

ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
4th Legislative Day
Tuesday, January 21, 2020

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

Prayer by Bishop Robert P. Deeley J.C.D., Roman Catholic Diocese of Portland.

National Anthem by Sharon Hood, Pittsfield.

Pledge of Allegiance.

The Journal of Thursday, January 16, 2020 was read and approved.

SENATE PAPERS

Resolve, Directing the Department of Public Safety To Conduct a Study To Develop Best Practices for Improving the Security of Municipal Properties

(S.P. 684) (L.D. 1982)

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 270)

**STATE OF MAINE
129TH MAINE LEGISLATURE**

December 20, 2019
Honorable Janet T. Mills
Governor

#1 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Governor Mills:

On behalf of the 129th Maine Legislature, we would like to invite you to deliver your State of the State Address. At your direction, we will call for a Joint Convention of the Legislature on Tuesday, January 21, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.

We look forward to coordinating any details necessary to see that your Address is received by the Legislature.

Sincerely,

S/Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
S/Sara Gideon
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

At this point, a message came from the Senate borne by Senator Libby, of Androscoggin, of that Body, proposing a Joint Convention of both branches of the Legislature to be held in the Hall of the House at 6:45 in the evening for the purpose of extending to Her Excellency, Governor Janet T. Mills, an invitation to attend the Joint Convention and to make such communication as pleases her.

Thereupon the House voted to concur in the proposal for a Joint Convention to be held at 6:45 in the evening and the Speaker appointed Representative MOONEN of Portland to convey this message to the Senate.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 273)

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001**

January 07, 2020

Honorable Troy Jackson
Senate President
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine, 04333
Honorable Sara Gideon
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine, 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Gideon,

It is my honor to accept your invitation to deliver the State of the State Address before a Joint Convention of the Legislature on Tuesday, January 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. I look forward to celebrating the progress the State of Maine has achieved over the last year and sharing my vision for our future.

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 271)

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC
SAFETY**

January 13, 2020

The Honorable Troy D. Jackson, President
Maine State Senate
The Honorable Sara Gideon, Speaker
Maine House of Representatives
State House
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Gideon:

Pursuant to H.P. 1277, the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety is pleased to submit its final report on the Stabilization of Funding for the County Jails and the Regional Jail. Copies of the full report have been distributed to committees or individuals as directed by law and copies have been placed on file with the Law and Legislative Reference Library. Others may access the full report online through the website of the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis at <http://legislature.maine.gov/opla>.

Sincerely,

S/Susan A. Deschambault
Senate Chair
S/Charlotte Warren
House Chair

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 272)
MAINE TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE
8 VENTURE AVENUE
BRUNSWICK LANDING
BRUNSWICK, MAINE 04011

January 15, 2020
The Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
The Honorable Sara Gideon
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Dear President Jackson and Speaker Gideon:
Pursuant to 5 MRSA, Section 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required report from the Maine Technology Institute (MTI) due by February 1, 2020.
Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
S/Brian Whitney
President

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 274)
STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL
AND FINANCIAL REGULATION
BUREAU OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
36 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0036

January 15, 2020
Hon. Troy D. Jackson, President of the Senate
Hon. Sara Gideon, Speaker of the House
129th Maine Legislature
State House
Augusta, Maine 04333
Dear President Jackson and Speaker Gideon:
In accordance with Title 9-B M.R.S. §217, as amended, enclosed please find a copy of the Annual Report from the Superintendent of the Bureau of Financial Institutions to the Legislature.
In the event that you may have any questions regarding the information contained in this Report, the Bureau would be pleased to respond. This Report will also be available in electronic format at www.maine.gov/pfr/financialinstitutions.

Very truly yours,
S/Lloyd P. LaFountain III
Superintendent

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 275)
MAINE VENTURE FUND
P. O. BOX 63
NEWPORT, ME 04953

January 15, 2020
Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Honorable Sara Gideon
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Dear President Jackson and Speaker Gideon:
Pursuant to 5 MRSA, Section 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the attached "Report to Legislature for 2019" on behalf of the quasi-independent state entity, Small Enterprise Growth Board, due February 1, 2020.
Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
S/Terri Wark
Office Operations Manager
Small Enterprise Growth Board d/b/a Maine Venture Fund
READ and with accompanying papers **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The Following Communication: (H.C. 276)
STATE OF MAINE
CLERK'S OFFICE
2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

January 21, 2020
Honorable Sara Gideon
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Dear Speaker Gideon:
Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the Committee on Health and Human Services has approved the request by the sponsor, President Jackson of Aroostook, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"
L.D. 1737 An Act Relating to the Retention and Hiring of Mental Health Staff at the Department of Health and Human Services
Sincerely,
S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
READ and with accompanying papers **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The Following Communication: (H.C. 277)
STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SPEAKER'S OFFICE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

January 21, 2020
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Please be advised that pursuant to her authority, Governor Janet T. Mills has nominated the following:

on January 15, 2020

Omar Andrews of Portland, Rebecca Asen of Falmouth and Dustin D. Brooks of Portland for appointment to the Finance Authority of Maine.

Pursuant to Title, 10 MRSA §965, these appointments are contingent on the Maine Senate confirmation after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business.

on January 16, 2020

Edward David of Farmington for appointment to the Maine Human Rights Commission.

Pursuant to Title 5, MRSA §4561, this appointment is contingent on the Maine Senate confirmation after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

Sincerely,

S/Sara Gideon

Speaker of the House

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

The Following Communication: (S.C. 810)

**MAINE SENATE
129TH LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

January 14, 2020

Honorable Sara Gideon

Speaker of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333-0002

Dear Speaker Gideon:

In accordance with 3 MRSA §158 and Joint Rule 506 of the 129th Maine Legislature, please be advised that the Senate today confirmed the following nomination:

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Lee Smith of Albany Township for appointment to the Maine Land Use Planning Commission.

Best Regards,

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

Subsequently, Representative MOONEN of Portland reported that he had delivered the message with which he was charged.

PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE

Resolve, Authorizing Certain Land Transactions by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands

(H.P. 1459) (L.D. 2048)

Sponsored by Representative HICKMAN of Winthrop.

Submitted by the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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 Allow the Department of Public Safety To Transfer Certain Property to the LifeFlight Foundation

(H.P. 1453) (L.D. 2042)

Sponsored by Representative WARREN of Hallowell.

Submitted by the Department of Public Safety pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Bill "An Act To Reclassify Certain Offenses under the Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Laws and Motor Vehicle Laws and Increase the Efficiency of the Criminal Justice System"

(H.P. 1454) (L.D. 2043)

Sponsored by Representative WARREN of Hallowell.

Cosponsored by Senator DESCHAMBAULT of York and Representatives: BEEBE-CENTER of Rockland, COREY of Windham, COSTAIN of Plymouth, DUNPHY of Old Town, EVANGELOS of Friendship, MORALES of South Portland, PICKETT of Dixfield, RECKITT of South Portland.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Bill "An Act To Increase the Death Benefit for Firefighters, Law Enforcement Officers and Emergency Medical Services Personnel"

(H.P. 1455) (L.D. 2044)

Sponsored by Representative ACKLEY of Monmouth.

Cosponsored by Representatives: DOUDERA of Camden, HARRINGTON of Sanford, HEPLER of Woolwich, HIGGINS of Dover-Foxcroft, MAREAN of Hollis, NEWELL of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, PEBWORTH of Blue Hill, RISEMAN of Harrison.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

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 Regarding Immunizations" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1457) (L.D. 2046)

Sponsored by Representative TIPPING of Orono.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Ensure an Efficient Contracting Process for the Department of Health and Human Services"

(H.P. 1461) (L.D. 2057)

Sponsored by Representative HYMANSON of York.

Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Bill "An Act To Strengthen Protections for Incapacitated and Dependent Adults from Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation"

(H.P. 1462) (L.D. 2058)

Sponsored by Representative HYMANSON of York.

Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Bill "An Act To Clarify the Provision for Care of Infants after Birth"

(H.P. 1463) (L.D. 2059)

Sponsored by Representative HYMANSON of York.
Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Ensure the Safety of State Employees by Allowing Disclosure of Certain Information in Limited Circumstances"

(H.P. 1449) (L.D. 2038)

Sponsored by Representative MADIGAN of Waterville.
Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Bill "An Act To Provide for Judicial Review in Compliance with the Federal Legislation Known as the Family First Prevention Services Act"

(H.P. 1450) (L.D. 2039)

Sponsored by Representative MADIGAN of Waterville.
Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Bill "An Act To Eliminate the Requirement That Municipalities Retain Paper Copies of Certain Vital Statistics Records"

(H.P. 1451) (L.D. 2040)

Sponsored by Representative BAILEY of Saco.
Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Bill "An Act To Allow Access to and Ensure the Confidentiality of Records of Child Advocacy Centers"

(H.P. 1452) (L.D. 2041)

Sponsored by Representative BAILEY of Saco.
Submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

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

On motion of Representative HYMANSON of York, the Bills were **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Resolve, To Create the Frequent Users System Engagement Collaborative

(H.P. 1460) (L.D. 2056)

Sponsored by Representative MORALES of South Portland.
Cosponsored by Senator SANBORN, L. of Cumberland and Representatives: FECTEAU of Biddeford, GATTINE of Westbrook, RECKITT of South Portland, STEWART of Presque Isle, WARREN of Hallowell.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

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

On motion of Representative HYMANSON of York, **TABLED** pending **REFERENCE** and later today assigned.

Bill "An Act Relating to the Valuation of Certain Retail Property"

(H.P. 1456) (L.D. 2045)

Sponsored by Representative TIPPING of Orono.

Cosponsored by President JACKSON of Aroostook and Representatives: CARDONE of Bangor, DAUGHTRY of Brunswick, GROHOSKI of Ellsworth, HEPLER of Woolwich, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, TEPLER of Topsham, Senator: LIBBY of Androscoggin.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Bill "An Act To Amend the State Tax Laws"

(H.P. 1458) (L.D. 2047)

Sponsored by Representative TIPPING of Orono.

Submitted by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

At this point, the Speaker recognized the Representative from Falmouth, Representative Pierce and the Representative from Gorham, Representative McLean and they were added to the roll call of the Second Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

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

The following item was taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

ORDERS

On motion of Representative CARNEY of Cape Elizabeth, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 1448) (Cosponsored by Senator CLAXTON of Androscoggin and Representatives: ALLEY of Beals, AUSTIN of Skowhegan, BABINE of Scarborough, BEEBE-CENTER of Rockland, BRENNAN of Portland, BROOKS of Lewiston, BRYANT of Windham, CAIAZZO of Scarborough, CARDONE of Bangor, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, COOPER of Yarmouth, CRAVEN of Lewiston, DODGE of Belfast, DOORE of Augusta, DOUDERA of Camden, DUNPHY of Old Town, FARNSWORTH of Portland, FAY of Raymond, FECTEAU of Biddeford, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, GROHOSKI of Ellsworth, HANDY of Lewiston, HARNETT of Gardiner, HEPLER of Woolwich, HOBBS of Wells, HYMANSON of York, INGWERSEN of Arundel, JORGENSEN of Portland, KORNFELD of Bangor, MADIGAN of Waterville, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, McCREA of Fort Fairfield, McCREIGHT of Harpswell, McDONALD of Stonington, MELARAGNO of Auburn, MEYER of Eliot, MORALES of South Portland, MORIARTY of Cumberland, O'NEIL of Saco, PEBWORTH of Blue Hill, PERRY of Calais, RISEMAN of Harrison, ROBERTS of South Berwick, TALBOT ROSS of Portland, TEPLER of Topsham, TUCKER of Brunswick, WHITE of Waterville, Senators: CARSON of Cumberland, GRATWICK of Penobscot, MILLETT of Cumberland)

JOINT RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE MAINE COMPLETE COUNT COMMITTEE AND COORDINATION OF EFFORTS TO REDUCE THE UNDERCOUNT OF MAINE RESIDENTS IN THE 2020 FEDERAL DECENNIAL CENSUS

WHEREAS, Article I, Section 2 of the United States Constitution requires an enumeration of the population every 10 years to apportion congressional representation among the states; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 13 United States Code, Section 141, the next Federal Decennial Census of the population will be taken beginning April 1, 2020 and concluding on July 31, 2020; and

WHEREAS, data derived from the census determines how approximately \$800 billion in federal spending to support education, transportation, publicly funded health care, law enforcement and other important public services is allocated among the states; and

WHEREAS, a complete and accurate count of Maine's population is essential because the census count determines congressional representation and state redistricting and also determines federal formula grant allocations for Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, Title IV-E foster care, Title IV-E adoption assistance and the Child Care and Development Fund for an entire decade until the next Federal Decennial Census is taken; and

WHEREAS, Maine's fiscal loss in programs guided by Federal Medical Assistance Percentages was \$16,420 per person missed in the 2010 census over the 10-year census cycle; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census acknowledges the long-standing undercount of young children in the Federal Decennial Census and has spent years researching children who were missed in the 2010 census and creating resources in an attempt to reduce this undercount in the 2020 census; and

WHEREAS, it is vitally important to ensure that every Maine resident is counted in the 2020 census and that Maine gets its fair share of federal funds; and

WHEREAS, the Governor has, by Executive Order 12 FY 19/20, created the Maine Complete Count Committee, which, using the knowledge and expertise of Maine's administrative agencies, will develop and coordinate a census outreach program to increase awareness about the 2020 census and motivate residents in the community to respond; and

WHEREAS, such complete count committees have also been established by Maine's tribal and local governments and community organizations, faith-based groups, schools, libraries, businesses, the media and others, which will play a key role in educating and motivating residents to participate in the 2020 census; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to support the Maine Complete Count Committee and Maine's tribal, county and municipal governments in the work to develop, recommend and assist in the administration of a census outreach strategy to encourage full participation in the 2020 Federal Decennial Census; and be it further

RESOLVED: That We also support the development of additional outreach programs and partnerships with nonprofit and community organizations, faith-based groups, schools, libraries, businesses, the media and others to encourage full participation in the 2020 Federal Decennial Census, including

a multilingual, multimedia campaign designed to ensure an accurate and complete count of Maine's population.

READ.

On motion of Representative **CARNEY** of Cape Elizabeth, **TABLED** pending **PASSAGE** and later today assigned.

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

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

Recognizing:

Cole Farms, a restaurant in Gray owned and operated by Brad Pollard and his family, which is celebrating 68 years of business. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 781)

Presented by Representative AUSTIN of Gray.

Cosponsored by Senator BREEN of Cumberland, Senator DIAMOND of Cumberland, Representative MORIARTY of Cumberland, Representative ARATA of New Gloucester.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative AUSTIN of Gray, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The **SPEAKER:** The Chair recognizes the Representative from Gray, Representative Austin.

Representative **AUSTIN:** Thank you, Madam Speaker. My dear Colleagues of the House, I rise today to share just a few thoughts about this particular place, particularly because I think it is so Maine. It is one of the landmarks in our area and I'm well aware that all of you, if you're fortunate, have got one of these very same landmarks within your communities, within your districts that plays such a role of richness in the community life. I know of Helen's in Machias and Moody's Diner down in Waldoboro, just to name two. But this presence of Coles is four generations' worth of family that have worked in this one particular place and I dare to offer that probably has employed almost half of Cumberland County.

For many of us, Cole Farms has been a likeable, loveable, local lifetime landmark throughout the years. It's been a destination for meetings, for lunch with friends and a reliable stop after our sports events. And that goes for anybody that was going up and down Route 100 to Lewiston or to Portland; all of the teams that passed by stopped in to have a burger. Coles for me was my very first job, and that's the other important piece. This is one of those companies that's local, vested in the community, family enriched, and employed so many of our students and our families for their very first-time job. Many of the first-time employees' families then went there, then their families went there and then their families went there. They had a celebration last Tuesday night and it was absolutely packed. And, you know, there's an old saying in Maine, you can't get there from here. Well, I've always said in Gray, you can; because Gray is the crossroads of Southern Maine and we have about five major routes that come right together and compress in the middle. And there was Coles sitting there ready to be of good service.

So, they did a wonderful job and I commend them for all the years of helping to train people, to meet the public, give a good service and learn how to have a good work ethic. So, because there's so much I could say in memories and I know everybody that was around there has a memory; a special one. Perhaps they were asked to have their first date or maybe they were asked in the parking lot to become engaged, I wouldn't want to go that much further than that, but a lot of special

things happened around that facility. So, this is what I did for their celebration to try to focus.

There once was a small place that sat in a curb, that from the first day was destined to serve. The meals, oh, the meals; wow, what a deal. Looking back now, they seem like a steal. Thirty-cent burgers with fries and pies galore had our surrounding towns coming for more. The place started tiny, kind of small, then needed to build out to accommodate all. It didn't take years to become the hot spot, people were happy and they came a lot. So, its reputation built, just like a Jenny Cole quilt. The jobs were there for so many to take; at last, a hometown position with money and tips to make. The years have come and the years have gone with that strong thread of Cole Farms that let us all belong. When happiness or sadness came our way, it was Coles that we looked to to support the day. Championships, sickness, to death and beyond, it was Coles who stepped up and took the baton. The impact wasn't just for our town of Gray. Oh, no; the presence and support spread out all the way. The network of history this destination has amassed tis difficult to find any other to surpass. To dear, oh, dear old Coles, entwined throughout our past, we'll hold your sweet memories till our very last. To the four generations of the Cole Pollard clan, thank you for your loyalty to a longstanding plan. So, with sadness tonight, we say our adieu, and acknowledge the generosity that's been given by you. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Raymond, Representative Fay.

Representative **FAY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm not going to be able to beat the poetry of the Representative from Gray, but I did want to just share, and I'm fairly certain that a number of folks have similar memories to mine of Cole Farms. One of my earliest memories of spending time with my grandmother was as a very little girl and she would take me out to lunch. You know, it was the first time; my mom never took me out to lunch and so, my grandmother took me out to lunch at Cole Farms and all I really remember are the french fries. But as an adult I would have lunch meetings there and we would have coffee and meet friends. So, Cole Farms will be missed and I wish the Pollards every success in their next endeavor. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Kennebunk, Representative Babbidge.

Representative **BABBIDGE**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I met my wife in 1966 and at that time her grandmother was about to be married after having lost her first husband in a terrible accident about 30 years earlier. And I can remember thinking, first of all, isn't it interesting, a 65-year-old woman getting married. That's the mature mind of a 17-year-old. They had 30 years together. They lived to be 95 and 104. And when we went to visit Grammy Cole, we always went to Cole Farm. And I just need to say that it was a special place for us. Actually, Grammy Cole and Gerald lived in Representative Fay's district and I don't know if there's a geographical link there, but I just want to say that Cole Farm is an institution to many, many Maine people, my family among them, and will be missed. Thank you.

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

Recognizing:

Larry Gardner, of Fort Fairfield, coach of the Fort Fairfield Middle/High School basketball team, who has recently achieved his 400th coaching victory. Mr. Gardner has coached

basketball for over 30 years. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 782)

Presented by Representative McCREA of Fort Fairfield.

Cosponsored by Senator CARPENTER of Aroostook.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative MCCREA of Fort Fairfield, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Fort Fairfield, Representative McCrea.

Representative **McCREA**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Larry Gardner, my friend and former colleague, started his teaching career in Fort Fairfield school system in 1977 and taught school there until his retirement in 2016, 39 years later. He and his wife, Marilyn, are life-long residents of Fort Fairfield and have one daughter named Libby. From 1980 to 1989, Larry coached the boys' basketball team. His teams won two Eastern Maine championships and had an overall record of 98 and 67. Larry returned to coaching in 1998 as the girls' basketball coach until the present, with an overall record in the girls of 309 to 125. His girls' teams have twice been Eastern Maine runners-up and the Maine State Champions in 2010. His boys' and girls' teams combined win/loss record currently stands at 407 versus 192 losses.

Larry Gardner has been named Coach of the Year four times. I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate Larry on his in excess of 400th win, on his exceptional coaching career. I thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

The following item was 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 Thursday, January 16, 2020, have preference in the Orders of the Day and continue with such preference until disposed of as provided by House Rule 502.

An Act To Facilitate Fair Ballot Representation for All Candidates

(H.P. 374) (L.D. 517)

(C. "A" H-164)

TABLED - January 14, 2020 (Till Later Today) by Representative MOONEN of Portland.

PENDING - **RECONSIDERATION** (Returned by the Governor without her approval).

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am the sponsor of LD 517. LD 517 allows a candidate to request that a nickname appear on the ballot following their legal name for an election in the State. The candidate must declare to the Secretary of State that the nickname is actually the name which they are known to by others. The bill provides the voter with a clearer and more complete representation of the candidate and will help prevent confusion at the ballot box.

This bill received bipartisan support in the Committee of Veterans and Legal Affairs, as well as the Senate, and was passed unanimously by the House. The Chief Executive's veto

message seemed more to promote the bill than it did to oppose it. In the veto message, the Chief Executive demonstrated that a candidate can use electioneering techniques by calling themselves something like the greatest. First of all, if someone did something like that, I think it would guarantee that they would lose. Also, I don't foresee anyone going through the work of getting signatures to get on the ballot and all that entails and then proceed to lie to the Secretary of State on a sworn affidavit about the name they are known as. But if that is what they seek to do, the Chief Executive has already demonstrated in her message that there is a simple probate court process for that in which they can change their name. So, if a probate court can change your name in a matter of minutes, then what is the need for this bill?

Well, for me, I don't want to legally change my name because I am proud of the name my parents gave me. My first name, William, is after my great-grandfather, a two-war veteran of the Spanish-American War and World War I. He was named after his father, who was a mason in the city of Alexandria. He set the last stone in the Washington Monument. I am proud of that name. My middle name, Robert, is after my grandfather, Bob; a World War II veteran who received the Purple Heart in the Pacific Islands from a Japanese mortar shell. I am very proud of the name and would never legally change it. I feel that the suggestion of changing my name legally is an insult to myself and my parents.

Now I'd like to tell you a short story. A couple months after being elected, I was having some lobster traps delivered. At about midway through unloading 100 traps, we started discussing politics. At that point, the man that was unloading the traps said the only one he voted for that won was that Faulkingham. And I said oh, yeah, who? And he said that William Faulkingham, you must know him. I said well, do you know you're talking to him? And we both got quite a laugh out of that. But this here is an example, an honest example, of why we need to pass this law. This law is about transparency and people should know who they are voting for. I've been called Billy Bob my whole entire life, but the one name I have never been referred to is William Robert and a lot of people do not have a clue that's my name. I bet if I asked the people in this chamber who Harold Stewart III is, a bunch of hands wouldn't raise, but even one not raised would be too many. But we all do know that young man down in the corner by his name, Trey. Trey is the nickname he was given because he's the third. There are many examples like this and there will be many more to come, so please join me now in passing this law to improve future elections.

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

Representative STEWART: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. The Good Representative from Winter Harbor sort of stole a lot of my thunder, so I'll keep it brief. But it is interesting and for those that don't go by nicknames in this chamber, you know, it does change the dynamic of what you do when you're conversing with folks out in your communities.

Many of us are from small towns given that our House Districts are only about 8,500 folks, so, you know, nicknames do make a difference and you've heard a great example today from the Representative from Winter Harbor. You know, I'll echo his commentary by saying that happens to me all the time. In fact, most people think that I'm either an attorney, which I'm going to law school presently, but I'm not, in referencing my grandfather, the original Harold Stewart, or that

I'm a judge, referencing my father, the second Harold Stewart, both of which I think very highly of and I think they're much better men than I am. And so, I guess I'll close with this; if you actually wanted to get rid of me, you'd override this veto because then you'd know who you're actually voting for. So, anyways, thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Winthrop, Representative Hickman.

Representative HICKMAN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Women and Men of the House, I rise to support my vote in committee. I heard the arguments from both sides, I've read the Chief Executive's veto letter. But I learned something in committee that struck me and it was that our own congresswoman, Chellie Pingree, is actually her birth name was Rochelle. And because no one knew her by that, she changed it legally to become Chellie. And while that could compel a different vote, I actually think that what the Good Representative from Winter Harbor said about his family name is so important that why shouldn't his voters vote for him based on how they know him and still respect his heritage. And so, I will stand by my vote, and I ask my colleagues to join me. Thank you.

After reconsideration, the House proceeded to vote on the question, 'Shall this Bill become a law notwithstanding the Objections of the Governor?' A roll call was taken.

The SPEAKER: The pending question before the House is 'Shall this Bill become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?' All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 341V

YEA - Ackley, Andrews, Arata, AustinS, Babine, Bailey, Berry, Bickford, Blier, Blume, Bradstreet, Campbell, Collings, Corey, Costain, Crockett, Curtis, DeVeau, Devin, Dillingham, Dolloff, Drinkwater, Faulkingham, FecteauJ, Foster, Gattine, Griffin, Grignon, Hall, Hanington, Hanley, Harnett, Harrington, Head, Hepler, Hickman, Higgins, Hobbs, Hutchins, Hymanson, Javner, Johansen, Keschl, Kessler, Kryzak, Landry, Lyford, Marean, MartinR, MartinT, Mason, Maxmin, McCrea, McDonald, Millett, Morris, Nadeau, O'Connor, Ordway, Paulhus, Perkins, PerryA, Pickett, Pluecker, Prescott, Reed, Riseman, Rudnicki, Sampson, Sheats, Skolfield, Stearns, Stetkis, Stewart, Strom, Swallow, Sylvester, Talbot Ross, Theriault, Tuell, Wadsworth, Warren, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Alley, AustinB, Babbidge, Beebe-Center, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Cardone, Carney, Cebra, Cloutier, Cooper, Craven, Daughtry, Denk, Dodge, Doore, Doudera, Dunphy, Evangelos, Fay, FecteauR, Foley, Gramlich, Grohoski, Handy, Hubbell, Ingwersen, Jorgensen, Kornfield, MadiganC, MartinJ, Mastraccio, Matlack, McCreight, McLean, Melaragno, Meyer, Moonen, Moriarty, Pebworth, PerryJ, PierceT, Reckitt, Riley, Rykerson, Schneck, Sharpe, Stanley, Stover, Tepler, Terry, Tipping, Tucker, WhiteB, WhiteD, Zeigler.

ABSENT - Caiazza, Cuddy, Farnsworth, Haggan, Kinney, Lockman, Morales, O'Neil, Roberts.

Yes, 83; No, 57; Absent, 9; Excused, 0.

83 having voted in the affirmative and 57 voted in the negative, with 9 being absent, and accordingly the Veto was **SUSTAINED**.

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

ORDERS

On motion of Representative TALBOT ROSS of Portland, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 1464)

**JOINT RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY**

WHEREAS, January 20, 2020 marks the national and state holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., commemorating his birth on January 15, 1929; and

WHEREAS, Martin Luther King, Jr., was a Baptist minister who advocated the furtherance of civil and human rights for all Americans through nonviolence; and

WHEREAS, this man of great spirit showed this country a dream of "an oasis of freedom and justice"; and

WHEREAS, Dr. King, a model of an American patriot, provided the nation with one of the most prophetic and influential voices in our history; and

WHEREAS, for his tireless work to ensure equality and justice, Dr. King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, a high and honorable distinction, in 1964; and

WHEREAS, his eloquence, his perseverance and his faith moved mountains and brought about landmark legal and social changes by appealing to the better instincts and consciences of his fellow human beings; and

WHEREAS, the life of Martin Luther King, Jr., which ended so tragically on April 4, 1968, is a shining example to Americans and citizens of the world at large of uncompromising dedication to the highest ideals; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to acknowledge the extraordinary life and works of this teacher, reformer and humanitarian, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and pause in our deliberations to recognize and commemorate the occasion of his birth.

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Winthrop, Representative Hickman.

Representative **HICKMAN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I was conceived in Huntsville, Alabama, on the campus of Oak Wood Seventh Day Adventist College on Valentine's Day, 1967, eight weeks before the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his Beyond Vietnam Time to Break the Silence Speech at Riverside Church in New York City, a speech that distilled his belief that racism, economic exploitation, and war were all connected as the triple evils of society, a speech delivered exactly one year before his assassination.

I was born by the lake in a little house in Madison, Wisconsin, on December 8, 1967, just four weeks after Dr. King delivered his But If Not Speech at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, Georgia. A speech where he promoted civil disobedience against unjust and unconscionable laws, a speech that encouraged his followers to lead regardless of fear, to find and fight for a cause that you are willing to die for.

I was adopted by Hazelle and Minnie Juanita Hickman in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, in April of 1969, one year to the day after Dr. King's assassination. After southern blacks moved north during the great migration following World War I, Milwaukee became a city of segregated neighborhoods, where deep ethnic pride and the guarding of staked-out territories created enemy lines that caused decades of conflict and unrest. During the '60s, Milwaukee was referred to as the Selma of the North when a throng of negroes marched against Jim Crow and violence, my parents among them. The children

of those activists were wrought, cast and molded in the same smelting furnaces from the same sturdy iron. The strongest ones turned to steel, able to withstand anything at all.

A little more than two years ago, I observed in some disbelief and with great relief the milestone of my 50th birthday. The arc of my life, therefore, corresponds almost exactly to the span of time Dr. King left us and handed us the baton in the struggle for beauty, love, peace and justice. And so it seems serendipitous that I would be standing before you today, Madam Speaker, delivering these remarks. And even as I stand here, living proof that we have come a long way, let us never deny nor disremember the events and realities that show us we still have a long way to go. For even as I stand here today, in every city in this nation, including Maine, in every State in this Nation, blacks are incarcerated at rates disproportionate to that of whites, prolonging a new slavery of mass incarceration with no emancipation proclamation on the way.

The carceral State irreparably harms black families and communities of color and people in poverty and exposes the gruesome molds by which our nation's prison industrial complex profits off of the disenfranchised. For even as I stand here today, faith leaders, members of religious minorities and houses of worship across the nation are bombed and shot up and stabbed in the name of white supremacy. For even as I stand here today, it is not safe for a black man in Mississippi. As recently as June of 2017; 2017, I read an article in a Mississippi newspaper of a black man, 22-year-old Phillip Carroll, who was found dead hanging from a tree in his front lawn, his hands bound behind his back, his death ruled a suicide by local authorities even though his hands were bound behind his back. And in that same news story, another black man, 30-year-old Jeremy Jerome Jackson was shot in the leg, beheaded while still alive, his body burned to a crisp in a field a mile from his home, his head placed on his front porch on full display for passers-by to bear witness. It is beyond time that we deal with the legacy of lynching in this Nation. It is beyond time this Nation got right with that. For even as I stand here today, half of the people in this nation live in poverty, and too many people cannot afford to see a doctor or a dentist. Anyone who has ever struggled with poverty knows how incredibly expensive it is to be poor. For even as I stand here today, 90% of the food Maine people consume is imported from elsewhere, while one in four children in our State goes to bed hungry every night. Even as I stand here today, young people, senior citizens, minorities and others all over this land, are blocked from exercising their sacred right to vote because of voter suppression laws and conniving shenanigans that date back to Jim Crow. There can be no freedom without justice and in a free society there can be no justice without universal suffrage. I am reminded of the words of the great American author, James Baldwin, I quote these often; one must say yes to life and embrace it wherever it is found and it is found in terrible places. For nothing is fixed, forever and forever, it is not fixed; the earth is always shifting, the light is always changing, the sea does not cease to grind down rock. Generations do not cease to be born, and we are responsible to them because we are the only witnesses they have. The moment we cease to hold each other, the sea rises, the light fades, lovers cling to each other and children cling to us. The moment we break faith with one another, the sea engulfs us and the light goes out.

Madam Speaker, we are at a crossroads. Where do we go from here; community or chaos? The institutions of our democratic republic are in peril. The soul of this Nation is sick.

We must come together to heal her ills. There is no time for silence, no time for apathy, there is no time for despair. We must organize, we must show up, we must keep faith with one another, we must remain civil with each other, we must hold on to hope and by all means we must always vote. For as the great John Lewis, civil rights leader turned United States Congressman, an American hero fighting the toughest battle of his life right now, has rightfully proclaimed the vote is the most powerful nonviolent tool we have. And so, as we go away this afternoon, let us go away more than ever before committed to the struggle and committed to nonviolence. We must come to see that the end we seek is a society at peace with itself, a society that can live with its conscience. Thank you, Madam 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**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Lewiston, Representative Craven, who wishes to address the House on the record.

Representative **CRAVEN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I think everyone in this Chamber knows Charlie Dingman. The ultimate heartbreak happened to his family last December when his son, Eben, was killed in a car accident. Eben was 35 years old. He was well-known and loved in Lewiston. He owned Bear Bones Brewery. And we've all gathered there at gatherings many, many times. Eben traveled to Mexico City where he taught English as a second language and became fluent in his second language, Spanish. After he had returned to Maine, he became a brewer, founding Bear Bones Beer with his friend, Adam Tuuri in Lewiston, and later expanded to Bridgton. He also taught children both swimming and snowboarding.

Mr. Dingman will be long remembered and sadly missed by his family and friends and all those who loved and touched their lives. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Brunswick, Representative Daughtry, who wishes to address the House on the record.

Representative **DAUGHTRY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I rise to remember Eben Dingman.

Eben was passionate, funny, warm, helping, caring, and one of those one-of-a-kind humans that just made you realize that the light of life was flowing from this man. I got to know Eben through his brewery, Bear Bones Beer. Eben and his partner, Adam, helped my partner, Phil, and I when we were going through the process of opening Moderation Brewing and every time we came across a hurdle, especially when it had to do with dealing with an older building and trying to adapt it to a modern manufacturing, Eben and Adam would always be there with a smile and a word of encouragement and made it feel like our dreams were possible.

Eben with Bear Bones and with Adam they created that place that makes you feel like home, that desirable third place; it's not your work, it's not your home, but it's that third place you go to feel like you belong. And that's what Eben was capable of doing. He could make people realize that, you know, things are going to be okay. He was really great at, you know, some of the most stressful moments, you can have a

small business owner, when you're trying to tap a keg and it looks like it's going to blow up on you or, like me, when you forget what you need to be able to actually power the beer to be able to pour it at a festival and you forgot to pack it and you're not really quite sure how to get it to work. He was there with a smile and a laugh to make things okay. He will be greatly missed and, in these moments, it never feels like you have the right words for when someone is so tragically and viciously taken from us. But all I can say is that Eben won't be forgotten and that not only from my district, but from all of us at Moderation, from the entire staff, we send our love to his father, Charlie, his sisters and his brothers and he will be greatly missed.

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

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Provide a New Dormitory Facility at the Maine School of Science and Mathematics"

(S.P. 730) (L.D. 2060)

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

REFERRED to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Establish the Central Aroostook County Emergency Medical Services Authority"

(S.P. 723) (L.D. 2050)

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

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

Bill "An Act To Amend the Qualifications for the State Nuclear Safety Inspector"

(S.P. 724) (L.D. 2051)

Bill "An Act To Enact Restrictions on Electronic Smoking Devices and New Tobacco Products"

(S.P. 725) (L.D. 2052)

Bill "An Act To Remove the Application of the Maine Background Check Center Act to Facilities That Provide Services to Children"

(S.P. 726) (L.D. 2053)

Bill "An Act To Consolidate Certain Reporting Requirements of the Department of Health and Human Services"

(S.P. 727) (L.D. 2054)

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

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

Bill "An Act To Amend the Laws Concerning the Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program"

(S.P. 721) (L.D. 2049)

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

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

Bill "An Act To Require State Agencies To Use Renewable and Sustainable Energy and Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions"

(S.P. 728) (L.D. 2055)

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 Regarding the Transportation of Products in the Forest Products Industry"

(S.P. 731) (L.D. 2061)

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 Amend the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Board Laws Regarding Registered Equipment"

(S.P. 732) (L.D. 2062)

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.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 278)

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

January 16, 2020
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (H), I appoint Representative John L. Martin of Eagle Lake to serve as Speaker Pro Tem to convene the House on Thursday, January 16, 2020.

Sincerely,
S/Sara Gideon
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

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

The House recessed until the Sound of the Bell.

(After Recess)

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

At this point, the Senate came and a Joint Convention was formed.

In Convention

The President of the Senate, the Honorable Troy D. Jackson in the Chair.

The Convention was called to order by the Chair.

On motion of Senator Libby of Androscoggin, it was **ORDERED**, that a Committee be appointed to wait upon the First Family of the State of Maine, inviting them to attend this Joint Convention now assembled in the Hall of the House for the purpose of extending to Governor Janet T. Mills, an invitation to attend and make such communication as pleases her.

The **ORDER** was **READ** and **PASSED.**

The Chair appointed the following:

The Sen. from Androscoggin, Sen. CLAXTON
The Sen. from York, Sen. DESCHAMBAULT
The Sen. from Piscataquis, Sen. DAVIS

The Chair appointed the following:

The Rep. from Sinclair, Rep. MARTIN
The Rep. from Windham, Rep. BRYANT
The Rep. from Gorham, Rep. TERRY
The Rep. from Blue Hill, Rep. PEBWORTH
The Rep. from Carmel, Rep. REED
The Rep. from Bethel, Rep. HEAD
The Rep. from Knox, Rep. KINNEY
The Rep. from East Machias, Rep. TUELL
The Rep. from Friendship, Rep. EVANGELOS
The Rep. from Harrison, Rep. RISEMAN

Subsequently, Senator CLAXTON of Androscoggin, for the Committee, reported that the Committee had delivered the message with which it was charged and that the First Family of the State of Maine would attend forthwith.

The Chair welcomed in the House Gallery the First Family of the State of Maine.

On motion of Representative Moonen of Portland, it was **ORDERED**, that a Committee be appointed to wait upon the Honorable Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, and Chief Justice Leigh Saufley extending to them an invitation to attend this Convention and to extend to Governor Janet T. Mills an invitation to make such communication as pleases her.

The **ORDER** was **READ** and **PASSED.**

The Chair appointed the following:

The Sen. from Cumberland, Sen. BREEN
The Sen. from Cumberland, Sen. SANBORN
The Sen. from Oxford, Sen. HAMPER

The Chair appointed the following:

The Rep. from Westbrook, Rep. GATTINE
The Rep. from Eagle Lake, Rep. MARTIN
The Rep. from Bar Harbor, Rep. HUBBELL
The Rep. from Portland, Rep. JORGENSON
The Rep. from Old Town, Rep. DUNPHY
The Rep. from Falmouth, Rep. PIERCE
The Rep. from Waterford, Rep. MILLETT

The Rep. from Belgrade, Rep. KESCHL
The Rep. from Hiram, Rep. WADSWORTH
The Rep. from New Gloucester, Rep. ARATA

The Chair recognized in the House Gallery the Constitutional and Statutory Officers of the State of Maine: Secretary of State Matthew Dunlap, Attorney General Aaron Frey, State Treasurer Henry Beck, and State Auditor Pola Buckley.

The Chair also recognized Maine's Tribal Leaders: Chief William J. Nicholas Senior from the Passamaquoddy Tribe, Chief Clarissa Sabattis of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, Vice Chief Darrell Newell of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, Chief Edward Peter Paul of the Aroostook Band and Micmacs, and Ambassador Maulian Dana of the Penobscot Nation

The Chair further recognized in the House Gallery the Leaders of Higher Education for the State of Maine: Dannel Malloy, Chancellor of the University of Maine System, David Daigler, President of the Community College System, Dr. Joan Ferrini-Mundy, President of the University of Maine Legislature, Raymond Rice, President of the University of Maine at Presque Isle, Glenn Cummings, President of the University of Southern Maine, Rebecca Wyke, President of the University of Maine at Augusta, William Brennan, President of Maine Maritime Academy, Dmitry Bam, Interim Dean of the University of Maine School of Law.

The Chair also recognized in the House Gallery the members of the Governor's cabinet, Commissioners: Amanda Beal, Judy Camuso, Douglas Farnham, Kirsten Figueroa, Laura Fortman, Anne Head, Heather Johnson, Patrick Keliher, Jeanne Lambrew, Randall Liberty, Pender Makin, Jerry Reid, John Rhode, Mike Sauschuck, Bruce Van Note, and Timothy Peabody.

The Chair further recognized the following Municipal Mayors: Clare Davitt, Mayor of Bangor, Mike Foley, Mayor of Westbrook and, Jason Levesque, Mayor of Auburn.

The Chair recognized in the House Gallery the following members of our armed forces: Air National Guard Senior Master Sergeant Andrew Robichaud, Army National Guard Private First Class Jordan Rowland, U.S. Navy Personnel Specialist 1st Class Johnny Rowland, U.S. Navy Chief Hospital Corpsman Everett Dula and, U.S. Coast Guard Fireman Maeve Katcavage.

Subsequently, Senator BREEN of Cumberland for the Committee reported that the Committee had delivered the message with which it was charged and that the Honorable Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, accompanied by Chief Justice Leigh I. Saufley, would attend forthwith.

The Chair welcomed to the Convention the Honorable Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, accompanied by the Honorable Leigh I. Saufley, Chief Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court.

The Chair recognized the evening's Herald, Air National Guard Technical Sergeant Daniel Pendergast.

The Chair welcomed the Honorable Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, to the rostrum.

Governor **MILLS**: President Jackson, Speaker Gideon, Chief Justice Saufley, distinguished members of the 129th Legislature, and honored guests, I am here tonight to continue the story of our State, to talk about the progress we've made, the challenges we face and the strength and resilience of the people of Maine.

To you, the people of Maine, those watching at home and in businesses and shops across the State, those who are working the second shift in Waldoboro, Windham or Warren, those who are putting little ones to bed and making sure they have clean clothes and a lunch for tomorrow; you work hard. You get the job done and you expect nothing less from all of us. You've entrusted us to put aside our differences and come together and do what's right; to protect your healthcare and make it more affordable, to create new jobs and expand opportunity, to take care of each other and to welcome new Mainers home and ensure that our people are safe, happy and have the chance to succeed, and you are counting on us to take action now on the climate crisis that threatens our very way of life.

We have made progress and we have done so without rancor or bitterness. Together, we enacted a visionary paid leave law, workers comp reform and important firearm safety legislation. Together, we restored the Maine Indian State Tribal Commission and empowered it to become a forum for substantive communication, problem solving and dispute resolution; critical work that I remain committed to. We successfully negotiated seven collective bargaining agreements in timely fashion with state employees that these agreements that provide cost-of-living raises, first-time parental leave and a long overdue wage study, and so much more.

Our State is strong. Our State is resilient. Our State is ready. This year, we celebrate our 200th anniversary as a state. After we separated ourselves from Massachusetts and embarked on creating our own corporate identity and destiny, we, the Maine people, learned to be self-reliant and at the same time to rely on each other. We carved our character and our living out of Maine's forests, hills and tablelands, its fields and shores and mighty rivers. Using two-man saws and their own strength, Maine lumbermen withstood our coldest months to fell our tallest trees. Our State became the lumber capital of the world because of their resilience. Maine families dug potatoes, picked corn, squash, pumpkins, harvested oats and rye and side by side with their neighbors. Our State became the breadbasket of the northeast because of the resilience of Maine farmers. Hundreds of Maine craftsmen each worked from dawn till dark and dusk and to build world-class boats and ships piece by piece. Our products reached markets oceans away because of their resilience. And, of course, our State's history goes much further back before statehood to those who first hunted, fished and farmed and set their stones on these grounds. We stand here today because of the resilience of Native Americans.

Living in Maine has not always been easy. We have survived wars, depression, prohibitions, okay, cool. We've survived booms and busts. We've seen hatred and bigotry. We've suffered loss as a state, as a family. And through it all, we've been lifted up by the courage, conviction and resilience that comes from loving a place and it's people. That resilience defines our history. That resilience defines our future. These are trying times. Politics from Washington and beyond are marked by rancor, divisiveness and fear. And during this volatile presidential election year, the noise is deafening, turning us away from the security and saneness of our own small outpost. Tariffs and trade wars, threats of terrorism and partisan fighting paralyze the Nation's capital. But here in Maine, we're doing what Mainers have done for more than two centuries; putting our shoulder to the wheel and working across the aisle to get things done for Maine people because we're not Washington, we are Maine.

Marked by strength, pragmatism and resilience, Maine has always been ready and willing to do our part for our communities, for our country, for our world. We've always welcomed people who are not fortunate enough to grow up here, including ancestors of those of us in this room who came from other places. We've always faced loss together, mending our broken hearts as one people and one state. And for a moment, I want to bow my head with you to remember three good people who left this chamber unexpectedly in the past 10 months. People whose kindness and decency and dedication to this State left a mark on all of us: Representatives Dale Denno, Ann Peoples and Archie Verow. Let us remember also Representative Jim Campbell of Sanford, who served in this body for many years and who left us this past week. May God bless them and may the memories of their lives bring peace to their families and wisdom to us all.

This chamber is not alone in experiencing loss this past year. In April, a young police detective, a State Police detective, was on a routine assignment when he stopped to help a stranded driver. While in that act of kindness, Detective Ben Campbell was struck by a tire that had spun off the axel of a passing tractor-trailer, killing him, leaving his community and his state shocked and in mourning. Tonight, Ben's wife, Hilary Campbell of Millinocket, is with us. Hilary and her young son, Everett, and the rest of Detective Campbell's family are a reminder of the risks taken and sacrifices made by our courageous first responders. Hilary, while we can never repay Ben or your family for his service and sacrifice, we will never forget him and we will honor his memory, Hilary Campbell. In Detective Ben Campbell's name, I ask this body to enact legislation this session to increase the State's benefit for the families of our fallen first responders. The current benefit is shamefully inadequate to the sacrifice of those who have given their lives in the line of duty. We ask so much of the men and women who answer the call to service. Let's be there for their families in time of need. It's a simple thing to do, the right thing to do, we can do it because we're Maine, not Washington.

On the morning of September 16, 2019, a call rang out. A truck responded. Within seconds, disaster struck. An explosion rocked the town and took the life of one first responder and injured many, including one who still lies in a hospital far from home. What followed was not only shock and grief, but an outpouring of support from all corners of the State to make sure that the town would be safe while the fire department, suddenly bereft of its finest firefighters, recovered. Our fire Chief, Terry Bell, was severely injured and is still healing. And though we lost his brave brother, Captain Michael Bell, the Chief is back, the picture of resilience. Chief

Bell, I'm so glad that you and Denise are here with us tonight. I promise you and I promise the people of Farmington and the people of towns all across this State, we are going to make sure every department has what they need so this tragedy is never repeated and we will make sure that every young person in our State understands the opportunity and responsibility that they have to give back to their communities, the spirit that heroes like your brother and Detective Campbell so selflessly embodied, that you embody today. Thank you, Chief Bell.

In honor of Captain Michael Bell, I will create a scholarship fund for young people to train in fire suppression, with the first contribution coming from my contingent account as Governor. Maine needs more firefighters, particularly in rural Maine, and to that same end, I am proud to support Senator Erin Herbig's legislation to fund the Maine Length of Service Program to boost retirement benefits to firefighters and EMS workers to compensate them for their service. We can do this. Because we are Maine, not Washington. Did I say that before?

I'm also pleased to report to you tonight that Maine's economy is on a solid footing and growing. Revenues are up, our gross domestic product is up, housing starts with construction and auto sales are up, and the state budget continues to have a healthy surplus, maybe you hadn't noticed that. And while the private sector created 5,300 new jobs this past year, my administration at the same time helped 800 people with disabilities find and keep jobs. Our unemployment rate decreased from 3.5 to a historically low 2.8 percent. With your help, we paid off the \$80 million debt for the Riverview Psychiatric Center and stopped the bleeding of interest payments to the federal government. My administration added \$30 million to the Budget Stabilization Fund, for a total now of \$237 million. Oh, yeah, and we provided \$75 million in property tax relief for Maine seniors, families and small businesses. Just look in your mailbox. About 300,000 of you will be receiving a check in the mail this week thanks to the bipartisan budget passed last year and the good work of Speaker Gideon, especially.

While this is all progress, it's important that we remain cautious. The Revenue Forecasting Committee and the Consensus Economic Forecasting Commission both have expressed cautious optimism about the Maine economy in the near-term, recognizing, quote, the uncertainty surrounding national fiscal and trade policies that could impact future economic growth. Some economists also predict a looming nationwide recession, in line with previous economic cycles. So, we have to be ready for any downturn, any changes, we must remain resilient. That's why I'm committed to setting aside another \$20 million for the rainy day fund this year. Other challenges loom large over our economy. As any business in this State will tell you, it's difficult to find qualified workers and it's impacting their ability to do business. Very simply, we need people. My administration has developed a 10-year economic plan for the State, with a cornerstone of attracting 75,000 more people to our workforce and fostering innovation. The goal here is to make Maine an international leader with a vibrant and environmentally sustainable economy. One that provides good-paying jobs and an unmatched quality of life. Already, we're seeing a turn in migration. From July 2018 to July 2019, we gained more than 7,500 people. It's coming. People who came here to find work, people who fell in love here, people who came from other states, other countries, from Canada, Cambodia, the Congo and beyond. Some at great personal sacrifice.

Kifah Abdulla survived eight brutal years as a prisoner of war in Iran, facing death a hundred times over. Now, as a teacher and poet, he inspires students across the State with his story of survival and resilience. Kifah Abdulla joins us here this evening.

And Maine's newest citizen joins us tonight. The author of a book, *Call Me American*, a young man who nearly starved to death in Mogadishu as a little boy before the U.S. Marines saved him and inspired him to learn English and ultimately to become an American citizen. Abdi Nor Iftin fled terrorism and sought refuge in another country and now lives and works in Maine, earning his college degree here. Abdi, you fought to get here, you belong here, and we welcome you here.

Our new Welcome Home Program is intended to entice those who have grown up here and left, and those from other states, other places, wanting to move here, to come to Maine, become part of our workforce. We need them. Just look at the success of Tilson Technologies, led by Maine native, Josh Broder. Tilson hires many, many veterans and they are leading the world in innovative 5G technology, which is at the heart of our next industrial revolution. Tilson is here tonight, represented by Adria Horn. Adria, are you there? There she is. Thank you for what you do. We need more people like Adria and Josh Broder to start their businesses here and expand their businesses here and to foster innovation. My administration will also support increased funding for the Maine Seed Capital Tax Credit. By helping businesses take root here and grow here, we'll create jobs and diversify our economy. And to encourage young families to come here and work here, Maine also needs more affordable housing.

Assistant Majority Leader Ryan Fecteau has proposed a Maine Affordable Housing Tax Credit, similar to the Maine Historic Tax Credit, which has helped boost our economy in recent years. That proposal would create nearly 1,000 additional affordable homes over the next eight years, increasing Maine's current rate of production by 50 percent. Send that bill to my desk and I will sign it.

Our 10-year development plan also tells us to enhance critical infrastructure, including broadband, particularly in rural Maine. There's a place called DesignLab in Millinocket, it's a marketing and design firm. They used to have to upload their video files on a hard drive and then they'd drive to the Medway gas station where they would ask the bus driver to deliver the digital files to a video editor in Presque Isle. That's no way to do business. Internet speeds for their business were dismal and severely limited their productivity. Now, with broadband, they're succeeding. As one small businessman told me the other day, you want to grow the economy? Give me better internet. It's as simple as that. It's time for us to listen. High-speed internet is no longer a luxury, it's a necessity. Increasing access to high-speed internet will allow businesses to expand and allow people to connect with schools, healthcare providers and markets across the country and around the globe.

We also cannot let our State's economic advantages slip away in other ways. Our economy and our environment are bound together. This past session, we made smart investments in each. Thanks to the collaboration of our administration and this Legislature, including Senate President Jackson, the McCrums, a family who for five generations have harvested potatoes, back to the 1800s, this year they will open a large processing plant in Washburn, Maine, using Maine-grown potatoes and creating jobs, needed jobs in the county. The McCrums are the picture of readiness, of resilience and we thank them. Meanwhile, on another front, two financiers,

very creative individuals, Sam May and Scott Budde, created a first-in-the-nation credit union for farmers. The Maine Harvest Credit Union will help more farmers be successful and give a big boost to that farm-to-table movement that's become so important to our economy. Thank you, Scott Budde, for joining us here tonight. Where did he go? There he is.

Also here tonight with us is Heather Whitaker. She's an alternative education instructor at Gorham Middle School, where I was once a student. She started a garden at the school which children are learning about growing food and about public service and they donate more than more than 800 pounds of produce every year to the local food pantry. Please join me in acknowledging Maine's Teacher of the Year, Heather Whitaker. Where is she? There she is. Thank you, Heather.

Let's not only acknowledge Heather. Let's ensure that the students she teaches will have an opportunity to work with their hands on our lands and fish our waters when they grow older. That means conserving our parks, our working farms, working forests and working waterfronts. And tonight I call on this Legislature to send to the people of Maine a bond that provides much needed funding for the Land for Maine's Future program. People overwhelmingly support this. People of all parties all across the State support this program. Let's give them a chance to vote, at least, on a measure that will protect our environment, protect our fishermen and farmers and grow the economy.

Well, we cannot have a healthy economy, of course, without a healthy workforce, and that's why my first action taking office was to expand Medicaid to provide healthcare to more Maine people. Now more than 57,000 Maine people have accessed life-saving healthcare. And we enacted LD 1 to protect healthcare for Maine people regardless of age or condition or pre-existing conditions. Thank you for doing that. And we enacted prescription drug reform to lower prescription drug costs. Thank you for doing that, too. And we provided more than \$62 million over two years for nursing homes, understanding that that money should go to the employees, the direct care workers, to fulfill workforce and patient care needs. But there's more to do, especially for small businesses. Maine's small group health insurance market has seen increasing premiums and decreasing enrollments, making it difficult for business owners to offer insurance to their employees. That's why LD 2007 we introduced two weeks ago, sponsored by Senate President Jackson and Speaker Gideon, will improve health insurance for Maine people and small businesses all without any appropriations, without any tax dollars. This bill, the Made for Maine Health Coverage Act, offers a Maine solution for small businesses and it creates a marketplace designed to best meet the needs of Maine people. I ask this body to pass that legislation on behalf of businesses like Becky's Diner. And I want to acknowledge one of the hardest-working women I know, Becky Rand, who is with us tonight. This legislation is critical to supporting their small businesses, businesses like hers, and improving healthcare and strengthening our workforce. Thank you, Becky, for being here. Where did she go? Oh, there. Ask her if she brought some of those famous lobster rolls, I don't know, maybe outside. We can do this because we're not Washington, we're Maine. Did I say that before?

And because we're Maine, we love our communities, we love our neighbors, but still today too many of them are falling victim to another crisis that is harming our State, one I spoke about a year ago; the opioid epidemic. When I took office, I gave my word to Maine people suffering from substance use

disorder that help was on the way. I told them and I tell them now, they are not alone and together we'll do everything we can to bring them back, make our communities, our families, our State whole once again from this devastating epidemic. And because we expanded Medicaid, more than 6,500 people are now receiving treatment for substance use disorder who didn't have it before.

Gordon Smith, Maine's first Director of Opioid Response, is bringing the resources of the State and our expertise to bear on this problem, this public health emergency. Thank you, Gordon. Part of that mission is to make available the life-saving drug, Narcan. You know, when I was Attorney General, I used funds from pharmaceutical settlements to buy Narcan, non-tax dollars, and then distributed it to law enforcement agencies all across the State. And Attorney General Aaron Frey has continued that work, and as of this month, that Narcan alone has saved 880 lives. Thank you, Aaron. Thank you, Aaron. Now, through the new Prevention and Recovery Cabinet we've formed and the Attorney General's Office, we're making sure that Narcan is more widely available and we're training recovery coaches and supporting recovery centers across the State to help people turn their lives around and prevent it from happening in the first place.

These efforts complement, of course, the efforts of law enforcement to stem the flow of dangerous drugs into and within our State. Meanwhile, community leaders are also helping Maine people turn their lives around. Margo Walsh of MaineWorks, who is with us tonight, is providing jobs to people in recovery. These opportunities, these second chances, are critical to help people turn their lives around and this effort helps us fill our workforce needs. It's a win-win for Maine. Thank you, Margo Walsh, for recognizing that Maine people in recovery are ready and able to work and that our economy needs their skills. Thank you.

Make no mistake, healing our State from the ravages of the opioid epidemic is a complicated challenge and it won't be erased overnight. There's another scourge among us that we must eradicate as well; child abuse. No one can think about the past year without remembering 10-year-old Marissa Kennedy and 4-year-old Kendall Chick, two helpless little girls who died violent deaths at the hands of family members, whose caregivers were tried and convicted this past year. The deaths of these two children represented an awful failure of our society and of our State's safety net. Not to have intervened, not to have broken down the door, not to have saved those children was a sin of the highest order and it is in the name of those children, Marissa Kennedy and Kendall Chick, that we have reactivated the Children's Cabinet, to break down the silos of the bureaucracy that failed to hear their helpless cries. With the approval of this Legislature, we've begun to rebuild the Child and Family Services Division. My biennial budget included funding for 32 new child welfare workers and all 32 have finally been hired. Thank you. Thank you to the Appropriations Committee for putting together a bipartisan bill in that respect. But, you know, that was just a down payment. Maine's Child Welfare Ombudsman reported just last week we have more to do. We're on the right path, but a lot more to do. More than 1,300 children came into state custody last year, the majority of them under the age of five, the majority of their homes torn apart by drugs. I will ask this Legislature to fund another 20 positions to respond quickly and effectively to reports of abuse and neglect of our children. I know you agree. Our greatest responsibility is to protect the children and provide them with every opportunity to succeed.

In our society, education is the pathway to success and a key to addressing our workforce needs as well. Equal access to a good education levels the playing field for every student of every age in every zip code in Maine and I believe in the Maine public schools. I believe in our State's 18,855 teachers who, like my mother did for 37 years, now devote their lives to making our children responsible citizens with skills to last a lifetime. So, I am proud to say that in our biennial budget, we included \$115 million in new state support for K through 12 and pre-K, bringing the state's share to nearly 51%. It paved the way for a \$40,000 minimum teacher salary to ensure that our teachers don't have to leave the State of Maine to earn a living wage. It replenished the fund to renovate schools in disrepair and it increased funding for higher education to keep tuition affordable.

This year I ask this Legislature to fully fund the second year of the higher education budget that was cut last spring. These institutions of higher learning cannot withstand rising costs without the prospects of higher tuition and higher tuition is the last thing our students need. The average Maine college graduate in 2018 owed more than \$32,600 in student loans, the eighth-highest student loan burden in the country. We've got to simplify debt relief programs like the Educational Opportunity Tax Credit to help more graduates retire their debt on time and we must boost the Educators for Maine Loan Forgiveness Program to incentivize young teachers to work here in Maine and work in underserved areas which desperately need them. We have a shortage of teachers.

While lifting the burden of student debt off the shoulders of our graduates, we also need to ensure that secondary school students have the skills they need in whatever occupation they choose, the skills to succeed in a rapidly-changing economy. We're joined tonight by one of those 18,855 remarkable teachers, Greg Cushman, another one, Maine's 2019 Career Technical Education Teacher of the Year. Greg is an electrical instructor and SkillsUSA advisor from Lewiston Regional Tech Center. Thank you, Greg, for training Maine's next generation of skilled tradespeople. And, you know, our CTEs are more important than ever, yet they have not received significant funds for equipment since 1998. I ask this body to fund equipment upgrades for our CTEs so that teachers like Greg are able to provide the 8,000 CTE students with the skills that we desperately need them to have. These are great investments that will help us address Maine's top challenges, including our workforce shortage.

Our workforce shortage is driving one of Maine's other top challenges; our aging transportation infrastructure. So, while we're at it, in the words of my good friend and fellow governor, Gretchen Whitmer of Michigan, let's fix the damn roads. Just last week, the Maine DOT released its three-year work plan. Chronic underfunding and cost increases keep us from maintaining our essential infrastructure. With a shortfall of as much as \$232 million a year, it's time to put our heads together and get creative. I want that Blue-Ribbon Commission to keep working on this until they come up with a good solution, as long as it takes, and this morning I signed the Resolve you folks passed that allows them to continue that work. Partisan posturing and skinny mix won't fix the roads, creative ideas will. And I'm not opposed to using some general fund dollars to improve that infrastructure and to boost our economy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions through transportation changes. This is not a partisan issue. There aren't any Democratic roads or Republican bridges. We can fix this. Because, did I say, we're not Washington, we're Maine.

Galen Cole knew the importance of transportation in our State. Galen's contributions to our State were immeasurable, not only as Bangor's Mayor, but as a business owner, as founder of the Cole Land Transportation Museum, as a decorated World War II veteran, Purple Heart recipient and as a lifelong champion for Maine's veterans. Members of his family join us here today, tonight, as we remember his legacy and honor him. Thank you, Janet Cole Cross, for your father's and your family's contributions to our State's readiness, our state's resilience, for the over 90 years of your father's life. Thank you, Janet.

I cannot speak to the State of the State or discuss its future without acknowledging another greater threat to the resiliency that is on our doorstep. As we speak this evening, as you know, wildfires are destroying far-off Australia, killing every living thing in their path. The Bering Sea off Alaska is ice-free suddenly, while drought is paralyzing southern Africa. Maine is not immune from the damage caused by the climate crisis. Emissions of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases from the burning of fossil fuels, the unfortunate, quote, footprints of human activity stomping on the atmosphere, as NASA calls it, are impacting our economy, our health and our safety.

It may be easy for some of us to brush off the warnings of scientists on a day like today with freezing temperatures, when a one or two-degree hike in temperature seems harmless, even welcome. Maine is strong. We're resilient. But we better be ready. Climate change is real and it is affecting us as we speak. Fishermen tell us of the invasion of green crabs from southern waters that are eating their clams and decimating their fisheries. Ticks, those little buggers are now rampant and the number of Lyme disease cases in Maine has increased tenfold in recent years. Some of our most beautiful towns built along lakes, rivers, and shores may soon become year-round flood zones. Sea level rise and storm surges in just a few years will threaten the causeways and piers, the shops and harbors and houses of Boothbay, Belfast, Rockport, Lubec and other beautiful communities. And you can imagine when we might have to redesign Route 1, a main artery of our tourism industry, to avoid constant flooding.

I told the 193 delegates to the United Nations last fall, Maine won't wait, and I mean it. We're not Washington, we're Maine. We can and will do our part. So, this year we've created the bipartisan Maine Climate Council, we became the 22nd state to join the U.S. Climate Alliance, we've committed to achieving 80% renewable energy by 2030, one of the most ambitious renewable energy standards in the nation, we've opened the door to offshore wind projects, supported electric vehicles and promoted the installation of heat pumps statewide. We've removed the cap on community solar and fixed net metering and now more than 300 new solar projects, community solar, are in development. From a fishermen's co-op to a capped landfill in Tremont to the Hope General Store, the Milk House in Monmouth, food pantries in Vassalboro and Saco, and credit unions, apartment buildings, and trailer parks, water districts, Supercuts in Brewer, and with farmland in Franklin County and Geiger Brothers in Lewiston, solar energy is changing the landscape and saving money for people all across the State. At the Blaine House alone, that new array of solar panels has already saved the equivalent of 1 ton of carbon dioxide emissions. In the coming year, we'll continue to move away from oil as primary source of heat, reduce our reliance on gas for transportation, we've got to, which is 54% of our greenhouse gas emissions. We'll support innovative businesses like Atlantic Sea Farms, run by Briana Warner, that

grow kelp commercially, diversifying our aquaculture economy while reducing ocean acidification. We'll embrace energy storage and other new technologies. And, meanwhile, all along the northeast United States the offshore wind industry is generating thousands of jobs in the development of thousands of gigawatts of renewable electricity. According to the International Energy Administration, offshore wind is set to become a \$1 trillion industry by 2040. Maine won't be left behind.

For centuries, the Gulf of Maine has sustained Maine life. From the time humans first migrated to Maine, the bounty of the sea and the shore have been a critical part of our sustenance. Food, transportation, communication, recreation all have been gifts of the sea to us. For Maine people, the salt is in our veins. But today, the Gulf of Maine is in trouble. Warming more quickly than nearly every ocean in the world, the Gulf of Maine's ability to sustain its rich and diverse resources is diminishing. Cod, herring, shrimp and lobster are some of the staples of coastal life already at risk. We cannot wait to act. We're already fighting for our lobstermen and fishermen. Yet the Gulf of Maine is both a challenge and an opportunity. It is our new frontier; no, not for oil, but for wind. Thanks to this Legislature, the Public Utilities Commission and our University, Maine will build and launch the nation's first floating offshore wind project, Maine Aqua Ventus, with full input from our fishing industry and our people. And I promise you that commitment is just the beginning of our effort to use the Gulf of Maine and all the world's oceans to slow the warming of our planet. We can do this.

The University of Maine Advanced Structures and Composites Center, led by Dr. Habib Dagher, has already created the first grid-connected floating offshore wind turbine in the United States and Maine Aqua Ventus is positioned to become a leader in this industry. Thank you, Dr. Dagher, for putting Maine on the map. If you haven't visited that laboratory, you must. It is amazing what they're doing there and our engineering students are helping every step of the way.

This spring I will visit Scotland to see the offshore wind platforms they are using to supply that country with clean renewable energy. I'm determined that the business we once lost to them, we will bring back to Maine. We have such great potential. And in the coming weeks, my administration will be taking steps to unleash that potential. Stay tuned.

Mitigating the effects of climate change and moving Maine toward a clean energy future requires that our utilities be reliable and resilient as well and that they put Maine consumers first. For years, we have allowed electrical utilities a monopoly on our transmission and distribution lines. Today, few are happy with the results of the regulatory framework under which these utilities operate, based primarily on setting rates that allow a reasonable profit to the utilities with very little degree of benefit to the public. I ask your guidance and your help in this body to make sure that these foreign corporations to whom we accede the privilege of operating in our State are answerable to Maine, not to Spain or some other foreign country. Let's work together to ensure that Maine consumers are at the table, that profits do not take precedence over service, and that utilities are accountable and answerable to the people of Maine.

The stories of Kifah Abdulla, the Farmington Fire Department, Tilson Technologies, Abdi Nor Iftin, Becky Rand, Margo Walsh's clients in recovery, Heather Whitaker, Greg Cushman, and Galen Cole and others, these are stories of resilience, readiness, preparedness. These are stories of

Maine. They're stories that Maine's first governor, William King, might've relished. As I reflect on the spirit of Maine people in this our bicentennial year, as I think about our history, I wonder what our predecessors would think about where we are today. I wonder what Governor King, William King, saw when he traveled the State 200 years ago. Did he see eagles flying over the Kennebec? The same prehistoric sturgeon we now hear leaping in the waves? The tall, elegant pines, the brightest salmon, fields newly cleared of stone? Middens on the islands left by Native Americans thousands of years before? The tall rock of Seguin beckoning fishermen and sailors home? Could he have imagined? Could he have imagined the wonders of the modern world or the new heights that we have reached? Could he have dreamed that a young woman from Caribou, Maine, would be speeding through outer space at this moment, having achieved history by completing the first all-female spacewalk? Thank you, she's not here. She's not here. Thank you, Jessica Meir, wherever you are, for being a hero to young girls and boys from Maine and proving that the sky is, in fact, no longer the limit. Jessica is another example of readiness, of Maine-bred resilience. And what would Governor William King think of our clothing made in China or a delivery service called Amazon? What would he think of the growing tech sector or the digital age or cyber security or Russian hackers? What would he think of cars and cellphones, of Uber, Lyft and Air BnB? Would he have given up sending letters from Maine for Snapchat, Instagram, or Twitter or Facebook?

And what would Governor Carl Milliken of Island Falls, the first governor to live in the Blaine House one hundred years ago, what would he think of us now? Well, it'd be a mixed bag. One hundred years ago, on the heels of national prohibition, Governor Milliken spoke about the impending vote on women's suffrage. Opponents had gathered 10,000 signatures to force a referendum and block the right to vote. In his speech to this body, Governor Milliken said unequivocally, quote, if only one woman in Maine wants to vote, she ought to have the chance, end-quote. This year, the Legislature could take one more step in the direction of full citizenship, full responsibility and equality under the law. After decades of debate and 46 years after Maine ratified the Equal Rights Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, it's time to do what 26 other states have done, preserve equality of rights regardless of sex. Pass the Equal Rights Amendment to the Maine Constitution. As Justice Ginsburg said, quote, I would like my granddaughters, when they pick up the Maine Constitution, to see that language, that women and men are persons of equal stature. I'd like them to see that it is a basic principle of our society. So, pass the ERA.

Now, Governor Milliken was also concerned about intoxicating beverages. There we may differ. So, he and Neil Dow would probably roll over in their graves to learn that Maine now has 153 craft breweries, more breweries per person than any other state. And I would want to reassure Governor Milliken unequivocally that my election 14 months ago had nothing to do with the fourfold increase in beer consumption in my home state. But what will our State be like 20 years from now, 50 years from now, a hundred years from now? Will artificial intelligence replace books and normal communication? Will we have digital codes instead of names? Will facial recognition replace the handshake? I can't say for certain what the future holds, but 50 years down the road, I predict there will be data centers across Maine buried in granite, cooled by geothermal cells providing enough spinoff heat to run a whole town for an entire winter. Skyscrapers and

homes across the country will be built with cross laminated timber invented and manufactured here in Maine. And I predict that John L. Martin will be back in the State Senate after having been (INAUDIBLE) between the two bodies. Dana (INAUDIBLE) leather recliner and in Freeport, Ben Gideon will finally run for town council. And Sawin Millett will be serving in his 49th cabinet post for his 38th governor. L.L. Bean will still be selling great boots delivered by robots. They'll be good for spending a weekend hiking on the moon. Visitors will be flocking to Westbrook this time of year to see the formation of yet another ice disk spinning on the Presumpscot River. There will be high-speed passenger rail from Freeport to Lewiston and all the way to Montreal. We will finally have high-speed internet all across the State and maybe even cellphone service on 295. And the Governor of Maine, whoever she is, will be making \$70,000 a year. Don't you laugh. But know this; everyone will want to live here. Everyone will want to stay here.

We have an ambitious agenda this year, the years to come, and I know there will be people who say we can't do all of this now and, you know, government should do less, not more. Building a healthcare system, saving people from the opioid epidemic, fighting child abuse and domestic violence, confronting climate change, strengthening education, improving our workforce; is this too much to ask? Former Speaker of the House Tip O'Neil once said, quote, any fool can tear down a barn, it takes a good carpenter to build one. We can do these things. We're not Washington. We are Maine. Let's build a barn that shelters our State, that protects our stock and feed and flock, that keeps the evils of the world at bay, makes our State resilient for centuries to come. One hundred fifty years ago, General and Governor Joshua Chamberlain addressed this body. He said, quote, the government has something more to do than govern and levy taxes. It is something more than a police to arrest evil and punish wrong. It must also encourage good, point out improvements, open roads to prosperity and infuse life into all right enterprises. I think he meant build a barn.

Two hundred years ago, we secured our independence from Massachusetts and became a state, though we divided the country in some unholy compromise. But today we set a course for the next decade, the next centennial. Like the pulse of our common community, the water beneath the now-crusting ice flows deeper than ever, hiding the strength and richness of our rivers, our State's lifeblood, the mountain peaks boast snow, the high pines that once attracted shipbuilders and the spruce whose roots secure the granite along our shores are certain now of surviving another winter, sheltering the land for many more seasons to come. We are but a minute in the course of centuries, but these things will surely be here 50 years hence, ready, resilient, strong and unchanged. Like them, let us preserve what we can and build what we can, when we can, however we can, of this great State in this our bicentennial year. And to all the people of Maine, thank you for the great honor of being your governor. Thank you. Thank you.

At the conclusion of the address, Governor Janet T. Mills withdrew amid the applause of the Convention, the audience rising.

The purpose for which the Convention was assembled having been accomplished, the Chair declared the same dissolved.

The Senate then retired to its chamber.

(After the Joint Convention)

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

On motion of Representative BAILEY of Saco, the House adjourned at 8:08 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Thursday, January 23, 2020, in honor and lasting tribute to the memory of Janet "Janie" Shepard Vogt of Bethel.