanimous Ought to Pass as Amended Report** was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-160)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-160)** and sent for concurrence.

(H.P. 1096) (L.D. 1655) Bill "An Act to Allow the Keeping of Chickens on Private Residential Property" Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-173)**

On motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, was **REMOVED** from the First Day Consent Calendar.

The Committee Report was **READ**.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on **ACCEPTANCE** of the **Unanimous 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 Skowhegan, Representative Poirier.

Representative **POIRIER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a fun one to talk about, I think, because it's been made much more than it was meant to be. So, I just want to go on record here about the famous chicken bill.

I put this bill in for constituents that came to me knowing that I was a strong proponent of our constitutional right to food passed by a large margin from the voters of Maine. His community had very strict ordinances, and he wasn't aware of those, because he had had chickens at his home for five or six years. He had five of them. He, being a good citizen of his community, had called animal control regarding another issue; a snake had gotten loose in their community and ended up in his backyard; and when the animal control came, they saw that he had a chicken coop and called code enforcement. He then battled with his community for about two months, maybe three, and they wouldn't budge. They said he had to not only get rid of his chickens, but destroy the coop that he had about a thousand dollars in. Okay? He had no complaints from neighbors, his landlord was totally on board, even helped him build the coop. So, that's where this bill came from. It was never a bill to take away anybody's chickens, things like that. This was meant to help people be able to grow and raise their own food, like our constitutional Right to Food Amendment does.

What we're voting on now is very different from the original format that came out. It was always my intent to work with the Committee to amend the bill to make it feasible for everybody, and we did work together and do that. So, basically, what this bill now does, it says that a municipality cannot just blank out say, you can't have a chicken to raise for your own sustenance. It also has a section in there that states there's still local control. So, there needs to be boundaries on that for animal welfare, for the health and safety of your neighbors, things like that. So, for instance, in Portland, if you have a four-foot square area, that's not a healthy place to be able to raise five chickens. So, obviously, that's not going to be allowed. So, there are some guardrails still there. But I think it's very important, especially since it is in our State Constitution, that people be allowed to raise their own food, and that's why I put this bill in, and I hope people will support it. The Committee did unanimously vote this Amendment out. So, I just want to give people that opportunity to be able to do that. 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. Your liberty should not be restricted by your ZIP Code. I'm not holding a chicken, but I have one on my desk, and it's time to put the chickens to roost. Vote yes on the pending motion.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 159

YEA - Albert, Ankeles, Arata, Archer, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Bagshaw, Beck, Bell, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Cluchey, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, Daigle, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faircloth, Farrin, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Fredette, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Gifford, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Hasenus, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lance, Lavigne,

Lee, Lemelin, Lookner, Lyman, Macias, Malon, Mason, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, McIntyre, Meyer, Milliken, Mingo, Montell, Moonen, Morris, Murphy, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pluecker, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Rudnicki, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Schmursal-Burgess, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Smith, Soboleski, Stover, Strout, Thorne, Tuell, Walker, Warren, Webb, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Cloutier, Foster, Mastraccio, Mitchell, O'Halloran, Swallow, Underwood, Wadsworth.

ABSENT - Abdi, Adams, Cray, Eaton, Fredericks, Lanigan, Libby, Osher, Pugh, Simmons, Supica, Terry.

Yes, 131; No, 8; Absent, 12; Excused, 0.

131 having voted in the affirmative and 8 voted in the negative, with 12 being absent, and accordingly the **Unanimous Ought to Pass as Amended Report was ACCEPTED.**

The Bill was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (H-173) was READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED.**

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-173)** and sent for concurrence.

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

**ENACTORS
Emergency Measure**

An Act to Increase the State's Share of Retired Teacher Health Insurance

(H.P. 76) (L.D. 111)
(C. "A" H-104)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 115 voted in favor of the same and 2 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

An Act to Create a Limited Retail Seafood Harvester Certificate

(S.P. 80) (L.D. 144)
(C. "A" S-46)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 116 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

An Act to Support the Maintenance, Preservation and Promotion of State Historic Sites

(S.P. 320) (L.D. 761)
(C. "A" S-56)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 113 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

An Act to Amend the Scope of Practice for Expanded Function Dental Assistants

(H.P. 513) (L.D. 806)
(C. "A" H-119)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 114 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

An Act to Support Immersive Outdoor Education by Establishing the Outdoor School for All Maine Students Program

(S.P. 384) (L.D. 895)
(C. "A" S-61)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 113 voted in favor of the same and 1 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

An Act to Limit the Amount of Electricity That May Be Provided to Data Centers on a Certain Commercial or Industrial Site

(S.P. 402) (L.D. 912)
(C. "A" S-67)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 106 voted in favor of the same and 5 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

An Act to Amend the Law Governing the Membership of the Government Oversight Committee

(S.P. 410) (L.D. 954)
(C. "A" S-69)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 115 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

An Act to Fund MaineCare

(H.P. 1307) (L.D. 1948)

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

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand in opposition to the pending motion.

During this whole process, we debated this bill in the supplemental, we had worked through a compromise that gave it overwhelming support in this end, but throughout that debate, we said that we wouldn't sign a blank check. This bill before us here is just the blank check part without the other parts; reforms that we had agreed to. So, nothing has changed for Republicans; we're not going to sign a blank check. So, I oppose the pending motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Old Town, Representative Dill.

Representative **DILL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Colleagues of the House, the greater Bangor area is home to at least two major hospitals with satellite clinics, several nursing homes and several other small health care clinics. Hence, many of my constituents work in the health care field and have contacted me. They are concerned not only about losing their jobs, but their entire facility may also close. Also, more importantly, also, if they lose their jobs, they could lose their health care benefits, which in some cases could be life threatening.

This bill is straightforward, it just takes the approximately \$118 million that's for MaineCare out of the current budget, which is about a month away, and makes it available now, hopefully saving jobs, facilities and maybe even lives. So, when I'm going to ask what's in it for us, the answer is simple: people. I just said it; saving jobs, facilities and maybe even lives. And frankly, if you vote for this bill, you can say you're an A+ instead of an A or a B.

Also, the question was asked by several, hasn't this already been voted on twice? Yes, it has. As I'm sure it was a rhetorical question, however, I'll answer it. The first time it was in the supplemental budget, and received two-thirds vote in this House. Having eventually failed, it was rolled into the majority budget, where it now sits. This bill, as I said, simply moves up the MaineCare payments from June 20th; or maybe even November or December if the people's veto is successful; until now. Thank you, and I hope you'll vote for this for the people of Maine.

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

Representative **ROLLINS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and Colleagues of the House, I rise today to speak in support of the pending motion, in favor of LD 1948.

This bill would provide important funding for MaineCare that is desperately needed for providers across the State, including right here in Augusta. Recently, MaineGeneral Medical Center; which is in my district; announced that it was cutting its pediatric mental health program. These cuts were alarming, both to me and to the people of my district. I have a number of constituents who are either employed by MaineGeneral or receive their health care there, and many of them are deeply concerned by this news. It's not only people in my district that will be affected, either. Mainers across the region rely on MaineGeneral. I know many of them fear that this may just be the tip of the iceberg. According to MaineGeneral, the reason behind these cuts is due to the financial strain as

reimbursement rates aren't keeping up with the increased costs of operations.

Providers across Maine are facing similar challenges, but it doesn't have to be this way. LD 1948, while it won't fix all the financial challenges facing providers right now, will provide some relief by ensuring that the providers and MaineCare funding owed will provide them the money they're owed by the State. This funding; which should have been sent out months ago; has already been appropriated, but providers won't be able to receive it until June. So, the question here is now just one of timing. While our providers are struggling, we'd be doing everything possible to help them stay afloat. We must pass LD 1948 and get them the money they're owed; immediately, not next month. My constituents and Mainers in all 16 counties are looking to us to get it done. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **HENDERSON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I don't have any prepared remarks today, but just a couple of things as I mull through how I'm going to approach what feels as though; or a measure before us what feels as though that we've already voted on before.

And with the supplemental budget, I voted in opposition to the supplemental budget. Even when it passed through the House, I voted in opposition to it. But today, what stands before us is a very different look. You know, my opposition before was for reasons that I don't know are germane, so, maybe I shouldn't get into them, Mr. Speaker. But when we came to this building, not only did we come to fight policy, to advocate for our people, but we came here to govern. And governing means paying our bills. I will be supporting the emergency measure today, and not because I'm a flip-flopper, not because I'm inconsistent in my voting; I felt like there were other things that we could get on the table with the supplemental budget. That's not an option now. What's before us is we're asking ourselves, do we want to pay our bills? My answer is yes. I have small medical providers in my community who have reached out to me a number of times, concerned because the majority of the income that they get is off of MaineCare payments. They don't have 40 days. They don't have time for us to pass a budget. I, in my personal life, in my personal finances, I pay my bills. And I don't know why I would come to the State House and govern any differently.

So, I would urge my colleagues, let's let the past be the past, let's let the supplemental be the supplemental, let's let that fight be the fight that some of us lost and some of us won, but let's move forward. Rumford Hospital right now, although we have some great things on the horizon; Central Maine Healthcare is merging with Prime Healthcare and we've got some good things going, but we don't have an OB wing. We don't have neurological services. We don't have cardiology anymore. We have babies being born in the emergency room, and our health care providers need the support from legislators to ensure that we're paying our bills, regardless of what you think of MaineCare, who should or shouldn't be on it, that I think is another debate. These are bills that are stacking up, they're bills that are due, this is for services rendered and it's up to us to govern and pay our bills. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, you know, I come here also to work for the people and to solve problems. But I want to read to you the Maine Hospital Association report-back, and I'm going to quote here. 'Hospitals have to pay their employees and vendors, so when

reimbursements are delayed, it creates a financial burden for our members. The State has addressed the issue with nursing homes by requiring prompt payment. We agree to collect data from our members on the existing debt, and here's a few of the statistics. Roughly 80% of hospitals are owed settlement debt from MaineCare. The debt accrued from October 1, 2022 to September 30, 2024. In other words, the care was provided between six and 30 months ago. The total amount of debt is \$195 million. The Department testified if funding was to be allocated, the Department would have no identified concerns with reimbursement of this bill with 75% of the payment. Our request is that you pass the legislation and find \$51 million in State funds to reimburse hospitals the \$146 million of the \$195 million that they are owed.'

Mr. Speaker, this was from a public hearing on the 19th of March, and the Committee of jurisdiction was a party line vote Ought Not to Pass. The Maine Hospital Association asked for emergency preamble, and they would've already been paid, had the Majority party agreed with the Minority that this was good policy and Maine Hospital Association asked for this to be passed. This wasn't partisan; this was nonpartisan to pay our bill, and the Majority party said no. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Representative MOONEN of Portland **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

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

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 160

YEA - Ankeles, Arata, Archer, Arford, Babin, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Carlow, Caruso, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Cooper, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, Daigle, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eder, Faircloth, Farrin, Foley, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Guerrette, Hasenfus, Henderson, Hepler, Jackson, Javner, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Pluecker, Pomerleau, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Swallow, Terry, Walker, Warren, Webb, White R, Wood S, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Albert, Ardell, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Chapman, Cimino, Collins, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foster, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Hymes, Lance, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, White J, Wood P, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Abdi, Adams, Cray, Eaton, Fredericks, Libby, Osher, Simmons.

Yes, 93; No, 50; Absent, 8; Excused, 0.

93 having voted in the affirmative and 50 voted in the negative, with 8 being absent, and accordingly the Bill **FAILED PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED** and was sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Study MaineCare Estate Recovery

(H.P. 102) (L.D. 169)
(C. "A" H-129)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 110 voted in favor of the same and 6 against, and accordingly the Resolve was **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 850: Health Plan Accountability, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, Bureau of Insurance

(H.P. 173) (L.D. 270)
(C. "A" H-123)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 120 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Resolve was **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Mandate

An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Laws by Extending Indefinitely the Presumption Applying to Law Enforcement Officers, Corrections Officers, E-9-1-1 Dispatchers, Firefighters and Emergency Medical Services Persons Diagnosed with Post-traumatic Stress Disorder

(H.P. 46) (L.D. 82)
(C. "A" H-134)

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

Representative MOONEN of Portland **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

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

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

In accordance with the provisions of Section 21 of Article IX of the Constitution, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken.

ROLL CALL NO. 161

YEA - Adams, Albert, Ankeles, Arata, Archer, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Beck, Bell, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Cooper, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, Daigle, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Farrin, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredette, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Gifford, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Hall, Hasenus, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lance, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lee, Lookner, Lyman, Macias, Malon, Mason, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, McIntyre, Meyer, Milliken, Mingo, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pluecker, Poirier, Pomerleau, Pugh, Quint, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Rudnicki, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Schmursal-Burgess,

Shagoury, Simmons, Sinclair, Skold, Smith, Soboleski, Stover, Strout, Supica, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, Warren, Webb, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Bagshaw, Cimino, Collins, Haggan, Morris, Underwood.

ABSENT - Abdi, Cray, DeBrito, Eaton, Faircloth, Fredericks, Hepler, Lemelin, Libby, Osher, Terry.

Yes, 134; No, 6; Absent, 11; Excused, 0.

134 having voted in the affirmative and 6 voted in the negative, with 11 being absent, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

**Pursuant to the Constitution
Public Land**

Resolve, Requiring the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Modify the Deed That Conveyed Montpelier, the General Henry Knox Museum in Thomaston, to the Friends of Montpelier

(H.P. 839) (L.D. 1264)
(C. "A" H-110)

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. 118 voted in favor of the same and 1 against, and accordingly the Resolve was **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Acts

An Act to Provide Indigenous Peoples Free Access to State Parks

(S.P. 27) (L.D. 14)
(C. "A" S-55)

An Act to Add an Inflation Adjustment to the Maximum Amount of Funding Disbursed from the Maine Ground and Surface Waters Clean-up and Response Fund for Certain Personal Services of the Department of Environmental Protection

(S.P. 41) (L.D. 26)
(C. "A" S-64)

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Fantasy Contests

(S.P. 51) (L.D. 33)
(C. "A" S-50)

An Act to Require Landowners to Report Their Participation in a Forest Carbon Program or Project

(H.P. 3) (L.D. 39)
(C. "A" H-125)

An Act to Require Employers to Disclose Pay Ranges and Maintain Records of Employees' Pay Histories

(H.P. 18) (L.D. 54)
(C. "A" H-136)

An Act to Amend the Law Governing the Accrual of Earned Paid Leave

(H.P. 19) (L.D. 55)
(C. "A" H-137)

An Act to Enable Maine National Guard Commanders to More Efficiently Effect Disciplinary Measures Through the Maine Code of Military Justice

(H.P. 21) (L.D. 57)
(C. "A" H-108)

An Act to Establish Certain Positions Within the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services (H.P. 22) (L.D. 58)

An Act to Amend the Maine Litter Control Act (S.P. 38) (L.D. 121) (C. "A" S-68)

An Act to Provide Compensation to Members of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women to Enhance Equitable Commission Participation from Across the State (S.P. 71) (L.D. 135) (C. "A" S-53)

An Act to Increase the Maximum Amount of the Historic Property Rehabilitation Tax Credit That May be Taken in a Year (S.P. 82) (L.D. 146) (C. "A" S-76)

An Act to Require Health Insurance Coverage for Federally Approved Nonprescription Oral Hormonal Contraceptives and Nonprescription Emergency Contraceptives (H.P. 96) (L.D. 163) (C. "A" H-120)

An Act to Protect the Confidentiality of Information of Individual Customers of a Public Utility (S.P. 118) (L.D. 251) (C. "A" S-49)

An Act Regarding the Remote Appearance of Counsel in Pretrial Nontestimonial Criminal Matters (H.P. 170) (L.D. 267) (C. "A" H-107)

An Act to Provide Support for Certain Maine Discovery Museum Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Educational Programming Throughout the State (S.P. 131) (L.D. 281) (C. "A" S-71)

An Act to Allow County Commissioners Greater Flexibility When Establishing a Payment Schedule for Municipalities to Pay County Tax Bills (H.P. 186) (L.D. 286) (C. "A" H-112)

An Act Requiring the State to Pay a Retired State Employee's or Retired Teacher's Premium for Medicare Part B Under Medicare Advantage (H.P. 228) (L.D. 328) (C. "A" H-102)

An Act to Provide Access to Quality Family Child Care for Military Personnel by Exempting Certain Military Child Care Providers from State Licensing Requirements (S.P. 169) (L.D. 388) (C. "A" S-62)

An Act to Exempt a Person Making Electrical Installations in the Person's Existing Bona Fide Personal Abode from Licensing and Permitting Requirements (H.P. 364) (L.D. 545) (C. "A" H-101)

An Act to Designate the 2nd Week of May and the 2nd Week of September as Dark Sky Week (S.P. 247) (L.D. 567) (C. "A" S-54)

An Act Regarding Reciprocal Licensure for Professional Engineers (S.P. 257) (L.D. 576)

An Act to Fund the Doctors for Maine's Future Scholarship Program (S.P. 264) (L.D. 581) (C. "A" S-70)

An Act to Require Health Insurance Carriers to Provide Coverage for Blood Testing for Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (S.P. 265) (L.D. 582) (C. "A" S-63)

An Act to Codify the Maine Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Pilot Program (H.P. 419) (L.D. 651) (C. "A" H-141)

An Act Regarding the Use of Military Protective Orders in Protection from Abuse and Protection from Harassment Proceedings (H.P. 433) (L.D. 665) (C. "A" H-130)

An Act to Promote Student Enrollment and Degree Completion in the University of Maine System by Awarding Waivers of Tuition and Fees to Eligible Students (S.P. 317) (L.D. 700) (C. "A" S-60)

An Act to Designate January 6th as A Day to Remember (H.P. 441) (L.D. 702) (C. "A" H-138)

An Act to Clarify Performance Standards for Quarries (H.P. 443) (L.D. 704) (C. "A" H-131)

An Act to Allow a Motion to Extend a Protection from Abuse Order After Expiration of the Original Order (H.P. 516) (L.D. 809) (C. "A" H-106)

An Act to Make Allocations from Maine Turnpike Authority Funds for the Maine Turnpike Authority for the Calendar Year Ending December 31, 2026 (H.P. 528) (L.D. 821) (C. "A" H-105)

An Act to Expand Property Tax Relief for Veterans and Survivors of Veterans (H.P. 574) (L.D. 888) (C. "A" H-143)

An Act to Strengthen the Requirements for Medical Payments Coverage (S.P. 388) (L.D. 899) (C. "A" S-58)

An Act to Amend the Law Governing Zoning Ordinance Variances for Persons with Permanent Disabilities (S.P. 396) (L.D. 907) (C. "A" S-51)

An Act Regarding Service of Notice of Restricted Person Status to Hospitalized Patients (S.P. 413) (L.D. 983) (C. "A" S-57)

An Act to Raise the Cap on Retirement Benefits for Certain State Employees and Teachers to Which a Cost-of-living Adjustment Is Made (H.P. 669) (L.D. 1040) (C. "A" H-100)

An Act to Advance Energy Storage Within the State (H.P. 749) (L.D. 1130) (C. "A" H-135)

An Act to Amend the Site Location of Development Laws to Require a 100-foot Buffer Between Solar Energy Developments and Rivers, Streams and Brooks (S.P. 496) (L.D. 1207) (C. "A" S-65)

An Act to Align Intrastate Commercial Motor Vehicle Insurance Requirements with Federal Standards
(H.P. 851) (L.D. 1276)
(C. "A" H-122)

An Act to Create the Building Opportunity Through Out-of-school Time Program
(H.P. 911) (L.D. 1389)
(C. "A" H-128)

An Act to Extend the Time Frame for a Chiropractic Intern License
(H.P. 985) (L.D. 1501)

An Act to Remove the Term "Alleged" When Referring to Victims of Sexual Assault in the Provisions of the Maine Revised Statutes Pertaining to Forensic Examinations
(H.P. 1092) (L.D. 1651)
(C. "A" H-142)

An Act to Clarify, Align and Amend Provisions of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A
(H.P. 1121) (L.D. 1686)

An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right to Know Advisory Committee Concerning Public Records Exceptions
(H.P. 1223) (L.D. 1828)

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

Resolves

Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Collect Data on Cursive Instruction in Maine Public Schools
(H.P. 42) (L.D. 78)
(C. "A" H-113)

Resolve, Directing the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to Study Establishing a Program for the Electronic Tagging of Deer
(S.P. 75) (L.D. 139)
(C. "A" S-52)

Resolve, to Ensure the Removal of Aqueous Film-forming Foam from the Former Brunswick Naval Air Station
(H.P. 261) (L.D. 407)
(C. "A" H-132)

Resolve, to Create the Commission to Study a Legislative Internship Program
(H.P. 392) (L.D. 624)
(C. "A" H-111)

Resolve, Directing the Department of Public Safety, Emergency Medical Services' Board to Report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs on the Status of Funds in the Emergency Medical Services Stabilization and Sustainability Program
(H.P. 461) (L.D. 722)
(C. "A" H-140)

Resolve, Directing the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to Study Lengthening the Muzzle-loading Season for Deer in Certain Wildlife Management Districts
(H.P. 502) (L.D. 777)
(C. "A" H-109)

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

An Act to Provide Relief to Federal or State Employees Affected by a Federal Government or State Government Shutdown
(H.P. 560) (L.D. 874)
(C. "A" H-121)

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

On motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, 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 Turner, Representative Morris.

Representative **MORRIS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill came before my Committee; I was not there on the day of the work session, I was in Boston having my eye checked out.

Had I been there, I would have opposed this in Committee. I don't believe this is good public policy to put Maine taxpayers on the hook for a federal government shutdown; to guarantee loans, personal loans for members of the; for any employee. I believe that personal loans, if banks want to give them out, that is their right, I don't believe Maine taxpayers; this has been my position since I've been in the Legislature, it continues to be my position, I think there is a certain amount of personal responsibility that is involved as well. I don't believe that Maine taxpayers should be the ones having to pay to guarantee the loans if there is a situation where the loan is not paid back. So, while this was a unanimous Committee Report, if I had been there, I would have been in opposition to it, and I will be voting against this motion today. Thank you.

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. 162

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

NAY - Adams, Albert, Ardell, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Foster, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Hymes, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmearsal-Burgess, Smith, Soboleski, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Cray, Eaton, Fredericks, Hepler, Libby, Osher, Terry.

Yes, 88; No, 56; Absent, 7; Excused, 0.

88 having voted in the affirmative and 56 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent, 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**.

ORDERS

On motion of Representative SATO of Gorham, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 1323) (Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and Representatives: DEBRITO of Waterville, DHALAC of South Portland, MACIAS of Topsham, RANA of Bangor, YUSUF of Portland)

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAY 2025 AS ASIAN AMERICAN, NATIVE HAWAIIAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER MONTH

WHEREAS, the Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander community is an inherently diverse population, composed of more than 45 distinct ethnicities and more than 100 language dialects, in addition to different experiences, histories and cultures, including the intersectionality among those who are multiracial, adopted and first generation; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in the United States are an inextricable part of the history of the United States and have made historic contributions to our society and economy; and

WHEREAS, the Transcontinental Railroad was built on the backs of tens of thousands of Chinese migrant workers between the years 1864 and 1869 under perilous working conditions that resulted in a death toll estimated to be in the thousands; and

WHEREAS, the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Chester A. Arthur and provided for an absolute 10-year ban on the immigration of Chinese immigrants, which was the first time that the United States restricted immigration to a specific ethnic group; and

WHEREAS, on February 19, 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066, which led to the evacuation and incarceration of approximately 112,000 Japanese Americans into concentration camps, resulting in the permanent loss of property and immense intergenerational trauma still felt by those affected today; and

WHEREAS, the hate crime and murder of Vincent Chin on June 19, 1982, and the subsequent injustice of the court case, over which Justice Charles Kaufman presided, followed by federal charges, marked the first time that the Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander community was protected in a federal civil rights prosecution by resentencing the perpetrators of this heinous act; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2021, 8 individuals, 6 of whom were women of Asian descent, were tragically killed in a series of mass shootings at 3 spas in the Atlanta, Georgia area, drawing national attention to the growing violence and discrimination faced by Asian American communities, and highlighting the urgent need for solidarity, justice and meaningful action to combat anti-Asian hate and gender-based violence; and

WHEREAS, in 1893, the United States illegally overthrew Queen Lili'uokalani, the last ruler of the Kingdom of Hawai'i, and in 1898, Congress passed an unconstitutional Joint Resolution annexing the nation, further perpetuating the harm and trauma that the indigenous people of Hawai'i were subjected to as a result of imperialism and colonialism; and

WHEREAS, nationwide, there was a 167% increase in hate crimes against Asians from 2020 to 2021 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and since November 2024, threats of violence against Asian Americans have skyrocketed, particularly against South Asian Americans; and

WHEREAS, the first Asian communities to settle in the State were Chinese families in the late 1850s; and

WHEREAS, in the 1970s and 1980s, many Cambodian, Laotian and Vietnamese families immigrated to the State, escaping the upheaval of the Vietnam War and escaping persecution and the Cambodian Genocide conducted by Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge; and

WHEREAS, the number of people who identify as Asian in the State has increased significantly each decade, doubling from 1990 to 2000, increasing by 33% from 2000 to 2009 and increasing by 23.8% for those who identify as Asian alone and by 82.2% for those who identify as multiracial including Asian from 2010 to 2020; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders are playing a significant role in the State's labor force and are employed in all sectors of the State's economy, including work in high-tech industries, service industries, the financial sector, government, health care, biomedical research, public schools and higher education, and Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in the State have high civic participation and voter turnout rates; and

WHEREAS, Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders have made significant contributions to the United States at all levels of the Federal Government and in the United States Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the month of May was selected to honor Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders because the first Japanese immigrants arrived in the United States on May 7, 1843 and the first transcontinental railroad was completed on May 10, 1869 with substantial contributions from Chinese immigrants; and

WHEREAS, there remains much to be done to ensure that Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders have access to resources and a voice in the government of the United States and the State and continue to advance in the political landscape; 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 recognize May 2025 as Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Month and pay tribute to the contributions of generations of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders who have enriched the history of the State and the United States.

READ.

On motion of Representative SATO of Gorham, **TABLED** pending **ADOPTION** and later today assigned.

On motion of Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 1324) (Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and Representatives: BLIER of Buxton, DUCHARME of Madison, HASENFUS of Readfield, Senator: BEEBE-CENTER of Knox)

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING
MAY 18, 2025 TO MAY 24, 2025**

AS EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK

WHEREAS, emergency medical services are vital public services; and

WHEREAS, the members of emergency medical services teams are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, 7 days a week; and

WHEREAS, access to quality emergency medical services dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and

WHEREAS, emergency medical services have grown to fill healthcare gaps by providing important, out-of-hospital care, including preventative medicine, follow-up care and access to telemedicine; and

WHEREAS, the emergency medical services system consists of first responders, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, emergency medical dispatchers, firefighters, police officers, educators, administrators, pre-hospital nurses, emergency nurses, emergency physicians, trained members of the public and other out-of-hospital medical care providers; and

WHEREAS, the members of emergency medical services teams, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of emergency medical services providers by designating Emergency Medical Services Week; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the members of the One Hundred Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, pause in our deliberations to designate the week of May 18, 2025 to May 24, 2025 as Emergency Medical Services Week, with this year's 51st anniversary theme: We Care. For Everyone; and we encourage all citizens to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities in honor of Emergency Medical Services providers and the essential services they provide.

READ.

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

Representative **SALISBURY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, during EMS week, I asked my Colleagues to think about the impact that EMS providers have had on your life. Have you ever had to call 9-1-1 due to a medical emergency or an accident? Have you ever driven by an event that EMS providers were at? For most people, fire, police and EMS are something we don't think about on a day-to-day basis, yet we expect them to be there when we need them. We don't think about how they're funded, what their staffing levels are or how their mental health is. We don't fully understand their training or how they are dispatched to a scene. We just want them to come when we need them.

In a rural state like Maine, response times are very different than in urban states. With the recent decline of services, there are places where the nearest ambulance is an hour away. In January of this year, a 9-1-1 call was made from; I'm going to say this wrong; Macwahoc, Maine, for a woman who had passed out. Instead of an ambulance arriving, 10 different services were contacted by dispatch, and because the plantation did not have

a contract for mutual aid, they did not respond. Approximately one hour after the original call, the woman died. We have passed legislation determining that EMS is an essential service, and there is a current bill to institute the recommendations of the EMS Blue Ribbon Commission, which asks for communities to post their EMS response plan, including if that plan is, 'we don't have one.'

Since we have been in session, two EMS providers have died by suicide, and another provider died young due to a medical event. Tomorrow, there will be an EMS memorial event at 11 o'clock over in the site where; near where the law enforcement memorial is, and a new name will be added for a provider: Scott Latulippe, who died by suicide last year.

I tell you all of this to implore you to learn more about your community EMS system. What is the emergency medical services plan in your community? I implore you to think carefully about the EMS bills you will hear on the floor this session, think about how they will benefit your community and how, in the end, they could save your life or the life of someone you love. Thank you.

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

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

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

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 780)
**JOINT RESOLUTION TO REAFFIRM THE FRIENDSHIP
BETWEEN MAINE AND TAIWAN, ENHANCE BILATERAL
TRADE RELATIONS WITH TAIWAN AND SUPPORT
TAIWAN'S INTERNATIONAL PARTICIPATION**

WHEREAS, the United States and the Republic of China (Taiwan) share a robust bilateral relationship marked by a mutually beneficial partnership and supported by our common values of freedom, democracy, rule of law and a free market economy, and our countries now enjoy the strongest relations ever; and

WHEREAS, May 20, 2025 marks the 2nd year of the Honorable Dr. Lai Ching-te as President and Bi-khim Hsiao as Vice President of Taiwan, thereby demonstrating the vibrancy of Taiwan's democracy; and

WHEREAS, the United States ranks as Taiwan's 2nd-largest trading partner, and Taiwan is the 7th-largest trading partner of the United States in 2024, with United States trade in goods with Taiwan totaling an estimated \$157.8 billion, a 34.79% increase over 2023; and

WHEREAS, the government of Taiwan has expressed a desire to reach an Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement with the United States, which will increase Maine exports to Taiwan, bilateral investment and jobs in Maine; and

WHEREAS, Maine and Taiwan have enjoyed a long history of vibrant bilateral relations, including trade, as evidenced by Maine-Taiwan bilateral trade amounting to \$45.47 million in 2024 and Maine exports to Taiwan of \$27.95 million, making Taiwan Maine's 8th-largest export market in Asia; and

WHEREAS, a reciprocal driver's license agreement between Maine and Taiwan would greatly benefit drivers from both sides, including Maine-Taiwan exchange students and business people living and working in our respective jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, Maine's Department of Education and the Ministry of Education of the Republic of China (Taiwan) have entered into a memorandum of understanding to strengthen and enhance kindergarten to grade 12 educational exchange and cooperation and now seek to enter into a similar memorandum of understanding for higher education; and

WHEREAS, the United States government actively encourages engagement between the people of the United States and Taiwan, especially at the state level, in terms of trade, investment, commerce, education and cultural exchanges and supports Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations, and United States policy toward Taiwan is guided by the Taiwan Relations Act of 1979 and not United Nations Resolution 2758 (1971), which neither mentions Taiwan nor prevents Taiwan's international participation; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is a reliable partner and trustworthy democratic ally, making its inclusion in international organizations such as the World Health Organization and the International Civil Aviation Organization imperative for the best interests and safety of the international community; 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, support a stronger United States-Taiwan relationship under the Trump administration, including the signing of an Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement with the United States, a driver's license reciprocity agreement and a memorandum of understanding on higher education with Taiwan in the near future, and support pursuing ways to further increase trade and people-to-people exchanges; and be it further

RESOLVED: That we support Taiwan's legitimate right to participate in international organizations, agreements and mechanisms; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Honorable Donald J. Trump, President of the United States, the members of the Maine Congressional Delegation, the Honorable Janet Mills, Governor of Maine, the Honorable Lai Ching-te, President of the Republic of China (Taiwan) and the Honorable Charles Liao, Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Boston, Massachusetts.

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

READ and **ADOPTED** in concurrence.

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

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

Representative **MURPHY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request unanimous consent to address the House on the record.

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Scarborough, Representative Murphy, has requested unanimous consent to address the House on the record. Hearing no objection, the Member may proceed.

Representative **MURPHY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In reference to Roll Call No. 154 on LD 349, had I been present, I would have voted yes. In reference to Roll Call 155 on LD 1148, had I been present, I would have voted yes. In reference to Roll Call 156 on LD 1576, had I been present, I would have voted yes. In reference to Roll Call 157 on LD 666, had I been present, I would have voted yes. Thank you.

On motion of Representative LOOKNER of Portland, the House adjourned at 3:57 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Thursday, May 22, 2025, in honor and lasting tribute to Larry Potter of Portland and Doris Marie May (Pelletier) Nadeau of Caribou.