

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
8th Legislative Day
Thursday, April 17, 2025

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

Prayer by Pastor Nic Benner, Granite Hill Church, Hallowell.

National Anthem by Gray-New Gloucester High School Band, Gray.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Medical Provider of the Day, Bryan Olson, DO, Scarborough.

The Journal of Tuesday, April 15, 2025 was read and approved.

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

SENATE PAPERS

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Ensure Uniformity in the Regulation of Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances in Pesticides" (H.P. 1015) (L.D. 1557)

REFERRED to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** in the House on April 10, 2025.

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

The House voted to **INSIST**.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 135)

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

April 15, 2025

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Resolve Chapter 102, I am pleased to appoint the following to the *Commission to Update Maine's Public Policy on Higher Education*, effective immediately.

These three members of the House of Representatives serve on the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. Two members of the party holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature and one member of the party holding the second largest number of seats in the Legislature:

Honorable Holly Sargent of York, reappointment, as House Chair

Honorable Christina Mitchell of Cumberland

Honorable Sheila Lyman of Livermore Falls

Should you have any questions regarding these appointments, 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. 136)

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

April 17, 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:"

Environment and Natural Resources

L.D. 1037 An Act to Lower the Energy Burden of Residents by Advancing Climate Change Goals

L.D. 1083 Resolve, to Require the Department of Environmental Protection to Assess Existing Water Retention Structures and Water Levels

Health and Human Services

L.D. 591 Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Study MaineCare Estate Recovery (EMERGENCY)

L.D. 759 An Act to Increase Patient Safety in Long-term Care Facilities

L.D. 904 An Act to Exempt from Fees Certain Services Performed by the Health and Environmental Testing Laboratory for Criminal Investigations

L.D. 1006 An Act to Allow Testing of Pregnant Persons for Drugs Directly Before and After Childbirth

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

L.D. 1053 An Act to Ensure That Rebates from Prescription Drug Manufacturers Are Passed on to Patients at Pharmacies

L.D. 1058 An Act to Prevent Dental Insurance Companies from Denying Coverage When Other Insurance Is Involved

L.D. 1110 An Act to Require Remittance Fees for Money Transmissions

L.D. 1180 An Act to Prohibit Persons from Providing Incentives to Customers for Opting Out of Paper Billing

Housing and Economic Development

L.D. 1075 An Act to Require Annual Reporting Regarding the Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program

Judiciary

L.D. 1132 An Act to Further Protect Low-impact Landscaping

L.D. 1335 An Act to Prohibit Life Sentences

Transportation

L.D. 164 An Act to Exempt Authorized Emergency Vehicles from Tolls When Operating in an Official Capacity

L.D. 290 An Act to Remit 15 Percent of the Fine for a Violation of the Motor Vehicle Laws to the Municipality in Which the Violation Occurred

L.D. 1039 An Act Regarding Municipal Authority over Heavy Vehicle Operation (EMERGENCY)

L.D. 1156 An Act to Allow Military Surplus Vehicles to Be Collected and Used in Patriotic Exhibitions and Parades

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

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 137)

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

April 17, 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 Appropriations and Financial Affairs has approved the request by the sponsor, Senator Farrin of Somerset, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

L.D. 367 An Act to Authorize General Fund Bond Issues to Improve Highways, Bridges and Nonhighway Modes of Transportation

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs has approved the request by the sponsor, Representative Golek of Harpswell, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

L.D. 1482 An Act to Require Education Regarding Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Questioning and Other Allied Communities

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the Committee on Labor has approved the request by the sponsor, Senator Tipping of Penobscot, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

L.D. 1492 An Act to Fairly Compensate Teachers for Overtime Hours

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

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

The Following Communication: (S.P. 654)

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

April 11, 2025

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

Dear Madam President and Mr. Speaker:

On April 11, 2025, 11 bills were received by the Secretary of the Senate.

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, these bills were referred to the Joint Standing Committees on April 11, 2025, as follows:

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

Bill "An Act to Support Farmers and Food Banks Affected by Federal Funding Cuts to Their Existing Contracts" (S.P. 642) (L.D. 1605) (Sponsored by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative GUERRETTE of Caribou and Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, BLACK of Franklin, HICKMAN of Kennebec, TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, Representatives: PLUECKER of Warren, JACKSON of Oxford, DILL of Old Town) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.)

Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Resolve, to Study Changing the Start of the State Fiscal Year to October 1st (S.P. 644) (L.D. 1636) (Sponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford) (Cosponsored by Senator: ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, Representatives: GATTINE of Westbrook, ARATA of New Gloucester, SAYRE of Kennebunk)

Education and Cultural Affairs

Bill "An Act to Codify Minimum Instructional Hours in the State's Schools" (S.P. 647) (L.D. 1639) (Sponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock)

Housing and Economic Development

Bill "An Act to Reform the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority" (S.P. 645) (L.D. 1637) (Sponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative ANKELES of Brunswick and Senator: TEPLER of Sagadahoc, Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, GOLEK of Harpswell) Bill "An Act to Protect Maine Consumers by Simplifying Subscription Cancellations" (S.P. 650) (L.D. 1642) (Sponsored by Senator NANGLE of Cumberland)

Bill "An Act to Establish the Maine Life Science Innovation Center" (S.P. 651) (L.D. 1643) (Sponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative ZAGER of Portland and Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, MOORE of Washington, RENY of Lincoln, Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, STOVER of Boothbay, GERE of Kennebunkport, DUCHARME of Madison, SAYRE of Kennebunk)

Judiciary

Bill "An Act to Improve Legislative Access to Public Information" (S.P. 653) (L.D. 1645) (Sponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Representative SAYRE of Kennebunk and Representative: FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor)

Labor

Bill "An Act Regarding Disability Retirement Benefits Under the Maine Public Employees Retirement System" (S.P. 646) (L.D. 1638) (Sponsored by Senator DUSON of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative GEIGER of Rockland and Senators: HICKMAN of Kennebec, BRADSTREET of Kennebec, INGWERSEN of York, Representatives: FOLEY of Wells, ROEDER of Bangor, BRIDGEO of Augusta, COLLINS of Sidney)

Taxation

Bill "An Act to Allow Municipalities to Implement a Local Option Sales Tax" (S.P. 649) (L.D. 1641) (Sponsored by Senator NANGLE of Cumberland)

Transportation

Bill "An Act to Require Train Axle Bearing Sensors to Be Installed on Passenger Rail Lines" (S.P. 652) (L.D. 1644) (Sponsored by Senator RAFFERTY of York) (Cosponsored by Representative CROCKETT of Portland and Senator: INGWERSEN of York, Representatives: DODGE of Belfast, SAYRE of Kennebunk, MITCHELL of Cumberland)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission and to Reestablish the Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission" (EMERGENCY) (S.P. 648) (L.D. 1640) (Sponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec) (Cosponsored by Representative BABIN of Fort Fairfield and Senators: FARRIN of Somerset, STEWART of Aroostook, GROHOSKI of Hancock, BERNARD of Aroostook, Representatives: FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, RIELLY of Westbrook, SUPICA of Bangor, FREDETTE of Newport)

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

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

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

The Following Communication: (S.C. 263)

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

April 15, 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 Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services:

- Gigi Guyton-Thompson of Peaks Island for reappointment, to the Maine Retirement Savings Board,
- Deborah Neuman of Hampden for reappointment, to the Maine Retirement Savings Board,
- Daniel Piltch of Freeport for reappointment, to the Maine Retirement Savings Board.

Best Regards,
S/Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

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

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Mr. Speaker, once again, I'm standing here asking: we are now in week four of our special session, and with all the proximity to the Chief Executive office we have in this, then can someone please tell me when we will begin to address the emergency in this emergency session and what that emergency is? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE

Bill "An Act to Increase Penalties to Deter Violations of the Laws Regarding Improper Pesticide Use"

(H.P. 1132) (L.D. 1697)

Sponsored by Representative DOUDERA of Camden.
Cosponsored by Representatives: GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, HEPLER of Woolwich, PLUECKER of Warren.

Resolve, Authorizing the Baxter State Park Authority to Convey Certain Land in Cumberland County

(H.P. 1151) (L.D. 1724)

Sponsored by Representative GOLEK of Harpswell.
Cosponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Resolve, to Establish a Pilot Project to Facilitate the Inclusion of Economic Impact Statements in the Legislative Process (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1108) (L.D. 1673)

Sponsored by Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick.
Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, DUCHARME of Madison, SALISBURY of Westbrook, Senator: GUERIN of Penobscot.

Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** suggested.

On motion of Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, the Resolve was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Establish Disclosure Requirements Regarding Law Enforcement Officer Credibility Information"

(H.P. 1106) (L.D. 1671)

Sponsored by Representative LEE of Auburn.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BABIN of Fort Fairfield, BISHOP of Bucksport, BUNKER of Farmington, HASENFUS of Readfield, HENDERSON of Rumford, LAJOIE of Lewiston, O'HALLORAN of Brewer, SALISBURY of Westbrook.

Resolve, to Study Ways to Improve Recruitment and Retention of Rural Emergency Medical Services Personnel Through Access to Health Insurance

(H.P. 1111) (L.D. 1676)

Sponsored by Representative EATON of Deer Isle.
Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and Representatives: BISHOP of Bucksport, CROCKETT of Portland, GOLEK of Harpswell, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, RAY of Lincolnville, WEBB of Durham, Senators: GROHOSKI of Hancock, TEPLER of Sagadahoc.

Bill "An Act to Exclude from Eligibility for a Community Confinement Monitoring Program a Person Serving a Sentence for Certain Domestic Violence Crimes"

(H.P. 1119) (L.D. 1684)

Sponsored by Representative DOUDERA of Camden.

Bill "An Act to Establish a Sustainable Housing Development Prison Work Program"

(H.P. 1128) (L.D. 1693)

Sponsored by Representative MACIAS of Topsham.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BUNKER of Farmington, DEBRITO of Waterville, HASENFUS of Readfield, LOOKNER of Portland, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, RAY of Lincolnville.

Bill "An Act to Provide Law Enforcement Agencies with an Anti-sex-trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation Protocol"

(H.P. 1130) (L.D. 1695)

Sponsored by Representative ARATA of New Gloucester.
Cosponsored by Senator BEEBE-CENTER of Knox and Representatives: COPELAND of Saco, DODGE of Belfast, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, LOOKNER of Portland, NUTTING of Oakland, SARGENT of York, SUPICA of Bangor, ZAGER of Portland.

Bill "An Act Regarding the Authority to Transport Prisoners Confined in Jail and the Use of Physical Force with Respect to Prisoners and Persons Who Have Been Arrested"

(H.P. 1145) (L.D. 1710)

Sponsored by Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook.
Cosponsored by Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, HASENFUS of Readfield, LOOKNER of Portland, TERRY of Gorham.

Bill "An Act Regarding the Membership of and Requirements for County Jail Boards of Visitors"

(H.P. 1152) (L.D. 1725)

Sponsored by Representative NUTTING of Oakland.
Cosponsored by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec and Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, DUCHARME of Madison.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission to Study Expansion of Public Preschool and Early Care and Education"

(H.P. 1124) (L.D. 1689)

Sponsored by Representative HASENFUS of Readfield.
Cosponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland and Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, CROCKETT of Portland, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, MURPHY of Scarborough, Senators: President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, LIBBY of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act to Expand Access to Justice in Rural Maine by Incentivizing Attorneys to Practice in Underserved Areas"

(H.P. 1126) (L.D. 1691)

Sponsored by Representative KUHN of Falmouth.
Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland and Representatives: DUCHARME of Madison, HENDERSON of Rumford, LEE of Auburn, MURPHY of Scarborough, POIRIER of Skowhegan, SATO of Gorham, SINCLAIR of Bath.

Bill "An Act to Support the Implementation of Learning Standards and Results in Public Schools"

(H.P. 1136) (L.D. 1701)

Sponsored by Representative BRENNAN of Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator RAFFERTY of York and Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, DODGE of Belfast, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, MITCHELL of Cumberland, MOONEN of Portland, MURPHY of Scarborough, SARGENT of York.

Bill "An Act Regarding Adult Education Funding and Oversight" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1140) (L.D. 1705)

Sponsored by Representative SARGENT of York.
Cosponsored by Senator LIBBY of Cumberland and Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, DODGE of Belfast, FARRIN of Jefferson, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, HEPLER of Woolwich, MITCHELL of Cumberland, MURPHY of Scarborough, SHAGOURY of Hallowell.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Prohibit a School Administrative Unit from Adopting a Policy That Allows a Student to Use a Restroom Designated for Use by the Opposite Sex"

(H.P. 1139) (L.D. 1704)

Sponsored by Representative SMITH of Palermo.
Cosponsored by Representatives: COLLINS of Sidney, DRINKWATER of Milford, EDER of Waterboro, PAUL of Winterport, SOBOLESKI of Phillips, Senator: BRADSTREET of Kennebec.

Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** suggested.

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

Bill "An Act to Provide Just Compensation in Cases of Taking by Eminent Domain by Transmission and Distribution Utilities"

(H.P. 1110) (L.D. 1675)

Sponsored by Representative FLYNN of Albion.
Cosponsored by Representatives: COLLINS of Sidney, FOSTER of Dexter, MCINTYRE of Lowell, MORRIS of Turner, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, SHAGOURY of Hallowell.

Bill "An Act to Clarify, Align and Amend Provisions of the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 35-A"

(H.P. 1121) (L.D. 1686)

Sponsored by Representative SACHS of Freeport.
Submitted by the Public Utilities Commission pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Bill "An Act to Create a Direct Investment Pilot Project Under the Maine Clean Energy and Sustainability Accelerator"

(H.P. 1135) (L.D. 1700)

Sponsored by Representative SACHS of Freeport.
Cosponsored by Senator LAWRENCE of York and Representatives: GEIGER of Rockland, KESSLER of South Portland, MCINTYRE of Lowell, RUNTE of York, WARREN of Scarborough, WEBB of Durham, Senator: GROHOSKI of Hancock.

Bill "An Act to Enhance the Coordination and Effectiveness of Integrated Distribution Grid Planning"

(H.P. 1153) (L.D. 1726)

Sponsored by Representative RUNTE of York.

Cosponsored by Senator LAWRENCE of York and Representatives: KESSLER of South Portland, MCINTYRE of Lowell, SACHS of Freeport, WARREN of Scarborough, WEBB of Durham, Senator: GROHOSKI of Hancock.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Resolve, to Study Maine's Absolute Dominion and Beneficial Use Laws Relating to Water Rights

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

Sponsored by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach.

Cosponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford and Representatives: CAMPBELL of Orrington, DOUDERA of Camden, FAIRCLOTH of Bangor, KESSLER of South Portland, LEE of Auburn, SAYRE of Kennebunk, SINCLAIR of Bath, Senator: GROHOSKI of Hancock.

Bill "An Act Regarding Changes of Ownership of Dams"

(H.P. 1133) (L.D. 1698)

Sponsored by Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill.

Cosponsored by Representative: BISHOP of Bucksport, Senators: GROHOSKI of Hancock, HAGGAN of Penobscot.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Commingling of Beverage Containers"

(H.P. 1148) (L.D. 1721)

Sponsored by Representative HEPLER of Woolwich.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BELL of Yarmouth, BRIDGEO of Augusta, CAMPBELL of Orrington, WOODSOME of Waterboro.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Establish the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Prevention and Support Program"

(H.P. 1112) (L.D. 1677)

Sponsored by Representative SHAGOURY of Hallowell.

Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, GRIFFIN of Levant, MCCABE of Lewiston, SARGENT of York.

Resolve, to Establish the Adverse Childhood Experiences Screening and Resiliency Assessment Pilot Project

(H.P. 1138) (L.D. 1703)

Sponsored by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach.

Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, CRAFTS of Newcastle, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, MCCABE of Lewiston, MITCHELL of Cumberland, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, STOVER of Boothbay, ZAGER of Portland.

Bill "An Act to Require a Person to Be a United States Citizen to Receive State or Local Financial Assistance and to Ensure Municipal Compliance with Federal Immigration Laws"

(H.P. 1142) (L.D. 1707)

Sponsored by Representative GREENWOOD of Wales.

Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and Representatives: DRINKWATER of Milford, DUCHARME of Madison, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, JAVNER of Chester, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, SMITH of Palermo, SOBOLESKI of Phillips, THORNE of Carmel.

Resolve, to Allow Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Benefits to Be Used to Purchase Ready-to-cook Meals

(H.P. 1146) (L.D. 1711)

Sponsored by Representative LANIGAN of Sanford.

Cosponsored by Representative: COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, Senator: HARRINGTON of York.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Require Insurers to Address Climate Risk in Their Business Activities"

(H.P. 1109) (L.D. 1674)

Sponsored by Representative WARREN of Scarborough.

Cosponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock and Representatives: BECK of South Portland, FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor, OSHER of Orono.

Bill "An Act to Clarify and Increase Access to HIV Prevention Medications"

(H.P. 1122) (L.D. 1687)

Sponsored by Representative MOONEN of Portland.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BOYER of Cape Elizabeth, CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, MATHIESON of Kittery.

Bill "An Act to Encourage Continuing Education Relating to Certain Infection-associated Chronic Conditions for Physicians and Nurses"

(H.P. 1123) (L.D. 1688)

Sponsored by Representative RANA of Bangor.

Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and Representatives: JULIA of Waterville, MATHIESON of Kittery, ROEDER of Bangor, Senators: BAILEY of York, INGWERSEN of York.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Consider Municipal Shelter Facilities and Housing Projects Essential for Public Health, Welfare and Safety by Updating the Definition of 'Public Service Infrastructure'"

(H.P. 1116) (L.D. 1681)

Sponsored by Representative LOOKNER of Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator CURRY of Waldo and Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, DOUDERA of Camden, FARRIN of Jefferson, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, GERE of Kennebunkport, JULIA of Waterville, ROLLINS of Augusta, SALISBURY of Westbrook.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Manufactured Housing Communities to Prevent Excessive Rent and Fees Increases"

(H.P. 1150) (L.D. 1723)

Sponsored by Representative GOLEK of Harpswell.
Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, GERE of Kennebunkport, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, MALON of Biddeford, MINGO of Calais, WEBB of Durham, Senator: TEPLER of Sagadahoc.

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 Ensure Transparency in Consumer Transactions Involving Artificial Intelligence"

(H.P. 1154) (L.D. 1727)

Sponsored by Representative KUHN of Falmouth.
Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland and Representatives: LEE of Auburn, POIRIER of Skowhegan, SATO of Gorham, SAYRE of Kennebunk.

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

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

Bill "An Act Regarding Antlerless Deer Permits for Certain Agricultural Landowners" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1127) (L.D. 1692)

Sponsored by Representative TUELL of East Machias.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Make a Freedom of Access Act Request Free of Charge upon Petition"

(H.P. 1118) (L.D. 1683)

Sponsored by Representative CHAPMAN of Auburn.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BOYER of Poland, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, FREDERICKS of Sanford, HENDERSON of Rumford, LIBBY of Auburn, Senators: HAGGAN of Penobscot, HICKMAN of Kennebec, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin.

Bill "An Act Regarding Notification of Appointment of Legal Representation for Indigent Clients in Custody"

(H.P. 1141) (L.D. 1706)

Sponsored by Representative WARREN of Scarborough.
Cosponsored by Senator LAWRENCE of York and Representatives: BOYER of Poland, HASENFUS of Readfield, MATHIESON of Kittery, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, MITCHELL of Cumberland, SALISBURY of Westbrook, SAYRE of Kennebunk, SKOLD of Portland.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Establish the Maine Public Employees Retirement System Home Repair and Energy Upgrade Loan Program and Fund"

(H.P. 1105) (L.D. 1670)

Sponsored by Representative KESSLER of South Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock and Representative: FOSTER of Dexter, Senator: BENNETT of Oxford.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program to Balance Support of Businesses and Employees"

(H.P. 1147) (L.D. 1712)

Sponsored by Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick.
Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, CROCKETT of Portland, HEPLER of Woolwich, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, O'HALLORAN of Brewer, STOVER of Boothbay, Senator: BRADSTREET of Kennebec.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Allocate Commercial Menhaden Fishing Licenses for Island Communities"

(H.P. 1113) (L.D. 1678)

Sponsored by Representative EATON of Deer Isle.
Cosponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock and Representatives: BISHOP of Bucksport, CROCKETT of Portland, RAY of Lincolnville, RIELLY of Westbrook.

Bill "An Act to Allocate Scallop Dragging Licenses for Island Communities"

(H.P. 1114) (L.D. 1679)

Sponsored by Representative EATON of Deer Isle.
Cosponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock and Representatives: BISHOP of Bucksport, CROCKETT of Portland, RAY of Lincolnville, RIELLY of Westbrook.

Bill "An Act to Create the Commercial Fishing Safety Fund to Further Develop Training and Provide Equipment to Recover Ships and Other Watercraft and Persons in Distress or Lost at Sea"

(H.P. 1143) (L.D. 1708)

Sponsored by Representative STROUT of Harrington.
Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: EATON of Deer Isle, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, GRIFFIN of Levant, HEPLER of Woolwich, MINGO of Calais, RIELLY of Westbrook, SIMMONS of Waldoboro, TUELL of East Machias.

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

Bill "An Act to Simplify the Regulation of Aquaculture Leases"

(H.P. 1149) (L.D. 1722)

Sponsored by Representative RIELLY of Westbrook.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Increase Fairness in the Income Tax by Adding Higher Tax Brackets and Tax Rates"

(H.P. 1117) (L.D. 1682)

Sponsored by Representative OSHER of Orono.
Cosponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot and Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, DEBRITO of Waterville, DHALAC of South Portland, EATON of Deer Isle, GOLEK of Harpswell, LOOKNER of Portland, SKOLD of Portland, Senator: TEPLER of Sagadahoc.

Bill "An Act to Provide an Income Tax Credit for Certain Disaster Mitigation Projects for Working Waterfront Property"

(H.P. 1129) (L.D. 1694)

Sponsored by Representative RIELLY of Westbrook.
Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: EATON of Deer Isle, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, GOLEK of Harpswell, MATHIESON of Kittery, MATLACK of St. George, STOVER of Boothbay, STROUT of Harrington, Senator: President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act to Create a Refundable Tax Credit for Agricultural Enterprises"

(H.P. 1134) (L.D. 1699)

Sponsored by Representative PLUECKER of Warren.
Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and Representatives: COOPER of Windham, CRAY of Palmyra, DILL of Old Town, FROST of Belgrade, GUERRETTE of Caribou, HEPLER of Woolwich, JACKSON of Oxford, Senator: BLACK of Franklin.

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Establish a Permanent Ferry Oversight Committee to Ensure Sustainable and Equitable Ferry Operations"

(H.P. 1115) (L.D. 1680)

Sponsored by Representative EATON of Deer Isle.
Cosponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock and Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, BISHOP of Bucksport, CROCKETT of Portland, FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor, GEIGER of Rockland, MATLACK of St. George, RAY of Lincolnville, Senator: TEPLER of Sagadahoc.

Bill "An Act Regarding Antique Automobiles"

(H.P. 1144) (L.D. 1709)

Sponsored by Representative GREENWOOD of Wales.
Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset and Representatives: CRAY of Palmyra, DILL of Old Town, DRINKWATER of Milford, GUERRETTE of Caribou, LANCE of Paris, MASON of Lisbon, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, SMITH of Palermo.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Allow Participation in the Adult Use Cannabis Tracking System to Be Voluntary"

(H.P. 1107) (L.D. 1672)

Sponsored by Representative BOYER of Poland.
Cosponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec and Representatives: DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, GUERRETTE of Caribou, MONTELL of Gardiner, PLUECKER of Warren, SUPICA of Bangor, Senators: GROHOSKI of Hancock, HARRINGTON of York.

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Concerning the Direct Initiative Process

(H.P. 1120) (L.D. 1685)

Sponsored by Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield.
Cosponsored by Representatives: EDER of Waterboro, LANIGAN of Sanford, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, QUINT of Hodgdon, ROBERTS of South Berwick, SOBOLESKI of Phillips, Senator: STEWART of Aroostook.

Bill "An Act Regarding Artificial Intelligence in Campaign Advertising"

(H.P. 1125) (L.D. 1690)

Sponsored by Representative KUHN of Falmouth.
Cosponsored by Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, MALON of Biddeford, POIRIER of Skowhegan, PUGH of Portland, SAYRE of Kennebunk, SUPICA of Bangor.

Bill "An Act to Amend Election Polling Place Candidate Restrictions"

(H.P. 1137) (L.D. 1702)

Sponsored by Representative COOPER of Windham.
Cosponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec and Representatives: BAGSHAW of Windham, CRAY of Palmyra, HALL of Wilton, HEPLER of Woolwich, JACKSON of Oxford, PARRY of Arundel, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, Senator: TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

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

ORDERS

On motion of Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston, the following House Order: (H.O. 24)

ORDERED, that Representative Sean Faircloth of Bangor be excused Apr 10 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Irene A. Gifford of Lincoln be excused Apr 3 and 8 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Holly T. Sargent of York be excused Mar 27, Apr 1 and 3 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Peter Conley Wood of Norway be excused Apr 10 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative David Woodsome of Waterboro be excused Apr 10 for health reasons.

READ and PASSED.

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

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

Recognizing:

Restoration Resources, of Alna, owned by the Honorable Les Fossel, a former member of the Maine House of Representatives, on the celebration of the company's 50th anniversary of restoring historic buildings. The 15 crew members of Restoration Resources have a combined 196 years of experience and offer education and consulting services throughout Maine and beyond. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 190)

Presented by Representative STOVER of Boothbay.

Cosponsored by Senator RENY of Lincoln, Representative FARRIN of Jefferson.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative STOVER of Boothbay, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

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

Recognizing:

the Lisbon High School Cheer Team, which won the Class C State Championship. This is the team's fourth straight Class C title. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 191)

Presented by Representative MASON of Lisbon.

Cosponsored by Senator TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, Representative WEBB of Durham.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative MASON of Lisbon, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Lisbon, Representative Mason.

Representative **MASON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Members of the House. I rise today to recognize the Lisbon High School Cheer Team for the remarkable achievement in winning the Class C State Championship, their fourth consecutive title and seventh overall since 2015.

At the Augusta Civic Center, these outstanding student-athletes delivered a high-energy, technically impressive performance that earned them the top score of 80.5 points, surpassing other strong programs from across the State. This victory reflects not just skill and athleticism, but also the values we cherish in Maine: resilience and teamwork. Under the leadership of Coach Nicole Adams, the Greyhounds demonstrated exceptional growth and commitment. This team's success is a shining example of what can be accomplished when young people are empowered, supported and united. On behalf of this Chamber, I offer our congratulations and gratitude to the Lisbon High School Cheer Team for representing their school with such excellence.

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

In Memory of:

Eugene "Gene" Demmons, of Gouldsboro. Mr. Demmons worked many years in construction, including the building project of Eastern Maine Medical Center in Bangor. He worked at the Dexter Shoe factory, Etna-Dixmont School, Hebron Ministerial Institute in Waverly, New York, and Concord Police Department in Concord, New Hampshire. He was part of the church leadership at Liberty Assembly of God in Concord, New Hampshire and Charleston Church Downeast in Sullivan. He was also a missionary to Botswana, Africa, where he ministered for two years with his wife, Joan, and youngest daughter, Sarah. Mr. Demmons will be long remembered and sadly missed by his family, friends and community;

(HLS 192)

Presented by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor. Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to stand for a moment and recognize a friend and mentor of mine, Gene Demmons.

Gene was part of the foundation of my church. He was a man who led by example. He was not only filled with the Holy Spirit, but he was filled with it so much that it overflowed. He was a giving man, a man I could depend on, that all the members of the church and community could depend on. He'll be sadly missed, but we all know that Gene is in a better place, and we look forward to reuniting with him someday in the future. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

In Memory of:

Keith H. Young, of Gouldsboro. Mr. Young was a longtime employee of the family of Mr. and Mrs. F. Eugene Dixon, Jr. He was a member of the Moose and Elks Lodge and for several years was actively involved with the annual Winter Harbor lobster boat races. Mr. Young will be long remembered and sadly missed by his family, friends and community;

(HLS 193)

Presented by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor. Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to stand for a moment and recognize my friend, Keith Young.

For people that have been around lobster boat racing, Keith has been a familiar face for decades. He organized the best of those races; the Winter Harbor Lobster Boat Races; for many years, setting a standard, really, for how lobster boat races should be won. The prizes throughout the years have been absolutely incredible. He's organized people to actually win full lobster boats with engines and hulls and everything included. It's been amazing. But he was more than that to me, for many years of my childhood were spent at Keith's house, as he was

stepdad to my best friend, so, he took on a role throughout my life as kind of an uncle figure. A great supporter, a great man. He'll be sadly missed, and I just wanted to stand up and take a moment and recognize him. 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**.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The following matters, in the consideration of which the House was engaged at the time of adjournment Tuesday, April 15, 2025, had preference in the Orders of the Day and continued with such preference until disposed of as provided by House Rule 502.

Expression of Legislative Sentiment Recognizing Brian Cummings, of Freeport (HLS 159)

TABLED - April 1, 2025 (Till Later Today) by Representative SACHS of Freeport.

PENDING - **PASSAGE**.

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

Expression of Legislative Sentiment in Memory of Marcia Ellen Noyes, of Portland (HLS 168)

TABLED - April 3, 2025 (Till Later Today) by Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook.

PENDING - **ADOPTION**.

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**.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Allow the Sale of Polymer-coated Cookware That Is Authorized for Food Contact by the United States Food and Drug Administration"

(S.P. 351) (L.D. 827)

Signed:

Senators:

TEPLER of Sagadahoc
BRENNER of Cumberland

Representatives:

DOUDERA of Camden
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 to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico

SOBOLESKI of Phillips

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

READ.

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

Representative MOONEN of Portland **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**: 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. 89

YEA - Albert, Ankeles, Arata, Archer, Arford, Babin, Beck, Bell, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Cooper, Copeland, Crafts, Cray, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Ducharme, Eaton, Eder, Faircloth, Farrin, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Fredericks, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Gifford, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Greenwood, Guerrette, Hasenfus, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lance, Lavigne, Lee, Lemelin, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mason, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, McIntyre, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Osher, Parry, Pluecker, Poirier, Pomerleau, Pugh, Quint, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Rudnicki, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Simmons, Sinclair, Skold, Smith, Stover, Strout, Supica, Terry, Walker, Warren, Webb, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Ardell, Bagshaw, Chapman, Cimino, Collins, Daigle, Drinkwater, Foster, Haggan, Lyman, Mingo, Perkins, Schmerral-Burgess, Soboleski, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, White J, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Abdi, Bunker, Fredette, Griffin, Hall, Lanigan, Morris, Paul.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 120; No, 22; Absent, 8; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

120 having voted in the affirmative and 22 voted in the negative, with 8 being absent and 1 restricted, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Align the Schedules for Climate Change Protection Plans and Grid-enhancing Technology Reviews with the Integrated Grid Planning Process"

(H.P. 815) (L.D. 1240)

Signed:

Senators:

LAWRENCE of York
GROHOSKI of Hancock
HARRINGTON of York

Representatives:

SACHS of Freeport
FOSTER of Dexter
GEIGER of Rockland
KESSLER of South Portland
MCINTYRE of Lowell
RUNTE of York
WADSWORTH of Hiram
WARREN of Scarborough
WEBB of Durham

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

Signed:

Representative:

PAUL of Winterport

READ.

On motion of Representative SACHS of Freeport, 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 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Promote Awareness of the Maine Parentage Act"

(H.P. 360) (L.D. 541)

Signed:

Senators:

INGWERSEN of York
MOORE of Washington
NANGLE of Cumberland

Representatives:

MEYER of Eliot
DAIGLE of Fort Kent
DEBRITO of Waterville
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth
GRIFFIN of Levant
JAVNER of Chester
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" (H-57)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representative:

LEMELIN of Chelsea

READ.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(S.P. 394) (L.D. 905) Bill "An Act to Clarify the Process to Transfer Funds Resulting from the Expiration of Unused Kilowatt-hour Credits to Be Used to Provide Assistance to Low-income Electricity Customers" Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(S.P. 484) (L.D. 1195) Bill "An Act to Amend the Provisions of the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992 Governing Requirements for Self-insurers" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(S.P. 293) (L.D. 678) Bill "An Act to Provide for the 2025 and 2026 Allocations of the State Ceiling on Private Activity Bonds" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-13)**

(H.P. 787) (L.D. 1182) Bill "An Act to Grant the Rockland Port District an Increase in Its Borrowing Capacity and Include Sustainable Aquaculture and Marine Industries in Its Charter" Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 211) (L.D. 311) Bill "An Act to Improve Efficiency of Meat and Poultry Processing Facilities by Requiring the Designation of State Inspectors as Essential" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-54)**

(H.P. 254) (L.D. 400) Resolve, Directing the Department of Public Safety, Office of the State Fire Marshal to Compile a Statewide Inventory of Aqueous Film-forming Foam Concentrate Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-53)**

(H.P. 397) (L.D. 629) Bill "An Act to Restore Matching Funding to the Maine Development Foundation" Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-56)**

(H.P. 492) (L.D. 750) Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 27: Standards for Timber Harvesting and Timber Harvesting Related Activities Within Unorganized and Deorganized Areas of the State, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry (EMERGENCY) Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-55)**

(H.P. 597) (L.D. 932) Bill "An Act to Require the Issuance of Maine Agricultural Fair Licenses Every 4 Years" Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-52)**

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 Essential Services for Victims of Domestic Violence
(H.P. 561) (L.D. 875)
(C. "A" H-44)

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. 141 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.

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

Representative **KUHN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to rise and say a few words in recognition of Access to Justice Day and to express my strong support for the critical work carried out by Maine's civil legal services providers.

One of the fundamental principles of our legal system is the idea that everyone, regardless of circumstance, has access to the courts and the opportunity to seek justice. Unfortunately, thousands of Mainers are denied that opportunity every year because of low income, which hinders their ability to respond to pivotal, life-changing events. Here are some examples: a parent seeking a protection from abuse order in order to find safety for themselves and their children; an older person or a person with disabilities who has been subjected to financial exploitation; a veteran who has been denied access to essential services that they are entitled to; a new Mainer seeking to solidify their legal status and find safety from persecution; or a person somewhere in Maine who is facing a wrongful eviction on a cold winter's night. The impact of Maine's civil legal services in these situations extend well beyond the parties to the case and contribute to the overall health, stability and resilience of our communities. Legal services also helps our legal system work better. When individuals are represented, the courts work more efficiently, because lawyers resolve the cases that can be resolved, taking those cases off dockets and reducing court costs, and they advance and facilitate the cases that do need to go to trial.

If we want people to respect the courts and trust the rule of law, we have to ensure that there is justice for all. Investing in civil legal services is a proven strategy to help make our communities healthier, stronger and more resilient, and I would urge my colleagues to take advantage of the opportunity today to meet with these providers and learn more about the critical work they are doing in our great State. Thank you.

Acts

An Act to Eliminate Miscarriage Reporting Requirements
(H.P. 59) (L.D. 94)

An Act to Support Hunger Prevention in Maine
(H.P. 269) (L.D. 415)
(C. "A" H-42)

An Act to Use Certain Regional Transmission Organization Payments for Beneficial Electrification to Reduce Electricity Rates
(S.P. 268) (L.D. 585)

An Act to Provide Funding for Respite Care and Supplemental Services Provided by the Family Caregiver Support Program
(H.P. 522) (L.D. 815)
(C. "A" H-45)

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.

Resolve

Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in Windham and Gorham the Little Falls Veterans Memorial Bridge
(S.P. 362) (L.D. 796)

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**.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The following matters, in the consideration of which the House was engaged at the time of adjournment Tuesday, April 15, 2025, had preference in the Orders of the Day and continued with such preference until disposed of as provided by House Rule 502.

HOUSE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (8) **Ought Not to Pass** - Minority (5) **Ought to Pass** - Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Maine Criminal Code Governing Restitution to Include the Costs of All Analyses of Suspected Illegal Drugs"
(H.P. 456) (L.D. 717)

TABLED - April 15, 2025 (Till Later Today) by Representative MOONEN of Portland.

PENDING - Motion of Representative HASENFUS of Readfield to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report. (Roll Call Ordered)

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bucksport, Representative Bishop.

Representative **BISHOP**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is a good bill. This helps our communities. When this bill came out of work session, this was a 10 in favor, two against vote. And without notice to me; the sponsor; it was brought up for Reconsideration, and then it became a majority-versus-minority situation.

As we sit here today, any municipality or law enforcement agency in Maine who seizes drugs and requires verification testing for prosecution is paying for it. Not the offender, not the possessor, but law-abiding taxpayers are paying for this testing. When an individual is issued a speeding ticket by a municipal police department, the municipality does not turn around and

pay the fine for that individual, but they have to with drug testing. Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill. This helps our communities. Thank you.

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

Representative **HASENFUS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just in response to the Committee vote, I was not present at the time of the Committee vote, and it became clear to me that the Committee was not ready for a vote on that bill, and then I joined the Majority Report, so I could Reconsider the bill so that we could take the time necessary to actually get the vote that this bill deserved, and I spoke about that with the Good Representative from Bucksport.

But as far as the content of the bill, we went over this in the 130th Legislature. There was a bill in the 130th Legislature to completely remove the testing of illegal drugs from this Statute, and I'd like to point out the current Statute allows for critical investigation expenses, is what they're called, and allows that for very technical audits for financial crimes and for the testing of suspected illegal drugs when that individual is convicted of trafficking and the court has a finding that there was a profit motive. Now, it's important to understand that those are the only two critical investigation expenses that the State authorizes, which means every other expense is borne by the State, whether it's paying for the defense attorney for an indigent individual, whether it's paying for the prosecution, filing the papers, the expert witnesses that are often needed; none of those fees are paid for, unless, of course, it's an expert witness who is a financial auditor; that can be quite expensive.

This very issue was addressed in the 130th Legislature. The bill sought to completely remove drug trafficking, the testing for drugs, as a critical investigation expense. The 130th Legislature decided that the best thing to do was to find a middle ground and to say that, yes, drug testing expenses can still be paid for as part of restitution by the defendant, but that the court must find that there was a profit motivation on the part of the defendant. I believe that this Legislature got it right in the 130th Legislature and that there is no reason to revisit that decision from just a few years ago. And with that, I hope that you will follow my light and vote Ought Not to Pass on the present motion.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Mr. Speaker, I respect the opinion of the Representative from Readfield, I knew that was 50/50. But I disagree, because if this wasn't an issue, then we wouldn't have all these police associations and municipalities saying that it is. And this burden to pay these; these are criminals caught with drugs, the drugs are tested and this burden is falling on our municipalities, Mr. Speaker, and that's not who should be bearing the responsibility of that; it should be the criminals paying for that in their restitution. That is the purpose of this bill, and that is why there is so much law enforcement and municipality support for this bill. So, I stand in opposition of the pending motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Oakland, Representative Nutting.

Representative **NUTTING**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to oppose the pending motion.

This is a common-sense bill that returns us to the way the law was until the 130th Legislature changed it. We have supporting documents from the Maine Sheriff's Association and the Maine Chiefs of Police Association. Each one of these tests, each test; and sometimes, or quite often, more than one test is required; each test costs about \$150 apiece; I think it's exactly

\$150 apiece. So, we're passing thousands of dollars in testing fees from the perpetrator, the person with the illegal drugs, on; as the Representative from Bucksport said; onto the taxpayers in our communities. I urge you to oppose the pending motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Monticello, Representative Ardell.

Representative **ARDELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill is about State lab fees for drug testing. To introduce drug evidence in court, drugs seized from the defendant, an agency; whether municipal, county or State; currently must pay \$150 to have that drug tested. The law enforcement agency is directly; and I'd like to repeat; directly billed for that lab fee and that lab fee goes onto our taxpayers. Requiring a convicted drug trafficker to pay the fee is absolutely reasonable, and a first step in the concept of restorative justice. 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. 90

YEA - Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer D, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Osher, 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, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Frost, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Trout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Abdi, Bunker, Griffin, Hall, Lanigan, Morris, Paul.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 75; No, 68; Absent, 7; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 68 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.

HOUSE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (7) **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-40)** - Minority (6) **Ought Not to Pass** - Committee on **JUDICIARY** on RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish That All Maine Residents Have Equal Rights Under the Law

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

TABLED - April 8, 2025 (Till Later Today) by Representative KUHN of Falmouth.

PENDING - **ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT.**

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

Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan **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 Skowhegan, Representative Poirier.

Representative **POIRIER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in respectful opposition to the proposed Equal Rights Amendment to the Maine Constitution.

Let me be clear from the start: I believe in equality, I believe in fairness and I believe in dignity and respect for every person. But this Amendment is not about whether we value these things; it's about whether this particular proposal is the right way to protect them. We already have strong laws in Maine that prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex. Our Constitution guarantees equal protection, and our Statutes reflect our shared commitment to fairness. Maine's long been a leader in standing up for civil rights, so, the question before us is not whether equality matters; it's whether this Amendment helps or harms that cause, and I submit that it does more harm than good. This Amendment's language is broad and vague. Phrases like 'actual or perceived' might sound simple, but they're anything but in a legal context. Once these words are placed in the Constitution, they're open to judicial interpretation. We as legislators will no longer have a say in how they're applied. Unelected judges will decide what the Amendment means and what it requires case-by-case for generations to come. And the consequences of that are not rhetorical.

Let's talk about real-world implications. If this language is interpreted to prohibit any legal distinction based on sex, we risk eliminating common-sense protections for women. We may undermine single-sex spaces in shelters, dormitories and correctional facilities; places where privacy, safety and dignity matter deeply. Mr. Speaker, we may jeopardize women's sports, where biological differences can create unfair competition. These aren't what-ifs; these are real, ongoing legal battles in other states with similar language.

Let's not ignore the elephant in the room, Mr. Speaker: the role gender identity plays in these debates. Courts across the country have increasingly interpreted sex to include gender identity. Whether you agree with the interpretation or not, the fact is if we adopt this Amendment, we're writing into our Constitution a mandate that redefines the very concept of sex. Mr. Speaker, we all have different views on this. I respect yours, and I hope you respect mine. The people of Maine have spoken clearly for the past several weeks on how they feel about these sorts of issues, and making such a choice to put such permanent changes in our Constitution is not the path that most Mainers want to see us go down. So, I respectfully ask that you follow me, and vote against the pending motion. Thank you.

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

Representative **SARGENT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Chamber, I'm proud to stand before you as the sponsor of this ERA Amendment at this critical time. I stand on the shoulders of activists and champions for so many groups of people that have been discriminated against that date back to 1848 at Seneca Falls. Most recently, in this Chamber, I stand on the shoulders of the Honorable Lois Galgay Reckitt.

Yes, we are here again. Why? Because it is more important than perhaps any time in recent memory that we give voice to these concerns, and we let our fellow citizens weigh in and decide.

America is a nation of laws. Our founding documents spell out our ideals, our very essence and our aspirations. The Declaration of Independence announced our quest for equality and opportunity. Our Pledge of Allegiance demands "liberty and justice for all." Our Constitution began with a narrow vision of to whom equal rights were given, but our national and state Constitutions are living, evolving and expanding pronouncements of what Americans believe. Throughout our history, our constitutions have gradually redefined who is in; worthy of all of the rights to be bestowed; and who can be excluded; who is viewed as less than human. LD 260; the ERA Amendment here proposed; sets Maine as a beacon that it is. It proudly affirms the protections of the Maine Human Rights Act and embeds them in our Constitution. In these times of political change, diverse opinions and shifting priorities, making certain that the fundamental rights of all Mainers; yes, all Mainers; are protected is more important than all.

This battle will not be abandoned. Along the 177 years, other groups have joined women to take the fight forward. First, Black men, LGBTQ+ communities, Native peoples; they're all essential parts of what all means. Resolute, undaunted, tenacious and strong, generations have gone before and generations will come after, seeking the full recognition and celebration of human equality. America, I believe, is still the place where this can ultimately be achieved, and Maine can help lead the way. *Dirigo*. We are proud to do our part and trust the Maine people to decide. I ask you to vote for this important Amendment.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Waterboro, Representative Eder.

Representative **EDER**: Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House, I rise in opposition to this pending motion. It's the absolute state of things at this moment that we can't agree what a woman is. On this side, we know what a biological woman is. This bill will hurt, not help, biological women. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Palermo, Representative Smith.

Representative **SMITH**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, I rise to speak against LD 260. I want to reflect what it means to stand up for women, our daughters, our sisters and ourselves, and why an Equal Rights Amendment to our Constitution would not be the win for women some claim it to be. In fact, it would be a step backward, a wolf in sheep's clothing that would unravel the very protections that we have fought for. I know the pitch sounds noble. Who wouldn't want equal rights written into the State Constitution? It's a feel-good phrase; equality for all, no exceptions. But let's peel back the curtain and look at what it really means, because the devil is in the details, and those details will hurt women more than help us.

First off, the Amendment language is too vague. It says equality can't be denied on account of sex, gender identity and gender expression, but it doesn't define exactly what that looks like in practice. That's a blank check handed to unelected judges, bureaucrats and administrators who run organizations throughout our State. They are the ones who will decide what equality means to us. Do we really trust them to get it right? I certainly do not. Look at what's happening in Maine right now: girls losing awards to boys in sports and having to have their personal spaces invaded, because equality gets twisted into something unrecognizable. Adults in positions of authority have seized upon certain words to promote an agenda, and by supporting this Amendment, we will be granting them even greater power; power that is leaving our girls exposed to

physical and mental harm. Literally, a young girl in her school is forced to have a biological male undress in front of her, because we use cold terms to dictate what we allow and not common sense and reality. Biology matters, and this Amendment risks wiping that truth even further off the table, leaving our daughters increasingly vulnerable. Vulnerable. Is that progress?

We don't need an Equal Rights Amendment to break barriers, we do it with current law: the 14th Amendment, the Equal Pay Act and Title IX. We have courage, we have common sense and we also have the amazing support of men, many who sit in this Chamber today. As a woman, I am steadfast in my commitment to supporting my mother, my daughter, my sister and every woman; born and unborn; in Maine. This Amendment sounds like a gift, but it's a Trojan horse. Let's reject it, not because we do fear equality, but because, instead, we demand current protections be enforced, protections that honor women; who we are; not Amendments that will erase us. Thank you.

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

Representative **MACIAS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of this Body. I rise today in strong support of LD 260, an Equal Rights Amendment that would enshrine equality in Maine's Constitution.

I've been wrong a few times in my life. For 30 years, I was an atheist. I don't believe that anymore, thank God. The second time, I was wrong about my own place in the world. I believed I was the head of the household, the man of the house; it was my house, my rules, my roof, and under it, what I said went. It was a convenient belief. I thought my role was to protect my family, not just from dangers outside, but from themselves. The thing I feared most; losing the love of my life, losing a child; I tried to control the most. I thought I was being a protector, a leader, doing what I was supposed to do. And then, in an instant, I realized how very wrong I was. I wasn't debating with anyone, no one was calling me out, I was just sitting on my couch, meditating, and in an instant, it hit me like a ton of bricks: I was not above or better than anyone. I was not superior to my wife, I was not superior to my daughters, I was equal to every single person on this earth. That realization hit hard. I was overcome with grief, embarrassment and shame. I sat there ugly crying as years of control, of thinking I had to keep everything in order, collapsed in an instant. And then, something else happened; relief was right behind the tears. Do you know the weight that lifts when you realize your happiness does not depend on someone else being less than you? That my security, my sense of self, my worth, did not require someone else's submission nor my permission?

I may have realized that truth early in my marriage, but my tired old jokes around the house hinted otherwise, and here's what I learned next: saying you believe in equality isn't enough; it has to be felt, it has to be seen. When I truly started recognizing my daughters as my equals, my life and theirs remained out of balance at first. They didn't trust it; they didn't trust my words. Why would they? They'd grown up hearing the same lessons I had, they'd seen what was expected of them, they knew what was assumed about their role. It wasn't enough for me to say they were equal, they had to see it in my actions. When they finally did, when they felt the difference in how I listened, how I respected their choices, how I trusted them to be their own people, my belief in their equality took root in them. That is what this Amendment means. This is more than a legal change; it's a message, a foundation, a promise. This bill tells our daughters, our wives and all who come after us that they are equal, that their rights are the same, the same treatment under

the law, the same respect under any roof, the same dignity in the eyes of God.

And yet, every time we talk about equality, there are those who ask why we need this. Why? Because our laws do not explicitly guarantee equal rights for all; because the rights of women, LGBTQ+ people and marginalized communities have been debated, questioned and restricted time and time again. Because we live in a country where women are still paid less than men, where survivors of domestic violence still have to prove that they deserve protection, where people still believe that equality is a zero-sum game, as if recognizing the full humanity of someone else somehow takes something away from them; because there are still people, good people, who have yet had their moment of realization that I had sitting on my couch. They haven't yet learned that equality does not mean a loss of power, it means the freedom to stop fearing it. It means no one should have to beg for the same rights others take for granted.

Our commitment to this truth doesn't end with this Amendment. It begins in our hearts and in our homes. If we pass LD 260, will it immediately fix every injustice? No, but it will do something just as important: it will say once and for all that in Maine, equality is not a matter of debate, it is a fundamental truth. It will tell future generations that their worth is not conditional nor negotiable; that in this State, in this country, they don't have to fight to be seen as fully human, that we in this moment did something that should've been done long ago. I urge you to pass LD 260 and take this step towards making equality not just an idea, but a reality in Maine's Constitution. Thank you.

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

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to stand here and say that I'm the daughter of Gwendolyn Roeder. She taught me early on that; well, she didn't teach me; she didn't teach me that I was going to face any kind of discrimination because I was a woman, and as such, I grew up seeing any discrimination leveled at me as an aberration, as silly, as patently unwise and foolish. I didn't realize until much later that my mom wasn't allowed to have a credit card in her own name until years after I was born. She kept that credit card from Dayton's Department Store in her wallet until the day she died. But we're not debating about this Amendment, we're debating about whether or not to send it to the people for a vote. And I, for one, am not afraid of the will of the people, and I hope the rest of this Body will join me in that. Thank you.

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

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, I've now been here; I'm in my fourth term, and every term, I've stood up and spoke against this, I believe. And in the past, I've actually talked about my own daughter and how I have taught her to be a strong woman. And when we stop and think about what we have in this State today, women are equal. Our Chief Executive Officer is a woman, the President of the Senate is a woman, the Secretary of State is a woman, our former Speaker is a woman. And I think that this waters down what we have accomplished and what we continue to accomplish; the women in this Chamber have accomplished. We do not need more of this to be watered down to what a woman is. I urge you to vote no.

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

Representative **FREDETTE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May I ask a question through the Chair?

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **FREDETTE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In regards to the debate and Enactment, is it my understanding that this requires a two-thirds vote at time of Enactment?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would answer in the affirmative.

The Chair recognizes the Representative from Falmouth, Representative Kuhn.

Representative **KUHN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of the current motion, which would send to the voters a Constitutional Amendment ensuring that equality of rights under law cannot be denied on the basis of color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, physical or mental disability, ancestry or national origin. While there are currently statutory protections against discrimination based on these protected classes, the Constitutional Amendment proposed here would permit the Maine people to include an enduring prohibition on discrimination regardless of future politics.

It's important for us to remember that the final decision on whether to include an Amendment like this to the Constitution is entrusted to the people of Maine. In fact, the only way Mainers will be able to make this decision directly is if the Legislature votes to present them with the opportunity. The fundamental principle behind this Resolve is simple: equality under law is a core American value and a reflection of who we are as Mainers. It speaks to our deep-rooted ideals of fairness, dignity and opportunity, which have shaped our State and our nation. Let's make sure Maine remains a State rooted in equality now and into the future. Let's let the voters decide. Thank you.

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

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have heard some wonderful speeches, both sides. And you know, this Amendment to the Constitution prohibits the denial of religion. Mr. Speaker, that is a misstatement presently in the State of Maine. And let me read to you the Maine Human Rights Act, if I may. Title 5, Chapter 5: "Right to freedom from discrimination in education. The opportunity for an individual at an educational institution to participate in all educational, counseling and vocational guidance programs ... without discrimination," because "religion is recognized and declared to be a civil right." We can pass all the laws we want. But, Mr. Speaker, today, we are denying religious freedom for our kids to attend school. So, we can pass a Constitutional Amendment, but will it survive the trial of fire? Mr. Speaker, we are failing right now the trial of fire to protect the religious freedom in the State of Maine. Thank you.

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

Representative **HENDERSON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I've jotted a few notes down here, somewhat scribbled and in disarray at times, and maybe it's somewhat reminiscent of how my brain works, I guess, so, we'll see if we can get through this in a cohesive manner.

So, I think I'll just start with saying how thankful I am for the women in this State who not only served in this Body, but served the State of Maine well in ensuring that myself and my fellow female colleagues here have a voice and have a platform to be able to stand and share a very real and important perspective

on how we view the world and how we believe the world should operate. And they've fought hard to ensure the equal rights of women and girls in this State.

You know, the feminist movement, I think, at its face, I can agree with, but I think the movement in and of itself that I assimilate with would have to be the femininity movement. And it's a movement that promotes speaking truth in boldness and in confidence. The femininity movement looks for the good in people and chooses to actively find a way to nurture that good. It's a movement rooted in power. It's a movement rooted in turning victimhood into victory. And it's all done through grace and boldness with the tools that we're given. So, although at times I've joked that there's a little feminist that's living inside of me somewhere that maybe I've jokingly said I haven't nurtured enough; maybe that's why she's so small; I would rather like to say that there's a full-grown individual that has fully adopted the femininity movement instead.

My concern with this language and some of the arguments that I've heard is that this is an ERA bill that we've been fighting to have for 50 years. My grandmother, my mother fought for this. And again, at face value, I can see why that argument would be made, but the reality is, is the original ERA Amendment that went in; I believe it was March 20-something of 1972; it was; and I don't think I can pick this up, because I'm not using it as a prop, but I'll keep it on my desk either way; it was an Amendment that would provide the legal equity of the sexes and prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex. And yet, the ERA Amendment that we have in front of us today is based on the actual or perceived race, actual or perceived color, actual or perceived religion, sex, actual or perceived sexual orientation, actual or perceived gender identity, the actual or perceived gender expression, actual or perceived age, physical or mental disability. Mr. Speaker, my perception is not someone else's reality, and the concern here is not that we would be enshrining into our Constitution equal rights for women, I'd be all for that.

When I first was elected into office and I had maybe had my legislative plates on my car two or three weeks, I bumped into a stranger; he saw me getting out of my vehicle, and he was a lovely older gentleman and he asked, 'oh, does your husband serve in the Legislature?' And I said, 'no, actually, it's me, they even let us vote now.' So, if this was an Amendment simply to provide equal rights for women, then I think I truly would be behind that, and it would be something that you would have a really hard time getting me to vote against. But in the contrast, this is an affront to women. This Amendment in its language is an actual attack on women; it's an attack on the very thing that our grandmothers and our mothers have fought for. This is not the ERA Amendment of 1972, this is something completely different, and I will not be supporting it today, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

I'm a Maine 'girl dad.' I'm a Maine girl papa. I'm sorry. It hurts my heart that we're having this debate, that I have to explain it, that it's somehow, to me, not reality. To me. I don't speak for anyone else. I know what a woman is, I know what a male is. Biologically, there are some rare cases where the sex is difficult to determine on a human, but if you'll indulge me, I believe in precedence, whether it's precedence within the State, whether it's precedence within the country or whether it's precedence within the world. And recently, the United Kingdom Supreme Court has ruled that the legal definition of 'woman' under equality laws refers to biological sex, meaning it excludes trans women. This decision, which came after a long legal

battle, could have significant implications for how sex-based rights are applied across England, Wales, Scotland and the world. The court emphasized that while trans women are protected against direct discrimination, certain provisions and protections based on sex should be applied only to biological females. Mr. Speaker, I urge you, I urge this Body to follow the United Kingdom's light. Thank you.

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

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And as the Good Representative from Rumford said, I, too, am a feminine-ist. I am a woman; and I enjoy being a woman and I love that my husband has always supported me, provided for me, protected me and then kisses me goodbye as I come to Augusta and I'm away from him all week. I am definitely not a controlled woman, where I feel as though men are in power over me. And, Mr. Speaker, yourself, I feel that you have always been consistent and kind to me.

But there's another issue here, as the Good Representative from Rumford spoke about. I want to speak about women's prisons, because this is a story that I had read about before, and it rather blew me away, because I had never really thought about it. We have women that are incarcerated because they have broken the law. They are serving out their time, and they are not safe there. This motion would put them in constant danger. I would like to share an article with you. This is Chowchilla, California: "A convicted criminal who served time at the women's prison in Chowchilla, California, is charged with raping fellow inmates. A Madera County judge ruled 52-year-old state prisoner Tremaine Carroll must be referred to with she/her pronouns because Carroll identifies as a woman. But the district attorney believes the defendant is abusing the system. 'This is a person who is not a woman in any sense of the word,' says Madera County district attorney Sally Moreno. In March, DA Sally Moreno charged Carroll for rape allegedly committed while incarcerated at the Central California Women's Facility in Chowchilla. 'After his first cellmate became pregnant and was moved to Los Angeles, two other cellmates of his had complained that he had raped them, so we have filed rape charges against this inmate.' Moreno says the ruling regarding pronouns impacts her ability to prosecute the case. 'This is a particular issue in this case because it's confusing to the jury. In California, rape is a crime that has to be accomplished'" --

Representative **GOLEK**: Point of Order.

The SPEAKER: The Member will defer. The Chair would inquire as to why the Representative from Harpswell has raised a Point of Order.

Representative **GOLEK**: Because we're not discussing the bill; we're discussing cases and sexuality and all those other; this bill before us is about sending it to the people of Maine, so they can weigh in on whether they want to give the residents of Maine equal rights. It's not about criminal court cases, which is what we're hearing.

On **POINT OF ORDER**, Representative **GOLEK** of Harpswell asked the Chair if the remarks of Representative **QUINT** of Hodgdon were germane to the pending question.

The SPEAKER: The Chair is going to rule that the Member's comments are in order.

The Chair **RULED** that the remarks of Representative **QUINT** of Hodgdon were germane to the pending question.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. "that rape is a crime that has to be accomplished by a man." Supervising Deputy District Attorney Eric Dutemple says it is also unfair to the victims. 'It just absolutely is insane that a victim

would have to get on the stand and police their pronoun usage while trying to recite one of the scariest times of their lives.' Carroll was allowed to serve time in a women's prison despite being a biological male because of Senate Bill 132, The Transgender Respect, Agency and Dignity Act, which took effect in 2021. It allows inmates to be housed with the gender that they identify as. 'There's no psychological evaluation that needs to be done. This person does not need to be on cross-gender hormones, they don't need to be signed up for transgender surgery, they don't need a psychological evaluation regarding gender confusion, the mere statement is enough.' Carroll has since been relocated to Salinas Valley State Prison for men." 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. 91

YEA - Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Osher, Pluecker, Flynn, 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, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rollins, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Abdi, Bunker, Griffin, Hall, Lanigan, Morris, Paul.

RESTRICTED - Libby.

Yes, 74; No, 69; Absent, 7; Excused, 0; Restricted, 1.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 69 voted in the negative, with 7 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-40) 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-40)** and sent for concurrence.

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

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 665)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, April 22, 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.

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

Bill "An Act to Require Family Life Education to Include a Human Growth and Development Curriculum"

(S.P. 669) (L.D. 1716)

Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** 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 Establish the Maine Charter School Commission as a Public Instrumentality of the State"

(S.P. 671) (L.D. 1718)

Bill "An Act Regarding Superintendent Agreements for Transfer Students"

(S.P. 672) (L.D. 1719)

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

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

Bill "An Act Regarding Benefits and Training for Long-term Care Workers"

(S.P. 673) (L.D. 1720)

Bill "An Act to Establish the Maine Child Care Affordability Program Advisory Board" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 674) (L.D. 1728)

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 Prohibit Certain Provisions in Health Care Provider Contracts with Insurance Carriers"

(S.P. 666) (L.D. 1713)

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

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

Resolve, to Allow Hemphill Farms, Inc. to Sue the State

(S.P. 661) (L.D. 1667)

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Amend the Appointment and Confirmation Process for Certain Judicial, Civil and Military Officers

(S.P. 668) (L.D. 1715)

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

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

Bill "An Act Regarding the Voting Requirement to Extend the Date for Adjournment of the Legislature"

(S.P. 663) (L.D. 1668)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Provide Property Tax Relief to Maine Families"

(S.P. 659) (L.D. 1665)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Create a New Pathway to Licensure to Drive School Buses"

(S.P. 667) (L.D. 1714)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Include in the Ranked-choice Election Method for General and Special Elections the Offices of Governor, State Senator and State Representative and to Make Other Related Changes"

(S.P. 660) (L.D. 1666)

Bill "An Act to Establish the Cannabis Advisory Council"

(S.P. 664) (L.D. 1669)

Bill "An Act Regarding Background Checks for Medical Cannabis Providers"

(S.P. 670) (L.D. 1717)

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

REFERRED to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** in concurrence.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The following matter, in the consideration of which the House was engaged at the time of adjournment Tuesday, April 15, 2025, had preference in the Orders of the Day and continued with such preference until disposed of as provided by House Rule 502.

Bill "An Act to Establish 'Welcome Home' as the Official State Anthem"

(S.P. 165) (L.D. 373)

TABLED - April 10, 2025 (Till Later Today) by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor.

PENDING - **FURTHER CONSIDERATION.**

Subsequently, the House voted to **RECEDE AND CONCUR.**

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

ORDERS

On motion of Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 1155) (Cosponsored by Senator GUERIN of Penobscot and Representatives: BABIN of Fort Fairfield, CARLOW of Buxton, DAIGLE of Fort Kent, DRINKWATER of Milford, HENDERSON of Rumford, LEMELIN of Chelsea, MASON of Lisbon, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft)

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING CHRISTIAN HOLY WEEK IN MAINE

WHEREAS, the week preceding the Christian celebration of Easter contains observances relating to the Biblical description of last days of Jesus; and

WHEREAS, on Palm Sunday, Jesus entered the city of Jerusalem; and

WHEREAS, on Holy Monday, Jesus freed the sacrificial animals and cleansed the temple; and

WHEREAS, on Holy Tuesday, Jesus taught at the temple; and

WHEREAS, on Holy Wednesday, a disciple named Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus for pieces of silver; and

WHEREAS, on Maundy Thursday, the Last Supper with the disciples occurred, and Jesus washed their feet; and

WHEREAS, on Good Friday, Jesus was crucified on a cross, and darkness covered the whole earth; and

WHEREAS, on Holy Saturday, Jesus rested in the tomb; and

WHEREAS, on Resurrection Sunday, also known as Easter Sunday, Jesus rose from the dead, and his death, burial and resurrection paid for the sins of the people and gives all who believe in him eternal life; 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 Christian Holy Week in Maine; and be it further

RESOLVED: That We extend best wishes to all those of Christian faith in Maine, the United States and across the world for a joyous and meaningful observance of Holy Week and Easter.

READ.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Sunday, we'll celebrate Easter, and what Easter is about is described in Matthew 28:5-6: "The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; He has risen, just as He said. Come and see the place where He lay.'" Now, that's amazing that a man died and rose from the death and that in and of itself is reason for celebration, but the real reason why that is so special is in John 3:16: For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, and all that believe in Him shall have eternal life.

Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. And for those people that are living outside of the Christian faith, sometimes those of us that are, are bad messengers of that faith, and for people that are on the outside that feel that Christianity is about condemnation and standards that can't be reached, they're missing the part where none of us can reach those standards. Nobody can do that; only Jesus could do that. But the true story of Christianity is about love, compassion and forgiveness, and I would encourage you to look more into that side and take a look into it, and I hope that everybody has a blessed and Happy Easter. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

The SPEAKER: Just a reminder from the Chair that Monday is a holiday, we will not have session or committee work that day, it's a State holiday. I wish everyone a Happy Easter and a long, well-deserved long weekend.

On motion of Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, the House adjourned at 12:16 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 22, 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. 665) and in honor and lasting tribute to Eugene "Gene" Demmons of Gouldsboro and Keith H. Young of Gouldsboro.