

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
15th Legislative Day
Wednesday, May 7, 2025

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

Prayer by Honorable J. Mark Worth, Ellsworth.

National Anthem by Honorable Deane Rykerson, Kittery Point.

Pledge of Allegiance.

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

Medical Provider of the Day, Rebecca Koerting, PA-C, Falmouth.

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

PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE

Bill "An Act to Clarify Data Collection Processes in Health Care Facilities"

(H.P. 1304) (L.D. 1945)

Sponsored by Representative RANA of Bangor.

Bill "An Act to Clarify the Eligibility of Certified Recovery Residences for Bridging Rental Assistance Program Housing Vouchers"

(H.P. 1305) (L.D. 1946)

Sponsored by Representative WARREN of Scarborough.

Cosponsored by Representatives: CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, DHALAC of South Portland, DODGE of Belfast, GOLEK of Harpswell, MALON of Biddeford, RANA of Bangor, YUSUF of Portland, Senator: BEEBE-CENTER of Knox.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Fund MaineCare" (EMERGENCY)

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

Sponsored by Representative DILL of Old Town.

Cosponsored by Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, CRAY of Palmyra.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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

On motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, **TABLED** pending **REFERENCE** and later today assigned.

Resolve, to Establish a Commission to Study the Role of Private Equity in Maine's Economy and in Key Economic Sectors

(H.P. 1302) (L.D. 1943)

Sponsored by Representative PUGH of Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock and Representatives: RANA of Bangor, SATO of Gorham, SAYRE of Kennebunk, Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland.

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

On motion of Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, the Resolve was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Revise the Growth Management Program Laws"

(H.P. 1299) (L.D. 1940)

Sponsored by Representative SACHS of Freeport.

Cosponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland and Representatives: Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, GERE of Kennebunkport, Senator: CURRY of Waldo.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Implement Recommendations of the Commission to Examine Reestablishing Parole"

(H.P. 1300) (L.D. 1941)

Sponsored by Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill.

Cosponsored by Senator DUSON of Cumberland and Representatives: MATHIESON of Kittery, PLUECKER of Warren, SARGENT of York, SAYRE of Kennebunk, SINCLAIR of Bath, WARREN of Scarborough, Senators: BEEBE-CENTER of Knox, TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act to Protect Children and Adults from Technology-facilitated Sexual Abuse"

(H.P. 1303) (L.D. 1944)

Sponsored by Representative KUHN of Falmouth.

Cosponsored by Representatives: LEE of Auburn, SATO of Gorham.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Pertaining to the Maine Public Employees Retirement System"

(H.P. 1306) (L.D. 1947)

Sponsored by Representative ROEDER of Bangor.

Submitted by the Maine Public Employees Retirement System pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Modify Taxes Applying to Adult Use Cannabis, Hemp and Hemp Products"

(H.P. 1301) (L.D. 1942)

Sponsored by Representative SAYRE of Kennebunk.
Cosponsored by Senator BICKFORD of Androscoggin.

Bill "An Act to Promote Film Production in Maine"

(H.P. 1309) (L.D. 1957)

Sponsored by Representative COPELAND of Saco.
Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York and Representatives: Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, GERE of Kennebunkport, ROEDER of Bangor, SALISBURY of Westbrook, Senators: BAILEY of York, President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

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

The House recessed for the purpose of conducting Welcome Back Day Ceremonies.

(After Recess)

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

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

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Sorry, Mr. Speaker, I had pushed my button earlier. I just want to say we are in week seven of the Special Session that is; so far, I haven't figured out what the reasoning for the Chief Executive to call our Special Session other than partisanship. I'm just going to remind folks that the Chief Executive Officer under the Constitution calls us back into Session for an extraordinary circumstance. Once again, I'm going to ask the Body; who I'm sure a lot of you have had breakfast with the Chief Executive in the last couple months; but can explain to me what our emergency is. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

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

In Memory of:

the Honorable Jerome Plante, of Old Orchard Beach. Mr. Plante was a veteran of the United States Army National Guard. In 1956, he ran for the Maine State House of Representatives and won at the age of 21, the first Democrat ever elected from Old Orchard Beach and the youngest member of the State Legislature at the time. During his second and third terms in the House, he served as Assistant Minority Leader. He rose to Minority Leader during his fourth and final term and chose not to run for reelection in 1964. In 1965, he ran for Clerk of the House and served a two-year term. He also taught at Biddeford High School during this period. In 1967, he began an eight-year position as Senior Legislative Assistant and Field Office

Manager to United States Congressman Peter N. Kyros. Mr. Plante then became Town Manager of Old Orchard Beach and served for fifteen years. He served on many committees and groups to better Old Orchard Beach, including the Ballpark Commission and the School Board. In 1979, he initiated the first beachfront dune grass management program in Maine. He was Director of the Biddeford-Saco-O.O.B. Transit Authority from 1979 to 1990 and Chairman in 1990. In 1990, he began a career at Metropolitan Life. In 1994, he became a field operations coordinator for the nonprofit GreenThumb, now Experience Works. In 2003, he became an education technician for the Old Orchard Beach School System. He also coached junior high football during this period. He remained active with American Legion Post 57 as Sergeant at Arms and Vice Commander, and he was inducted into the Maine Franco-American Hall of Fame. Mr. Plante will be long remembered and sadly missed by his family, friends and community;

(HLS 229)

Presented by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach.

Cosponsored by Senator BAILEY of York.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Old Orchard Beach, Representative Gramlich.

Representative **GRAMLICH**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Colleagues of the House. I rise to remember the Honorable Jerome G. Plante, or as he was known to those who knew and loved him, Jerry, and to his many, many extended family and grandchildren, Grampy.

Jerry was a central figure in our community for decades, and he had an incredible lifelong record of public service to Old Orchard Beach and to the State of Maine. In 1956; and he would often start stories out; 'you know, during the Eisenhower Administration,' and so, you knew that there was going to be a long story involved there; Jerry was elected to this Body, the Maine House of Representatives. He was the first Democrat ever elected from Old Orchard Beach; certainly not the last; and at just 21 years old, he was the youngest legislator at the time. He went on to serve as Assistant Minority Leader and then Minority Leader, before being elected and serving a term as Clerk of the House.

After his State House service, he worked as staff for U.S. Congressman Peter Kyros for eight years, continuing to serve the public in that role. Jerry then went on to be the town manager of Old Orchard Beach. He was ahead of his time, Mr. Speaker, initiating the first beachfront dune grass management program to protect our beaches and shoreline from storm damage, an issue that is very near and dear to me and has become more critical in the years since Jerry started working on it. He oversaw the construction of a new high school and countless other initiatives that helped make Old Orchard Beach the lovely seaside community that I am so proud to serve.

I was thrilled to have the opportunity as a legislator to nominate Jerry to a well-deserved spot in the Franco-American Hall of Fame, and he was inducted in 2021. Jerry had countless other titles and accomplishments. I have honestly only scratched the surface. He served our country honorably in the Army National Guard. He worked as an ed tech and a coach. He was a beloved husband, father, Grampy and great-Grampy. Jerry is survived by his wife of 64 years, Patricia, and a big, beautiful family, some of whom are here today.

I think it's incredibly fitting, Mr. Speaker, that we honor Jerry today on Welcome Back Day, an event that he loved attending each year and I always loved seeing him here, where he was clearly in his element. I know I'm just one of many who will miss Jerry, and it is a privilege to stand today to honor his memory. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

In Memory of:

Dorothy "Dottie" Melanson, of Falmouth. Mrs. Melanson worked as a Registered Nurse for 40 years, working primarily in Portland at the Osteopathic Hospital in the Special Care Unit and then at Maine Medical Center in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. A highlight of her long career was her service as chair of the Board of Nursing for the State of Maine. Throughout her life, she was always advocating for those in need and fought hard for social justice on many levels. Active politically, she was a lifelong Democrat and chair of the party for Maine from 2003 to 2005. She strongly supported Equality Maine and women's rights and more recently helped in passing the Maine Death with Dignity Act in 2019. Mrs. Melanson will be long remembered and sadly missed by her family, friends and community;

(HLS 230)

Presented by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach.

Cosponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland, Representative CROCKETT of Portland, Representative KUHN of Falmouth.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Old Orchard Beach, Representative Gramlich.

Representative **GRAMLICH**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Colleagues of the House, today I rise with a heavy heart to honor the life and legacy of an extraordinary Mainer and a woman that I was proud to call my friend, Dorothy Melanson.

I met Dottie, as she was known, over 25 years ago at a house party she was hosting for one of the many causes she was so passionately involved in. A graduate of Catherine McAuley High School, Dottie went on to nursing school and spent four decades as a registered nurse, primarily in the neonatal intensive care unit at Maine Medical Center. Her care and professionalism touched countless lives, and she was a trusted hand during families' most vulnerable moments.

Dottie's impact extended well beyond the hospital walls. She served as Chair of the Maine State Board of Nursing, where she championed the highest standards of care and advocated for her fellow nurses across the State. A fierce believer in social justice, Dottie used her voice and energy to advance equality, women's rights and end-of-life dignity. As Chair of the Maine Democratic Party from 2003 to 2005, she led with determination and inclusion, ensuring that every voice, especially those too often left unheard and the most vulnerable, had a place in our political discourse. Her advocacy played a critical role in the passage of the 2019 Death with Dignity Act, and she remained a steadfast supporter of EqualityMaine reproductive rights through her life.

Dottie was not only a political leader, but also a cultural one. A voracious reader, an engaged citizen and a sharp wit who found joy in books, friendship and spirited conversation. Those who knew her knew her warmth, her laughter and her unwavering commitment to justice. Dottie was fiercely loyal and would go over and above for so many, especially for those she knew as friends. Soon after I met Dottie, she approached me and said, 'you and I are going to be friends,' and she was absolutely right. As a single mom; when I was a single mom, Dottie was always sure to check in with me to see how I was doing. She would often open her home to me and my daughter to enjoy her pool and her family. More recently, during my second race in the Legislature, Dottie called me out of the blue and insisted that she drive me to knock on doors. I explained to Dottie that my district was really quite walkable, but she insisted. People that knew Dottie understood that she did not take no for an answer. And wouldn't you know, Dottie knew one of my constituents, a fellow nurse from Maine Medical Center. Who didn't know Dottie? And who didn't Dottie know? And whose lives were not touched by such a generous spirit?

Dottie's husband, Jay, and daughter, Nora; who followed her mom's footsteps as a nurse; are both with us today, as is her beloved best friend, John Hennessy. With many others, I will miss Dottie, and I'm grateful for her friendship and her legacy, which lives on in every life she touched. On behalf of this Chamber, I offer our deepest condolences to her family and all who grieve her passing. Let us remember Dottie Melanson not only for her accomplishments, but for the way she lived: with courage, kindness and the unwavering belief in the dignity of every person. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Report of the Chair-Pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2

Representative KUHN from the Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act to Combat Organized Criminal Enterprises in Maine" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1259) (L.D. 1888)

Reports a recommendation for a **CHANGE OF COMMITTEE**.

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

Subsequently, on motion of Representative KUHN of Falmouth, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** and sent for concurrence.

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Provide Educational Opportunities for Students in Secondary Schools with 200 or Fewer Students" (S.P. 230) (L.D. 512)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
LIBBY of Cumberland
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" (S-37)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham
HAGGAN of Hampden
LYMAN of Livermore Falls

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

READ.

Representative MURPHY of Scarborough 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 Hampden, Representative Haggan.

Representative **HAGGAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in opposition to this motion.

It is a common-sense measure that prioritizes the educational needs of our students, particularly those in rural and smaller communities. While our small secondary schools provide invaluable benefits and a strong sense of community, they may not always have the breadth of academic programs, extracurricular activities or specialized courses that some students need or desire to pursue their passions or prepare for their futures. Ultimately, this bill is about empowering families and giving students the opportunity to find the best educational fit for their individual needs. It recognizes that a one-size-fits-all approach to education doesn't always work, especially in a state as diverse as Maine. Allowing students in a smaller secondary school to access a wider range of educational opportunities can help them thrive academically, socially and personally.

By supporting this bill, we are investing in the future of these students and demonstrating our commitment to providing quality education options across the State, as well as preserving the rights of our parents to choose what is best for their child. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this step forward. Thank you.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wholeheartedly support school choice. This isn't a

perfect bill. My biggest problem with this bill is that it only flows one way from the small schools to the big schools and not from the big schools, back. So, I'm really torn about where to go with this. I think this could lead to problems in small areas with their students moving out and going to the bigger areas, but they don't have the opportunity to flow back. And as a supporter of school choice, that really troubles me that we wouldn't be able to go both directions. And so, I'm really torn on this. Do you take some school choice over getting none? And I don't think this bill will probably pass today anyway, but when we have to vote, we have to choose yes or no, and sometimes those decisions aren't easy. So, I think there's a lot of concern for people that live in areas that have smaller school districts, that are supporters of school choice, because there's a problem there when the students can only flow one direction and not back into it. And that could create really challenging issues, funding issues, for small districts. So, I think it's unfortunate that we have to make that choice today.

At the end of the day, I think I'm going to say that; because of my deeply held belief that students should have a choice and that educational opportunities shouldn't be restricted by your ZIP Code; that today, I'm going to say yes for school choice, but understand that there's also another side of this; the funding issue. So, that's just the explanation for my vote today, and just wanted to explain that I think there are people that are going to be on both sides of this issue, people that support school choice but vote against this, because it's not a fair way to do it. So, I'll be voting yes on the motion today, 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. 115

YEA - Abdi, Albert, Ankeles, Arata, Archer, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Beck, Bell, Bishop, Boyer D, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Carlow, Caruso, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, Daigle, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Eaton, Eder, Faircloth, Farrin, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Gifford, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Henderson, Javner, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lemelin, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Nutting, O'Halloran, Osher, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pugh, Quint, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Rudnicki, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Simmons, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Strout, Supica, Swallow, Terry, Tuell, Wadsworth, Warren, Webb, White J, White R, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Bagshaw, Campbell, Chapman, Cimino, Collins, Cray, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Flynn, Fredette, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Hymes, Lance, Lavigne, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Olsen, Pomerleau, Schmersal-Burgess, Smith, Thorne, Underwood, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Blier, Cooper, Doudera, Hall, Hepler, Jackson, Julia, Lanigan, Morris, Pluecker, Soboleski, Walker.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 106; No, 32; Absent, 12; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

106 having voted in the affirmative and 32 voted in the negative, with 12 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Allow the Spouse of a School Board Member to Serve as a Stipend Employee Within the School Board's Jurisdiction" (S.P. 232) (L.D. 513)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

MURPHY of Scarborough
BRENNAN of Portland
CARLOW of Buxton
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** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representative:

BAGSHAW of Windham

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-34)** on Bill "An Act to Continue Support for the Maine Multicultural Center" (S.P. 341) (L.D. 783)

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

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-34)**.

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 from Livermore Falls, Representative Lyman.

Representative **LYMAN**: Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, I rise today to express my strong opposition to the pending motion.

While I understand the motivation to provide assistance to those in need, I believe the particular allocation is fiscally irresponsible, especially at a time when our State faces significant financial constraints and funds are reportedly unavailable for many pressing needs. Committing \$190,000 of taxpayer money annually for this specific purpose represents a substantial ongoing expense that we must carefully consider in the context of our overall budget. Furthermore, I am deeply concerned about the prioritization of these funds. We have a responsibility to our veterans, our seniors and countless other Mainers who have made lifelong contributions to our State and are facing their own challenges. Many of these individuals are struggling with rising costs, limited access to services and the need for support after dedicating their lives to building our communities.

While the Maine Multicultural Center may do valuable work, allocating this specific amount of public funds towards supporting refugees, asylum seekers and migrants while potentially neglecting the urgent needs of our long-term residents sends the wrong message. It is crucial that we prioritize the well-being of those who have built and sustained Maine for generations. In a time when we are forced to be fiscally frugal, every dollar counts. We must ensure that our limited resources are directed towards the most critical needs of our existing population. I believe this allocation represents a misdirection of funds. I urge my colleagues to vote no on the pending motion. Let us focus our limited resources on those who have earned our support through their years of contributions to Maine. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **MURPHY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a workforce bill. The work that the Maine Multicultural Center does really makes a huge difference for the immigrant community that are here legally; they are refugees, asylum seekers and migrant workers, primarily run by a group of volunteers, and the volunteers are asking for some paid office support to help them in their endeavors. They're currently working with 211 individuals; including 41 families; and of those individuals, 80% of everyone of working age; age 24 to 65; is working right now in a number of local businesses; up to 35; providing invaluable workforce for those businesses and including one family has already even started their own business.

So, these volunteers are doing incredible work helping these families assimilate and become part of their community which they intend to stay in. In all the years that the Maine Multicultural Center has been in existence, in all that time, only two members that have been supported have left the State of Maine. So, if every kid in Maine right now, living in Maine, stayed

and never left, we still would not have the workforce we need to replace all the retirees. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **FAIRCLOTH**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I'd like to remember a leader in the Bangor area who has since passed away, former Maine Adjutant General Nelson Durgin, who also served as mayor or chair of the City Council of Bangor. He was a strong advocate for the existence of the Maine Multicultural Center. Back in those days, I just think fondly about how the Bangor City Council is nonpartisan, but I knew that General Durgin was a Republican, and he knew I was a Democrat, and we talked about these ideas and the Maine Multicultural Center's focus was jobs, was economic development for this region.

And just to note that in the last 13 years, at best, Penobscot County has grown by one percent if we stretch the numbers. We face economic challenges in this region, and this is about economic development; it's about jobs. Immigrants are about 30% more likely than native-born Americans to start businesses. These people contribute to our community for economic development. There is one young family that includes a refugee who's not of working age. This young student didn't know English; period, flat-out; learned it rather incredibly fluently, and is getting all A's at Bangor High School and I think will be one of the future leaders in this State. This is what America is about. And, you know, one of the businesses that was started, I will mention, is a Middle Eastern food restaurant, and I recommend it, it's fantastic. It's fantastic for our community, it's fantastic for economic development. When this facility was first created, General Electric, a leading business, said we want this, we want this for jobs and economic development.

So, this is all plus, and it's all plus for a region that really needs economic development, jobs, and that's what it's creating and can create in the future. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would remind Members to direct their comments through the Chair. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Carmel, Representative Thorne.

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to express that I am not offended. In fact, it's refreshing for a Member on the other side of the aisle to care about what I think, to be facing and talking to me. 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. 116

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

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Haggan, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins,

Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

ABSENT - Blier, Cooper, Doudera, Hall, Hepler, Julia, Lanigan, Mastraccio, Morris, Pluecker, Soboleski, Walker.

Yes, 73; No, 65; Absent, 12; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

73 having voted in the affirmative and 65 voted in the negative, with 12 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-34)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-34)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Resolve, to Increase Transparency and Evaluate Emergency Response Through a COVID-19 Review Commission (EMERGENCY) (S.P. 171) (L.D. 389)

Signed:

Senators:

INGWERSEN of York
NANGLE of Cumberland

Representatives:

MEYER of Eliot
DEBRITO of Waterville
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth
MCCABE of Lewiston
SHAGOURY of Hallowell
ZAGER of Portland

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-40)** on same Resolve.

Signed:

Senator:

MOORE of Washington

Representatives:

DAIGLE of Fort Kent
GRIFFIN of Levant
JAVNER of Chester
LEMELIN of Chelsea

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

READ.

Representative MEYER of Eliot moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative JAVNER of Chester **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 Chester, Representative Javner.

Representative **JAVNER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. This is an after-action report for the State through our COVID-19 situation that happened, and I think it's only responsible for us to look at what we did great at and

what we could have done better at through that for the future events that may arise in our 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. 117

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

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

ABSENT - Blier, Cooper, Doudera, Hall, Hepler, Julia, Lanigan, Pluecker, Soboleski, Walker.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 74; No, 66; Absent, 10; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 66 voted in the negative, with 10 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would advise Members that if they wish to speak, push your button sooner. You pushed your button after I had said, "the Chair will open the vote." That's the reality.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Fund Medical Research and Cancer Prevention" (S.P. 355) (L.D. 792)

Signed:

Senators:

INGWERSEN of York
NANGLE of Cumberland

Representatives:

MEYER of Eliot
DAIGLE of Fort Kent
DEBRITO of Waterville
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth
JAVNER of Chester
LEMELIN of Chelsea
MCCABE of Lewiston
SHAGOURY of Hallowell
ZAGER of Portland

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-35)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

MOORE of Washington

Representative:

GRIFFIN of Levant

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-35)**.

READ.

On motion of Representative MEYER of Eliot, the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-44)** on Resolve, to Require the Department of Transportation to Implement the Recommendations of the Lower Road Rail Use Advisory Council

(S.P. 46) (L.D. 29)

Signed:

Senators:

NANGLE of Cumberland
FARRIN of Somerset
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

CRAFTS of Newcastle
ALBERT of Madawaska
ANKELES of Brunswick
EATON of Deer Isle
MASON of Lisbon
PARRY of Arundel
RAY of Lincolnville
WHITE of Guilford

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

Signed:

Representatives:

BISHOP of Bucksport
MONTELL of Gardiner

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-44)**.

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-45)** on Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Implement the Recommendations of the Portland to Auburn Rail Use Advisory Council Regarding the Rail Line from Portland to Yarmouth

(S.P. 47) (L.D. 30)

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
PARRY of Arundel
RAY of Lincolnville
WHITE of Guilford

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

Signed:

Representatives:

ALBERT of Madawaska
MONTELL of Gardiner

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-45)**.

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Prohibit Labor Organizations from Imposing Mandatory Service Fees on Nonmembers"

(H.P. 120) (L.D. 187)

Signed:

Senators:

TIPPING of Penobscot
RAFFERTY of York

Representatives:

ROEDER of Bangor
ARCHER of Saco
BECK of South Portland
GEIGER of Rockland
MACIAS of Topsham

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-103)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

BRADSTREET of Kennebec

Representatives:

COLLINS of Sidney
DRINKWATER of Milford
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

READ.

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

Representative MORRIS of Turner **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 Turner, Representative Morris.

Representative **MORRIS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A few years ago, the Supreme Court ruled in a decision called *Janus* that public sector employees cannot be compelled to pay labor union dues if they don't wish to belong to the union. What this bill does is it deletes the Statute that compels public sector employees to pay union dues. This is simply bringing us into compliance and taking away a section of Statute that we cannot enforce anyway, and I would encourage this Body to reject the pending motion and let's pass the Minority Report. Thank you.

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

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. "LD 187 is yet another annual attempt to make Maine into a so-called 'Right to Work' state. The title and the official name of this legislation are distractions from the legislation's real purpose. The legislation does not guarantee anyone a job or assure someone currently working that they can't be fired. Rather, the proposed legislation prohibits labor and management from requiring non-union workers to pay a fair share portion of the collective bargaining process giving all workers adequate pay, benefits and working conditions. This legislation is proposed as promoting workers' freedom. In reality, the only freedom is placed in the hands of those who weaken efforts for just and safe workplaces. Federal law requires labor unions to represent all workers in a bargaining unit, whether or not they belong to the union. Because the union contract benefits all these workers, non-union workers can be required to pay a fair share only for union activities regarding collective bargaining and not any non-related bargaining activities." Those are not my words, Sir; those are the words of Father Michael Seavey on behalf of the Portland Archdiocese. He goes on to say, "paying one's fair share for contract benefits received is a moral responsibility," and I have to concur with him.

This is not just about union finances, it's about democracy in the workplace. It's about whether workers get a say or whether we turn every bargaining unit into a divided, underfunded mess where everyone wants the benefit, but no one wants to pay for it. I'm the daughter of union members, I'm a union member, I have seen what collective power can do. It built the middle class; it won the weekend; it put food on my table when I was growing up. A union protected my dad in the workplace before he was a union member, and I, as a union member, have stood side by side with my non-union colleagues, fighting for fair contracts for them too. I won't stand here and watch the power of working people get chipped away. I will not vote to let national special interests gut one of the last remaining protections that working people have, and I urge all of my colleagues to do the same. Thank you.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's important that we all have our own personal opinions and moral responsibility and moral obligations. I think that's why most of us are here today. But when we take jobs

like this, we swear an oath to uphold and defend the Constitution.

So, I would like to pose a question through the Chair that's important, because we should do our duty to make sure, to the best of our ability, that our laws are in line with the Constitution and that we don't write and uphold laws that are contrary to the Constitution. Mr. Speaker, do we have Statutes that are currently in effect that run contrary to the Supreme Court decision in *Janus*?

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Winter Harbor, Representative Faulkingham, has posed a question to the Chair to any Member who wishes to answer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from South Portland, Representative Beck.

Representative **BECK**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I'm happy to answer the question the Good Representative from Winter Harbor just posed.

The *Janus* Supreme Court decision explicitly only referred to public sector workers. Private sector workers in states that do not have the so-called 'Right to Work' laws are still able to negotiate contracts with their employer that include what's known as a union security clause, which will; if both the majority of the members of the union and the employer both agree; a union security clause compelling union fees or dues could still be part of that collective bargaining agreement.

Many times, you'll hear advocates of these so-called 'Right to Work' laws say that they would be good for business, and that's what they were told in West Virginia a few years ago when they passed a so-called 'Right to Work' bill. Here's what their Republican Governor, Jim Justice, had to say about what happened, and I quote, "really and truly, let's just be brutally honest," Governor Justice said, "we passed the Right to Work law in West Virginia, and we ran to the windows looking to see all the people that were going to come; and they didn't come."

Many people on both sides of the aisle in this Chamber have spoken of their admiration and respect for the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. What you may not know is that when Reverend King was assassinated in Memphis in 1968, he was in that city to support sanitation workers who were on strike, not only for higher wages, but for the very right to be represented by a union. It was in Memphis that King gave his final speech, known as the "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech. He spoke movingly about the future and his hope for equality and justice. In an earlier speech in 1961, Dr. King said the following, and I quote, "in our glorious fight for civil rights, we must guard against being fooled by false slogans such as 'right to work.' It is a law to rob us of our civil rights and job rights. Its purpose is to destroy labor unions and the freedom of collective bargaining by which unions have improved wages and working conditions of everyone. Wherever these laws have been passed, wages are lower, job opportunities are fewer and there are no civil rights. We do not intend to let them do this to us. We demand this fraud be stopped." Close quote.

I urge everyone to support the pending motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Turner, Representative Morris.

Representative **MORRIS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I also rise to answer the question from the Good Representative from Winter Harbor.

The amended version of the bill only relates to the public sector unions. Any references to the private sector would be taken out, and it would only be repealing the language that requires public sector, the public sector, to pay dues to the union. That is in line, as the Good Representative just said, with the *Janus* decision, which said that the government cannot

compel; in a public sector union; people to pay dues. The Amendment simply clarifies that you cannot force a public sector union, in line with the *Janus* decision, to pay dues. So, that is an answer to the question raised by the Representative from Winter Harbor. 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. 118

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

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

ABSENT - Blier, Cooper, Doudera, Hall, Hepler, Julia, Lanigan, Pluecker, Soboleski, Walker.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 76; No, 64; Absent, 10; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

76 having voted in the affirmative and 64 voted in the negative, with 10 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-102)** on Bill "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)

Signed:

Senators:

TIPPING of Penobscot
RAFFERTY of York

Representatives:

ROEDER of Bangor
ARCHER of Saco
BECK of South Portland
MACIAS of Topsham

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

Signed:
Senator:

BRADSTREET of Kennebec

Representatives:

COLLINS of Sidney
DRINKWATER of Milford
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (H-102)** 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-102)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-100)** on Bill "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)

Signed:

Senators:

TIPPING of Penobscot
RAFFERTY of York

Representatives:

ROEDER of Bangor
BECK of South Portland
DRINKWATER of Milford
GEIGER of Rockland
MACIAS of Topsham
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

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

Signed:

Signed:

BRADSTREET of Kennebec

Representative:

COLLINS of Sidney

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (H-100)** 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-100)** and sent for concurrence.

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

The Chair laid before the House the following item which was **TABLED** earlier in today's session:

Bill "An Act to Fund MaineCare" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 1307) (L.D. 1948)

Which was **TABLED** by Representative MOONEN of Portland pending **REFERENCE**.

Subsequently, under suspension of the rules, the Bill was given its **FIRST READING WITHOUT REFERENCE** to a committee.

Representative MEYER of Eliot moved that the rules be suspended in order to give the Bill its **SECOND READING WITHOUT REFERENCE** to the Committee on **Bills in the Second Reading**.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Pittsfield, Representative Collamore.

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm sure there's a lot of confusion happening right now; I know for me there is, as well, since we were not told that anything like this was happening. But what is concerning to me is that we are usurping the tradition and rules of our Body by not allowing the public to have a chance to speak on a bill, because it will not be Referenced to its Committee. That is very concerning to me, Mr. Speaker, and I do not support this not being sent to Committee and waiving those rules. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would inquire, is the Member objecting to suspension of the rules?

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Yes, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: For the purpose of giving the bill its second reading?

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of it; I didn't have a chance to hit my button before the first hammer went down. It's without referral to Committee that I am objecting to.

Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield **OBJECTED** to suspending the rules in order to give the Bill its **SECOND READING WITHOUT REFERENCE** to the Committee on **Bills in the Second Reading**.

The SPEAKER: The pending question is suspension of Joint Rule 308: "All bills and resolves must be referred to committee, except that this provision may be suspended by a majority vote in each Chamber."

The Chair recognizes the Representative from Pittsfield, Representative Collamore.

Representative **COLLAMORE**: I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker, I don't know what you've asked me.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would inquire whether the Member is going to request a Roll Call.

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Oh, yes --

Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor **REQUESTED** a division on the motion to suspend the rules in order to give the Bill its **SECOND READING WITHOUT REFERENCE** to the Committee on **Bills in the Second Reading**.

The Chair ordered a division on suspension of the rules.

A vote of the House was taken. 69 voted in favor of the same and 63 against, and accordingly the rules were suspended and the Bill was given its **SECOND READING WITHOUT REFERENCE** to the Committee on **Bills in the Second Reading**.

Representative **FREDETTE**: Point of Order.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Newport, Representative Fredette, and inquires to his Point of Order.

Representative **FREDETTE**: Good afternoon. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I suspect that there's a bit of confusion on our side

here, as we typically would see these petitions, bills and resolves being referred to Committee would be the normal practice.

My understanding is; and the Chair can confirm this; is that essentially, we are not sending this bill to Committee, and my understanding is that the purpose of the bill is, is to essentially pay the hospitals early by making this an emergency bill and running it through the Body. And my suspicion is, is that some of our folks, at least on this side of the aisle, are probably not necessarily understanding that, and so, if the Chair could just confirm that the results of the action taken are to have the bill move between the Chambers without a hearing. Is that correct, Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would answer in the affirmative. This bill was introduced in Legislative Council as an after-deadline bill. I think the rationale, at least on my part as a member of Legislative Council who have voted in the affirmative for this bill's introduction, was that it would not proceed to Committee and take up Committee resources and time and nonpartisan staff time, because the underpinnings of the bill have already been debated and heard within both the House and Senate Chambers and within Committee. And so, the rationale was, if this bill is going to be introduced, it should just have an up-and-down vote, because it's already been; the policy matter at hand has already been debated within both Chambers.

Representative **FREDETTE**: Point of Order.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **FREDETTE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And in making the point that the Speaker just made to the Body, this is, in fact, something that has gone through both Bodies in two separate bills, once as a supplemental budget and then once as an 11.3 two-year budget that the majority party passed without any support. And so, I guess I'm not understanding the purpose of the bill in terms of it not having been; from the Chair's perspective, it's already been passed and voted on twice, but now, my understanding from what the Chair just said is we now want a third vote on it again without a hearing.

The SPEAKER: The Chair has no opinion on that particular question. I think the Member who introduced the bill may be able to provide explanation during the course of the debate, should he wish.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Mr. Speaker, I'd like some clarity on the last vote. It was on the board as suspension of the Rules, 308. Is that correct?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would answer in the affirmative.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Mr. Speaker, it's my understanding that suspension of the rules requires a two-thirds vote.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would answer in the affirmative on most rules, except on Joint Rule 308. It is explicit that suspension of that rule is by majority vote.

The Chair recognizes the Representative from Newport, Representative Fredette.

Representative **FREDETTE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Based upon the representation of the Speaker, in fact, that this is sort of an issue that has been dealt with twice extensively in Committee and in this Body, I move to have this bill be Indefinitely Postponed and all its accompanying papers be Indefinitely Postponed, and I request a Roll Call.

Representative **FREDETTE** of Newport moved that the Bill and all accompanying papers be **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on his motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** the Bill and all accompanying papers.

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

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

Representative **BOYER**: Point of Parliamentary Inquiry.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Under "Rule 308: Reference of Bills to Committee," it says, "all bills and resolves must be referred to committee, except that this provision may be suspended by a majority vote in each Chamber." My understanding is we just did that in this Chamber; has the Other Body done it?

The SPEAKER: This is a House Paper, so, it has not gone to the Other Body yet. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Poland, Representative Boyer.

Representative **BOYER**: It would seem based on the House Rules that we can't forego the committee process until the Other Body also votes to suspend the rules.

The SPEAKER: The House will take action, it will be sent to the Other Body with the action that the House has taken noted and, if the Other Body chooses to send it to Committee still, it will come back in non-concurrence, and the question before the House will be whether the House Recede and Concur, Insist; this is pretty much what we do every day here.

The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bridgton, Representative Cimino.

Representative **CIMINO**: Thank you. I was actually going to say what Representative Boyer just said. I would think that we would have to wait to see if they agree with the suspension of the Rule before we continued to take the next vote.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would answer in the negative. The Other Body cannot act on this question until we have sent the bill to them.

Representative **FREDETTE**: Point of Order.

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

Representative **FREDETTE**: I would just ask the Speaker; it does indicate in the title of the bill this is an emergency bill; is that correct, Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would answer in the affirmative. Would the Member like to proceed? The Member may proceed.

Representative **FREDETTE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, my understanding, Mr. Speaker, then, would be is that finally, in terms of Enactment on this, this would require a two-thirds vote in this Body in order for this to be passed. Is that correct, Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would answer in the affirmative; it would require 101.

A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Indefinite Postponement of the Bill and all accompanying papers. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 119

YEA - Adams, Albert, Ardell, Bagshaw, Bishop, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Chapman, Cimino, Collins, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hymes, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons,

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

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

ABSENT - Blier, Cooper, Doudera, Hall, Hepler, Julia, Lanigan, Pluecker, Soboleski, Walker.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 55; No, 85; Absent, 10; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

55 having voted in the affirmative and 85 voted in the negative, with 10 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** the Bill and all accompanying papers **FAILED**.

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

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(S.P. 138) (L.D. 379) Bill "An Act Regarding Confidential Information Gathered for Forest Fire Emergency Response and Planning" Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(S.P. 48) (L.D. 31) Bill "An Act Regarding School Enrollment for Military-connected Students" Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-36)**

(S.P. 310) (L.D. 693) Bill "An Act to Support the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Corporations, Elections and Commissions" Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-39)**

(S.P. 360) (L.D. 795) Bill "An Act to Exempt Pegmatite Mining from the Maine Metallic Mineral Mining Act and Establish a Permit-by-rule Process" Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-38)**

(S.P. 498) (L.D. 1209) Resolve, to Create a Working Group to Study the Safety and Use of Small Lightweight Vehicles on Maine's Roads and Highways, the Systems and Laws Governing Antique Vehicles and the General Improvement of Road Safety Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-41)**

(S.P. 527) (L.D. 1297) Resolve, to Establish the Committee to Study the Use of Sunflower Crops to Produce Biofuels Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-42)**

(S.P. 545) (L.D. 1315) Bill "An Act to Authorize the Display of an Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal Decal on a Special Veterans Commemorative License Plate" Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-43)**

(H.P. 22) (L.D. 58) Bill "An Act to Establish Certain Positions Within the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services" Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 1223) (L.D. 1828) Bill "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right to Know Advisory Committee Concerning Public Records Exceptions" Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 21) (L.D. 57) Bill "An Act to Enable Maine National Guard Commanders to More Efficiently Effect Disciplinary Measures Through the Maine Code of Military Justice" Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-108)**

(H.P. 76) (L.D. 111) Bill "An Act to Increase the State's Share of Retired Teacher Health Insurance" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **LABOR** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-104)**

(H.P. 170) (L.D. 267) Bill "An Act Regarding the Remote Appearance of Counsel in Pretrial Nontestimonial Criminal Matters" Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-107)**

(H.P. 364) (L.D. 545) Bill "An Act to Exempt a Person Making Electrical Installations in the Person's Existing Bona Fide Personal Abode from Licensing and Permitting Requirements" Committee on **LABOR** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-101)**

(H.P. 516) (L.D. 809) Bill "An Act to Allow a Motion to Extend a Protection from Abuse Order After Expiration of the Original Order" Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-106)**

(H.P. 528) (L.D. 821) Bill "An Act to Make Allocations from Maine Turnpike Authority Funds for the Maine Turnpike Authority for the Calendar Year Ending December 31, 2026" Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-105)**

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

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

ENACTORS

Emergency Measure

An Act to Fund Rural Patrol Services in Washington County

(S.P. 194) (L.D. 461)

(C. "A" S-32)

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. 103 voted in favor of the same and 36 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Rural Counties by Providing State Police Patrol and Policing Services

(H.P. 306) (L.D. 477)
(C. "A" H-80)

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. 109 voted in favor of the same and 21 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

An Act to Increase Community Support for Families in Maine

(H.P. 690) (L.D. 1061)
(C. "A" H-78)

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. 117 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.

Acts

An Act to Provide Limited Immunity to Maine Human Rights Commission Mediators

(S.P. 77) (L.D. 141)

An Act to Enhance Protections Regarding Invasive Aquatic Plant and Animal Infestations in Inland Waters of the State

(H.P. 104) (L.D. 171)
(C. "A" H-79)

An Act Regarding Information That May Be Shared by Law Enforcement Entities with a School Superintendent or a Principal

(S.P. 167) (L.D. 386)
(C. "A" S-33)

An Act to Provide Funding to Area Agencies on Aging for Community-based Services and Programs to Support Older Adults

(H.P. 521) (L.D. 814)
(C. "A" H-77)

An Act to Ensure Rent-to-own Protections Apply to Mobile Home Park Tenants

(H.P. 788) (L.D. 1183)

An Act to Clarify the Maximum Value That a Small Estate May Be Under the Maine Uniform Probate Code to Permit Collection of Personal Property by Affidavit

(S.P. 629) (L.D. 1545)

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, to Rename the Twin Rivers Fire Academy in Fairfield the Duane Bickford Fire Training Facility

(S.P. 45) (L.D. 28)
(C. "A" S-31)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed, **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 157)

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

May 5, 2025

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

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Private & Special Laws, First Regular Session of the 119th, Chapter 58, S.P. 760 – L.D. 2136, I am pleased to appoint the Representative William Bridgeo of Augusta to the *Government Board of the Capitol Area Riverfront District*, effective immediately.

Representative Bridgeo will serve on this board as a State Representative who represents the City of Augusta.

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

Sincerely,

S/Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 158)

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

May 7, 2025

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

Dear Speaker Fecteau:

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

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

L.D. 268 An Act to Restore Sentencing Discretion to the Judiciary by Removing Mandatory Minimum Sentences of Incarceration

L.D. 822 An Act to End the Collection of Certain Probation Fees

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

ORDERS

On motion of Representative HYMES of Waldo, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 1308)

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAY 4, 2025 TO MAY 10, 2025 AS MAINE HOMESCHOOL EDUCATION WEEK

WHEREAS, the Maine State Legislature is committed to fostering educational excellence, innovation and opportunity for all students and recognizes the vital role of families in the education and development of their children; and

WHEREAS, homeschooling offers families the freedom to customize educational experiences to meet the unique needs, talents and aspirations of each child, cultivating creativity, critical thinking and a lifelong love of learning; and

WHEREAS, over the past several years, Maine has witnessed significant growth in homeschooling, with families across the State embracing this educational model as a means to provide stability, flexibility and individualized instruction, particularly during and following the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the number of students educated at home in Maine has grown substantially, reflecting the dedication of parents, guardians and caregivers who have answered the call to guide their children's academic and personal growth; and

WHEREAS, homeschooling families contribute richly to the educational landscape of Maine, fostering diversity, strengthening community ties and instilling the values of civic responsibility, service and perseverance; and

WHEREAS, homeschooled students across Maine have distinguished themselves through academic achievement, leadership, community service and artistic endeavors, embodying the spirit of excellence that Maine holds dear; and

WHEREAS, the tradition of home education in Maine reflects the deeply held principles of family engagement, parental choice and educational freedom that are cornerstones of a strong and vibrant democratic republic; 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, declare the week of May 4, 2025 to May 10, 2025 as Maine Home Education Week and recognize the importance of homeschooling in Maine; and be it further

RESOLVED: That we acknowledge, celebrate and honor the thousands of homeschooling families for their unwavering commitment to their children's education and futures and recognize and commend the vital contributions they make to the strength, diversity and prosperity of the people of the State.

READ.

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

Representative HYMES: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be brief, because I know I'm standing between everybody in here and Committees and lunch. I just wanted to rise today to thank all of the home-schoolers across the State of Maine that choose to educate their kids at home.

I have five children that I educate at my home, and every day is an experience and a challenge, to say the least. Just a quick story; last night at 8:30 at night, my daughter came to me and she was trying to figure out how to find the volume of a cone. So, I had to remember how to do that last night. It is a hard task, but it is well worth the experience to pour into my kids every single day and to relearn things that I haven't touched in 25 years like algebra and chemistry. So, I highly encourage anybody who is skeptical of home-schooling or would like any information on home-schooling, please reach out to those that

are in the home-schooling community, that are in the trenches, trying to educate their kids in the best way that they deem possible. Thank you.

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

On motion of Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston, the following House Order: (H.O. 27)

ORDERED, that Representative Amanda N. Collamore of Pittsfield be excused Apr 30 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Mark C. Cooper of Windham be excused Apr 30 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative W. Edward Crockett of Portland be excused Apr 24 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Nathan J. Wadsworth of Hiram be excused Apr 23 and 24 for personal reasons.

READ and PASSED.

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

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 759)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, May 13, 2025, at 10:00 in the morning, or until the call of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, respectively.

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

READ and PASSED in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Ensure Public Access to Conservation Land by Providing Protections from Liability to Landowners"

(S.P. 761) (L.D. 1953)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Authorize the Inclusion of Additional Counties in the Lincoln and Sagadahoc Multicounty Jail Authority"

(S.P. 757) (L.D. 1950)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Provide Greater Equity in and Reduce Costs Related to the State's Net Energy Billing Program" (S.P. 754) (L.D. 1936)

Bill "An Act Regarding Energy Fairness" (S.P. 756) (L.D. 1949)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Increase Child Care Affordability and Early Childhood Educator Stability" (S.P. 763) (L.D. 1955)

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

REFERRED to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Require Hospitals and Hospital-affiliated Providers to Provide Financial Assistance Programs for Medical Care" (S.P. 755) (L.D. 1937)

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

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

REFERRED to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Law Governing the Competitive Skills Scholarship Program and Establish the Community Workforce Connections Program" (S.P. 764) (L.D. 1956)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Promote Food Processing and Manufacturing Facility Expansion and Create Jobs" (S.P. 758) (L.D. 1951)

Bill "An Act to Lower Household Costs by Expanding the Sales Tax Exemption for Certain Grocery Staples Sold in Grocery Stores" (S.P. 762) (L.D. 1954)

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

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

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

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Allow Matinicus Isle Plantation to Issue a Revenue Bond for Urgently Needed Repairs to the Plantation's Electric Power Generating Facility" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 1274) (L.D. 1913)

REFERRED to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** in the House on May 6, 2025.

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

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

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

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

Representative **ZAGER**: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. I know that it's late, so, I won't take long, but I do want to acknowledge; say a moment about today being the 80th anniversary of the official surrender at Reims, France, of the forces of Nazi Germany against the U.S. and Allied Forces. There were several surrenders that occurred during that week, this week is the 80th anniversary of all of them, of course.

There's a photograph in this current edition of the VFW magazine of Army Major General H.F. Krammer, commander of the 66th U.S. Infantry Division, accepting the surrender of German Lieutenant General Wilhelm Fahrbacher, commander of the German troops, at Cordau, France. They, of course, are wearing different uniforms. General Krammer, the American, standing for the 16 million Americans that served in World War II; this is one out of eight Americans serving in World War II, that would be roughly 41 million Americans today. The average length of service was 33 months being away from home. Of course, many of them did not return home; 671,000, though, were wounded and 407,000 were killed or died of other causes in the course of the War.

This is a colossal event in not only U.S. history, but world history. And, of course, as I said, they're not wearing the same uniform, but it's what was going on here was more than a difference of wearing what jersey the teams were wearing. They of course represented very, very different ideologies, these two generals. General Krammer, the American, was representing the rule of war and he and all of the U.S. service members then and now took an oath to support and defend the Constitution, and General Fahrbacher took an oath to support a leader and defend fascism. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

On motion of Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, the House adjourned at 12:59 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 13, 2025, or until the call of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, respectively, pursuant to the Joint Order (S.P. 759) and in honor and lasting tribute to the Honorable Jerome Plante of Old Orchard Beach and Dorothy "Dottie" Melanson of Falmouth.