ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
15th Legislative Day
Monday, July 19, 2021

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

Prayer by Honorable Margaret Craven, Lewiston.

National Anthem by Honorable John E. "Jack" Ducharme III, Madison.

Pledge of Allegiance.

The Journal of Thursday, July 1, 2021 was read and approved.

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

PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE

Bill "An Act To Fund Collective Bargaining Agreements with Executive Branch Employees" (EMERGENCY)
(H.P. 1299) (L.D. 1735)
Sponsored by Representative MILLETT of Waterford. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)

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

Under suspension of the rules and **WITHOUT REFERENCE** to a Committee, the Bill was **READ TWICE**.

Representative DUNPHY of Old Town **PRESENTED House Amendment "A" (H-744)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

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

Representative **DUNPHY**: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, LD 1735 is a normal housekeeping bill in what has been an extraordinary time. The Executive periodically negotiates the State's labor contracts with several unions that represent more than 13,000 of our neighbors who are public service workers. During the pandemic, we saw how critical their ability to adapt has been and we should adapt as well. Timing is seldom an issue here. We often preauthorize the expenditures found in the State salary plan even before negotiations are complete. Because by that time, we have a fairly good idea where the areas of agreement are going to be found. This year, however, negotiations haven't borne such early fruit. Part of it is because of the work of the past administration and Legislatures doing their best to close budget gaps with limited resources. As the administration and the four unions negotiate, the question is yet unsettled as to what those final salary numbers will look like and without this amendment, we would be inadvertently capped the amount of pay the unions can negotiate for and what the administration can offer. Mr. Speaker, this is an important point. I don't pretend that even with the federal stimulus funds and revenues coming in way ahead of projections, that we're swimming in money. But we've all in our committees heard the trends. Recruitment and retention has been suffering for years in every agency. Depending on the budget cycle, we have frozen cost of living adjustments, reduced or eliminated step increases and longevity pay, frozen vacancies and eliminated positions, making the work of those still in service that much more challenging as they try to service their neighbors.

The jobs that the State of Maine offer and that are at stake here are not all entry-level positions. Many are skilled positions that require a strong educational background and experience and because of the stagnation in our pay scales, many of these critical positions languish vacant for years. Programmer Analyst positions often have to be contracted out for projects because a skilled programmer can make twice as much as the State offers. Accountants are underpaid by 20-33%, chemists by 24%, civil engineers 20-25%, maintenance mechanics 31%, correctional officers 16% and correctional captains 26%, according to a new market study report commissioned by the Department of Administration and Financial Services. It's even more concerning that the State continues to pay many workers under $15 an hour. McDonalds, Target, Amazon, Best Buy and many more companies have committed to a minimum pay of $15 an hour or more along with tuition reimbursement and 401(k) benefits. Meanwhile, laborers for the Department of Transportation start at $13.21 an hour. Office assistants for the Department of Health and Human Services start at $12.84 an hour. State Park Rangers start at $13.78 an hour and Assistant Park Rangers start at $12.15 an hour. Many employers are increasing their wages dramatically to stay competitive in a difficult labor market, yet the State of Maine has yet been unable to take action to compete. We have seen State Troopers have to fall back on public assistance and dedicated section managers and directors leave State service because it was not competitive. Succession planning for retiring directors and managers is at risk because new employees find they can't afford to stay at the entry level or even advanced pay scales. Personnel directors are increasingly seeking permission to hire new employees at the top of their pay ranges just to simply attract applicants. Mr. Speaker, all this amendment does is allow the administration and the unions to make use of current fiscal information so that they can negotiate a fair salary plan. I urge my colleagues to support the adoption of this amendment and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Waterford, Representative Millett.

Representative **MILLETT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. You may have noted that I am listed as the prime sponsor of this bill on behalf of the Chief Executive Officer. I knew nothing about the amendment that has just been presented and discussed. My understanding was that the purpose of this bill was to provide contingent approval within this Body for collective bargaining that is still in process. There are two bargaining units that are working with unions that are still operating within a 60-day window from June 30th to the end of August and two others that are working on a plan to extend bargaining through the calendar year. From what I heard the Majority Leader say, it looks like we're getting into the negotiations process here in this Body. Perhaps someone on the leadership level could table this amendment because it is not consistent with what I was asked to do as a sponsor of the bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

On motion of Representative DILLINGHAM of Oxford, **TABLED** pending **ADOPTION** of **House Amendment "A" (H-744)** and later today assigned.

ENACTORS
Resolves

Resolve, To Create the Commission To Develop a Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program
(S.P. 501) (L.D. 1559)
(C. "A" S-142; S. "A" S-360 to S. "A" S-356)

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

On motion of Representative DILLINGHAM of Oxford, was **SET ASIDE**.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on **FINAL PASSAGE**.

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 424

YEA - Alley, Arford, Babbidge, Bell, Berry, Blume, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Caiazzo, Cardone, Cloutier, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Cuddy, Dodge, Doore, Dunphy, Evangelos, Evans, Fay, Geiger, Gere, Gramlich, Grohoski, Harnett, Hasenfus, Hepler, Kessler, Landry, Lookner, Madigan, Martin J, Martin R, Mathieson, Matlack, McCrea, McCreight, Melaragno, Meyer, Millett, Morales, Moriarty, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Paulhus, Pebworth, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Sachs, Salisbury, Sheehan, Stover, Supica, Sylvester, Talbot Ross, Tepler, Terry, Tucker, Warren, White, Williams, Zager, Zeigler, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Andrews, Arata, Austin, Bernard, Bickford, Blier, Carlow, Carmichael, Cebra, Connor, Corey, Costain, Dillingham, Dolloff, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Foster, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Hanley, Harrington, Head, Hutchins, Kinney, Kryzak, Lemelin, Libby, Lyford, Lyman, Martin, Mason, Millett, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, O'Connor, Ordway, Perkins, Pickett, Poirier, Quint, Roche, Rudnicki, Sampson, Skolfield, Stanley, Stearns, Stetkis, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, White.

ABSENT - Bailey, Bradstreet, Collamore, Doudera, Grignon, Hymanson, Javner, Johansen, McDonald, Parry, Pierce, Prescott, Roeder, Sharpe, Theriault, Tuttle, Warren, Wood.

Yes, 74; No, 58; Absent, 18; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 58 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 18 being absent, and accordingly the Resolve was **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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

SENATE PAPERS
Non-Concurrent Matter

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Regarding Early Voting

(H.P. 423) (L.D. 580)
(C. "A" H-95)

FAILED of **FINAL PASSAGE** in the House on May 19, 2021.

Came from the Senate **FINALLY PASSED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford moved that the House **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

Representative DILLINGHAM of Oxford **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Cumberland, Representative Moriarty.

Representative **MORIARTY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and good morning to all of my Colleagues of the House. It was two months ago that we first debated this bill, where we were in session at the Augusta Civic Center and we heard from quite a number of Members on both sides of the issue. The resolve would simply authorize the Legislature to prepare legislation under the Constitution to provide for an early voting alternative, which would not take the place of voting in person nor would it take the place of voting by absentee. I won't go through all of the detail that was part of our debate at our first go-around in this issue but would emphasize again that early voting is an option and not a requirement. I listened with a great deal of respect to comments from my colleagues that day and I heard many of them explain the reasons why communities that they represent might not be interested in early voting. They included such topics as staffing shortages, security concerns and in some cases, probably the smaller towns, simply the fact that they don't use voting machines at all and therefore would have difficulty in complying.

I agree this is not a solution that is necessarily appropriate for everyone and is not presented as a one-size-fits-all proposal. I would draw the Body's attention to a brief comment made by the Maine Municipal Association in its written testimony before the Veteran and Legal Affairs Committee. The MMA wrote; it is a process that will be welcomed in some communities and deemed unnecessary in others. That sums up my assessment of the situation as well. I respect the right of all communities in this State to decide whether or not early voting is both workable and feasible for them. But in closing, Mr. Speaker, I ask this of all of my colleagues in this Body; I urge you please not to deny the opportunity to those towns and cities who would like to participate in early voting; the same option that other communities may exercise in choosing not to so participate. It is a matter of home rule and individual decision to be made by the communities we represent. I urge that the motion pass. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 425

YEA - Alley, Arford, Babbidge, Bell, Berry, Blume, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Caiazzo, Cardone, Cloutier, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Cuddy, Dodge, Doore, Dunphy, Evangelos, Evans, Fay, Geiger, Gere, Gramlich, Grohoski, Harnett, Hasenfus, Hepler, Kessler, Landry, Lookner, Madigan, Martin J, Martin R, Mathieson, Matlack, McCrea, McCreight, Melaragno, Meyer, Millett, Morales, Moriarty, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Paulhus, Pebworth, Perry A, Perry J, Pierce, Pluecker, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Sachs, Salisbury, Sheehan, Stover, Supica, Sylvester, Talbot Ross, Tepler, Terry, Tucker, Warren, White, Williams, Zager, Zeigler, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Andrews, Arata, Austin, Bernard, Bickford, Blier, Carlow, Carmichael, Cebra, Connor, Corey, Costain, Dillingham, Dolloff, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Foster, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Hanley, Harrington, Head, Hutchins, Kinney, Kryzak, Lemelin, Libby, Lyford, Lyman, Martin, Mason, Millett, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, O'Connor, Ordway, Perkins, Pickett, Poirier, Quint, Roche, Rudnicki, Sampson, Skolfield, Stanley, Stearns, Stetkis, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, White.

ABSENT - Bailey, Bradstreet, Collamore, Doudera, Grignon, Hymanson, Javner, Johansen, McDonald, Parry, Prescott, Roeder, Sharpe, Theriault, Tuttle, Warren, Wood.

Yes, 75; No, 58; Absent, 17; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 58 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 17 being absent, and accordingly the motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR FAILED**.

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 206)

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

July 13, 2021

The 130th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, Maine

Dear Honorable Members of the 130th Legislature:

By the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing L.D. 1549, *An Act to Establish the Maine Forestry Advisory Board*.

L.D. 1549 would create a 21-member Forest Advisory Board to advise the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry (Department) on a variety of forestry issues, conditions, and trends, and to provide input on the state forest action plan.

While the goals of this bill are admirable, in practice, it is redundant to the work and stakeholder engagement already conducted by the Department.

Maine is fortunate to have a variety of strong, diverse stakeholders engaged in forestry, silviculture, conservation, wildlife, and recreation. These conservation-oriented nonprofits, academics, agencies, and other interested parties have a proven track record of working collaboratively on issues of common concern. The Department currently works with many of these entities in dozens of councils, advisory groups, research projects, and boards across the State. The Department greatly values these ongoing opportunities for engagement and relies on the expertise of its partners regularly.

A good example is the Spruce Budworm Task Force, which was formed to prepare the State for the impending spruce budworm outbreak. Over a series of months, this diverse group developed a sound plan to respond to an outbreak in Maine's forest community.

It is not clear what new value, protections, or benefits L.D. 1549's new advisory board would offer, nor is it clear what specific issue it needs to solve. This uncertainty is reflected in the Committee Report (7-6 ONTP) and the lack of consensus on floor votes in the House and Senate.

This bill would also have a fiscal impact on the Department to staff, manage, and facilitate meetings, and yet the fiscal note was eliminated before enactment. The Department does not have the additional capacity or discretionary funds to support activities as described in the bill. By comparison, Minnesota has a similar Board to that which is envisioned in L.D. 1549. The Minnesota Forest Resource Council has five full-time staff members and an annual budget of $847,000. If the Legislature wishes to establish new programs and services, it must also provide the funding they will require.

It is important to note that Maine has a comprehensive set of forest practices laws that address sustainable forestry, clearcutting, shoreland harvesting, liquidation harvesting, and other activities that have resulted in an abundant, well-managed forest resource. In addition, more than half of Maine's forest lands are certified to one or more major forest certification standards; landowners implement Best Management Practices on close to 90 percent of timber harvests monitored annually; and Maine now has a forest inventory system in place that tracks the condition of the forest in close to real-time. These are significant improvements over the forest practices that were in place in the 1990s.

The goal of having Maine's forest practices be transparent, informed by experts, and conforming to state-of-the-art procedures is one I share. However, the formation of a new board that duplicates existing functions is inefficient, expensive, and simply not necessary. For these reasons, I return L.D. 1549 unsigned and vetoed. I urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Respectfully,

S/Janet T. Mills Governor

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The accompanying item An Act To Establish the Maine Forest Advisory Board

(H.P. 1154) (L.D. 1549)
(S. "B" S-385 to C. "A" H-519)

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Saco, Representative O'Neil.

Representative **O'NEIL**: Mr. Speaker, it's an honor to receive my first-ever veto.

This bill would create a public stakeholder process for discussing forest policy. That means this bill would let regular people, people who don't have connections or know someone special in Augusta, join the conversation about forest policy. We're talking about workers and regular people who don't have a lobbyist but do have a stake in our woods. Folks came to the public hearing and talked about how a public process would be useful to them. And I haven't heard a good reason that we shouldn't make our government more available to regular people. On the one hand, the Chief Executive says it's redundant to have a public stakeholder process, that we already do this kind of engagement. And on the other hand, even though this won't change what the department is already doing, the Chief Executive says it will somehow cost extra money to do what we already do and the department doesn't have the capacity. Mr. Speaker, I'm confused. If we already do this work, why not make it formal and open to the public? This bill would make it easier for regular people to follow conversations about forest policy and to participate in those conversations. We do it for marine and we do it for IF&W, both resources of statewide importance, just like our forests. I don't know why lobbyists are afraid of regular people getting to participate. I urge you to override this veto to create space for regular Mainers to engage with their government. 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. 426V

YEA - Alley, Arford, Babbidge, Bell, Berry, Blume, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Caiazzo, Cardone, Cloutier, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Cuddy, Dodge, Doore, Evangelos, Evans, Geiger, Gere, Gramlich, Grohoski, Harnett, Hasenfus, Hepler, Kessler, Lookner, Madigan, Martin, Mathieson, Matlack, McCrea, McCreight, Melaragno, Meyer, Millett, Morales, Moriarty, Newman, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Paulhus, Pebworth, Perry A, Perry J, Pierce, Pluecker, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Sachs, Salisbury, Sheehan, Stover, Supica, Sylvester, Talbot Ross, Tepler, Terry, Tucker, Warren, Williams, Zager, Zeigler, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Andrews, Arata, Austin, Bernard, Bickford, Blier, Carlow, Carmichael, Cebra, Connor, Corey, Costain, Dillingham, Dolloff, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Fay, Foster, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Hanley, Harrington, Head, Hutchins, Kinney, Kryzak, Landry, Lemelin, Libby, Lyford, Lyman, Martin J, Martin T, Mason, Millett, Morris, Nadeau, O'Connor, Ordway, Perkins, Pickett, Poirier, Quint, Roche, Rudnicki, Sampson, Skolfield, Stanley, Stearns, Stetkis, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, White B, White D.

ABSENT - Bailey, Bradstreet, Collamore, Doudera, Grignon, Hymanson, Javner, Johansen, McDonald, Parry, Prescott, Roeder, Sharpe, Theriault, Tuttle, Warren, Wood.

Yes, 71; No, 62; Absent, 17; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

71 having voted in the affirmative and 62 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 17 being absent, and accordingly the Veto was **SUSTAINED**.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 207)

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

July 13, 2021

The 130th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, Maine

Dear Honorable Members of the 130th Legislature:

By the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing L.D. 1708, *An Act to Create the Pine Tree Power Authority, a Nonprofit Utility, to Deliver Lower Rates, Reliability and Local Control for Maine Energy Independence*.

The performance of our investor-owned utilities in recent years has been abysmal: inexcusable billing errors, unacceptable delays in restoration of service, inexplicable confusion over the costs of connecting new solar projects to the grid, substantial rate increases, and now a draft audit report that questions Central Maine Power's management structure. We are well beyond the point of debating whether our utilities can do better. They can, and they must. Our utilities – which are granted a monopoly over the vital service of delivering electricity to Maine consumers large and small – must provide the high quality, reliable, efficient, and competent service that Maine citizens and businesses expect and deserve.

I have read L.D. 1708 multiple times, reviewed testimony submitted during its public hearing, and listened to and considered arguments in favor and in opposition to the legislation. This bill is arguably one of the most consequential ever to be considered by the Legislature – a bill the impact of which would touch the lives of nearly every Maine citizen in serious, substantial, and fundamental ways.

It may well be that the time has come for the people of the State of Maine to retake control over the assets on which they depend for the lifeblood of our communities, that is, our electric transmission and distribution services. And there may be a way to create a utility with a professional governing board that is clearly eligible to issue low-interest, tax-exempt bonds that would save ratepayers money, achieve better connectivity with solar and other renewables, and further the climate goals of this Administration. But L.D. 1708, hastily drafted and hastily amended in recent weeks without robust public participation, is a patchwork of political promises rather than a methodical reformation of Maine's complicated electrical transmission and distribution system.

L.D. 1708 would direct the public takeover of Maine's two investor owner utilities, Central Maine Power and Versant Power. The current owners of these utilities are not willing sellers. Recognizing this, the bill authorizes the use of eminent domain to condemn their electricity transmission and distribution assets. The bill would create a new public power authority, and to finance the acquisition of the utilities' assets, the bill contemplates the authority's issuance of tax- exempt bonds. [1]

The new authority would be governed by an 11-member board. Seven members with voting rights would be popularly-elected and need not have relevant experience or credentials. Four seats on the board are designated for members with expertise on energy and utility matters, though these members have no voting privileges. The new authority would be required to contract with an operator, through a competitive bid process, to run the just-acquired assets. The bill requires that preference be given to bidders with demonstrated "familiarity with the systems to be administered." That requirement would leave Central Maine Power and Versant – the same entities whose assets were just condemned – in the most obvious position to win the contracts to operate their own former assets.

I am deeply concerned that this bill is being advanced too quickly without having undergone adequate public scrutiny and without having addressed substantive concerns raised by many. The bill was printed on May 17, heard in Committee on May 20, worked in Committee on June 1, and voted on in Committee that same day. A last-minute amendment that makes the new entity liable for property taxes did not permit an evaluation of the effect of that change on the entity's ability to issue tax exempt bonds.[1]

Despite such amendments designed to gain the favor of specific legislators, L.D. 1708 has engendered substantial and unabated concerns from respected community members as diverse as the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, three former PUC Commissioners, and the mayors of seven Maine cities.

This bill's rush to enactment is particularly disturbing given where this matter was left at the end of the 129th session, when an analysis by London Economics (LEI) had recommended several substantial areas requiring further study. In response, the Energy and Utilities Committee voted to endorse a task force that would study the costs and benefits of a consumer-owned utility. That task force was never created, and significant issues that LEI raised, such as the need for a business plan, still have not been addressed. Instead, L.D. 1708 simply defers them to be dealt with by the authority's elected board. The stakes are too high for that. Basic due diligence demands that we have that information before committing the State to this large a venture.[2]

In addition, the bill directs the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) to find, notwithstanding other laws to the contrary, that all debt incurred by the new authority prior to its final acquisition of the transmission and distribution assets is a "just and reasonable expense." The new authority, whose voting board members may have no experience in managing a utility, would be at the mercy

of attorneys and consultants whose services it would desperately need in trying to fulfill its mission. Declaring all the authority's initial expenses to be just and reasonable as a matter of law would essentially grant these professional contractors a blank check and is a recipe for excessive spending and an inevitable increase in rates to consumers.

L.D. 1708 would become effective only once approved by voters. For a bill of such consequence, that requirement is appropriate. What is inappropriate is the manner in which the bill puts the question to voters. Section 15 of the legislation dictates the language of the ballot question, as follows:

> Do you favor the creation of the Pine Tree Power Company, a nonprofit, privately operated utility, governed by a board elected by Maine voters, to replace Central Maine Power and Versant Power, *without using tax dollars or state bonds, and to focus on delivering reliable, affordable electricity, and meeting the State's energy independence and Internet connectivity goals*? (Emphasis added).

This proposed ballot question is not an even-handed treatment of the serious issues that L.D. 1708 presents. It is an attempt to put a finger on the scale of the referendum process by highlighting the most optimistic potential outcomes, with no mention of the potential downside risks. Those risks are substantial, and include protracted litigation over the proper valuation of the condemned assets, the possibility that the hostile takeover of the State's utilities will lead to delays in investments needed to achieve greenhouse gas reduction goals, and problems associated with an inexperienced board trying to run the State's major utilities, potentially under the operation of the very same entities that own them currently. To be fair to voters, the Legislature must give a full airing to these issues before sending the matter to referendum, and then put the question to voters in a form that is objective and impartial, and not designed to elicit a desired result.

The sponsor of the bill had offered to introduce additional amendments in an attempt to address concerns previously raised in the memo my office sent to the Legislature. However, these concerns were not subject to quick and easy language changes. The sponsor's very willingness to consider further last-minute amendments seemed to be a recognition of the bill's substantial flaws and good reason for the sponsor to have carried the bill over to put these far-reaching amendments through a thorough, deliberative public process in which all stakeholders and consumers could engage and be heard. Unfortunately, this offer was not accepted.

It has been said to me that this is not truly a question of whether Maine needs a consumer-owned utility, but rather, of whether I will let the voters decide. The voters of this state elected me. They elected me to evaluate policy matters in a fair and thoughtful way and to take the steps I believe are in the best interest of Maine people. In fewer words: they elected me to do a job. If I were to simply pass along a measure – one that I believe is deeply flawed – for their consideration, I would not be doing my job. Instead, I would be shirking my responsibilities as their Governor – something I cannot and will not do.

I agree that change is necessary, and I am open to considering alternative proposals and strengthening the authority and penalties available to the PUC. For instance, a process already exists in Maine law to force the divestiture of a public utility's assets. The PUC has the authority to hold an adjudicatory hearing to determine whether a public utility is "unfit to provide safe, adequate and reliable service at rates that are just and reasonable." 35-A M.R.A. § 1511. An evidence-based proceeding such as this might be more appropriate for such a profoundly important change, particularly as compared to the rushed political process that characterized the enactment of L.D. 1708.

The American journalist H.L. Mencken said, "Every complex problem has a solution which is simple, direct, plausible – and wrong." I share the frustrations surrounding the service and performance of Maine's utilities, but I am deeply concerned that this bill presents a rosy solution to a complicated problem that, if implemented, would create more problems than it solves. Those problems are substantial, and include protracted litigation over the proper valuation of the condemned assets, the possibility that the hostile takeover of the State's utilities will lead to delays in investments needed to achieve carbon reduction goals, and problems associated with an inexperienced board trying to run the State's major utilities, potentially under the operation of the very same entities that own them currently.

For these reasons, I return L.D. 1708 unsigned and vetoed, and I urge the Legislature to sustain this veto.

Respectfully,

S/Janet T. Mills

Governor

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[1] A not insignificant ambiguity lies in the bill's very definition of the new entity, variously referred to as a "body corporate and politic," "consumer owned transmission and distribution utility," a "public municipal corporation," a "quasi-municipal corporation," and in the referendum language as "a nonprofit, privately operated utility…." The characterization of this entity ultimately determines whether it is eligible to issue tax-exempt bonds, a major underpinning of the proposal's purpose of lowering rates, achieving climate goals and improving connectivity and reliability. However, subjecting the entity to property taxes makes it much more difficult to qualify as a "constituted authority of the state."Comm'r v. Shamberg's Estate, 144 F.2d 998 (2d Cir. 1944). If, on the other hand, it is intended to be a private entity eligible for tax-exempt private activity bonds, it would be subject to the "Rostenkowski Rule," which prohibits the purchase of utility assets with tax-exempt bonds.

[2] Another last minute amendment requires that the new entity acquire all rights and responsibilities under any existing TIFs., despite the fact that TIFs generally include non-assignability clauses. Similarly, the provision in the bill that requires all obligations and contracts and net energy billing agreements be transferred to the new entity raises serious constitutional issues concerning the impairment of contract.

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The accompanying item An Act To Create the Pine Tree Power Company, a Nonprofit Utility, To Deliver Lower Rates, Reliability and Local Control for Maine Energy Independence

(H.P. 1269) (L.D. 1708)

(H. "B" H-738 to C. "A" H-640)

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bowdoinham, Representative Berry.

Representative **BERRY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Women and Men of the House, over the past three years, this bill has been thoroughly vetted by a diverse group of legislators, utility experts, economists, conservationists and many others. It earned overwhelming support by the public including businesses, workers, municipalities and bipartisan support in the committee with a 10 to two report and in both bodies of the Legislature.

There is one statement in this veto letter I agree with; the bill is and I quote, arguably, one of the most consequential ever to be considered by the Legislature. A bill, the impact of which,

would touch the lives of nearly every Maine citizen in serious, substantial and fundamental ways, unquote. Given the importance of the bill, imagine my surprise in seeing that the letter before us fails even to correctly name the bill being vetoed and fails even to correctly name the company being created. In truth, the bill addresses every question and concern raised in this oddly confused letter.

Earlier today, each of you received a very brief response from me by email. As always, I'm pleased to discuss the issues further with anyone interested and I'm sure others here today are as well. But, again, what we agree on is the critical importance of this question to Maine's future. This choice is what truly matters. It is the future we choose for our children and grandchildren. Put simply, the consumer-owned business model is far better suited to the complex and urgent needs of our energy future and the voters who do wish to be liberated from energy captivity and instead given choice in and control over our power deserve to be trusted to make that choice with us.

Our monopoly grid will soon power every aspect of our lives. It is the lifeline of our shared energy future. It is possibly the most critical infrastructure of tomorrow, essential to our security and our survival. Do private utilities want us to think we can regulate our way to a fast and fair transition? Of course they do. State regulators were created by these private utilities 120 years ago to eliminate competition between them. Since then, regulatory capture has only increased, even as the size and scale of the utilities grew and grew and grew. So, who's the cat and who's the mouse today? CMP today is less than 2% of Iberdrola's massive multinational monopoly empire. Iberdrola owns 100% of the voting shares of CMP, not Avangrid, the U.S. intermediary. These global energy empires are the cat today and Maine and its captive customers and regulators are the mouse. It is a game we will never win.

With this bill, we can let Maine people be our own masters. We can free our people from energy captivity, pay for performance rather than guaranteed profits and provide the choice and control that comes with representative, democratic, transparent governance.

Someday in the decades to come, when the storms howl and the floodwaters rise and the temperature rises, as if the planet's own immune system were fighting off an invasive virus, we will look back and ask ourselves; did we do the right thing? Did we do enough when we had the chance? Did we set Maine on the right course for the generations to come? Did we live up to our motto? Which is not to follow, but to lead.

This bill and the coming referendum it has created is Maine's chance to truly lead at this pivotal, decisive moment in human history. I urge my colleagues to stand by the people of Maine, to support their right to energy self-determination and to support the exercise of direct democracy that will come, whether it is now or in 2022. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **BICKFORD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, once again I rise in opposition to this bill and to hope that we can sustain the Chief Executive's veto, I'm sorry. If we don't like the way our cable companies are run, are we going to have state-owned cable? Are we going to have state-owned newspapers if we don't like what they write? Are we going to have state-owned grocery stores? This is something that Russia does, China does, Venezuela does. Is that the direction we want to head? Mr. Speaker, this is ridiculous. Please vote no and sustain the Chief Executive's veto.

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

Representative **POIRIER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I rise in opposition of the Chief Executive's veto of LD 1708. The bill to create the Pine Tree Power Company was not done in haste but is a culmination of over three years of research. It's gained bipartisan support from legislators and our constituents. The Chief Executive remarked that the performance of investor-owned utilities has been abysmal. She noted inexcusable billing errors, unacceptable delays in restoration of power outages, confusion over grid connection costs, substantial rate increases and a questionable management structure. These concerns are not new. They've been mounting for years and our constituents have been begging for help and pleading for answers. Now is the time for the people of Maine to take control over our electricity services. CMP and Versant have been given ample opportunity to take corrective measures and to do the right thing. Instead, they fight our constituents at every turn, all for the sake of profits. Foreign monopolies controlling our power has proven unsuccessful. How many chances do we give them before we say enough is enough? How much longer before we put the interests of the people of Maine before foreign monopolies? This bill is not a government takeover; this is a consumer takeover. LD 1708 is the Legislature finally being a strong advocate for our constituents. They're tired of being taken advantage of by power monopolies. Our friends and our neighbors have been burdened by overpricing for years. They're going to see another rise in these prices next month, a double-digit increase, only to receive subpar services. In closing, I ask you, Mr. Speaker, would we trust a foreign for-profit monopoly to own and run our public schools? Our hospitals? Our fire departments? Of course not. Why should we trust them with the grid that will power our entire future? Please join me in overriding this veto. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Hiram, Representative Wadsworth.

Representative **WADSWORTH**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. You know, this Body could debate this bill for ad infinitum and it feels like we already have. You know, Mr. Speaker, this bill never had my support because we don't take over private companies. They're not for sale. This is America, where your property is protected by property rights. This isn't a country where we take private assets, ever. This is the Legislative Branch and we're not the judge or the jury here. Please sustain this veto because we don't steal private assets in America.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Ellsworth, Representative Grohoski.

Representative **GROHOSKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning House Colleagues. You heard it from the Chief Executive herself; our two major electric utilities are abysmal, unacceptable, inexcusable. And we agree on that. But she failed to offer a solution while a well-vetted one sits before this Body today. Consumer ownership is the tried-and-true model that we need to improve our worst-in-the-nation reliability and customer satisfaction while also ensuring that we can afford future investments in our electricity grid. Citizens are already gearing up for a 2022 ballot initiative to create a safe, reliable and affordable utility for our State. If the pending motion fails today, I will join their efforts to transition our profit-driven,

investor-owned utilities to one driven by the needs of all Maine people. Thank you.

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

Representative **FOSTER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I stand this morning in support of the veto of LD 1708. With 1708, I sense an ill wind blowing for the ratepayers of Maine. I'll keep my remarks brief, I've laid out my position, my concerns, based on facts, prior to this and will not repeat all of those. I also trust that everyone here has read the Chief Executive's veto letter and although I agree with most of her points, I disagree with a few. But I would like to touch on a couple here. First of all, the issue of legal concerns which I raised partially in previous comments here were raised by the Chief Executive regarding whether this is a government entity or not, what the situation will be for allowing tax exempt bonds in that regard and also how that affects the ability to pay property tax to certain municipalities.

Secondly, the Chief Executive brings up the point that the PUC will be directed to allow all debt incurred prior to final acquisition to be considered just and reasonable, which means that will be paid by ratepayers who are already seeing, as has been mentioned here, other increases not at the hands of the utilities entirely but at direction from entities such as federal government and our own State government. Thirdly, the issue was raised in the veto letter about the referendum process and letting the voters decide. Well, I too would say my constituents elected me and a bill of this magnitude, which will have such an effect on most ratepayers, should have received the proper scrutiny and legislative processing it deserves and not have been rushed through as was pointed out in the veto letter and as I pointed out in previous remarks. And, finally, I will raise a new point that has not been raised and that is the fact that we have been made aware that the PUC considers past legislation that allows net energy billing will potentially raise ratepayer costs by another 30% if all contracts are fulfilled, which I expect they will be. I would only point out that the same folks who authored LD 1708 and said it will not cost ratepayers money also authored that bill. Finally, I would ask that you support the veto, let the Public Utilities Commission, Public Advocates Office and the legislative committees that are required to do so, work to address the issues, make improvements that are needed with the IOUs. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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. 427V

YEA - Alley, Arford, Babbidge, Bell, Berry, Blume, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Cardone, Carlow, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Cuddy, Dodge, Doore, Dunphy, Evangelos, Evans, Faulkingham, Geiger, Gere, Gramlich, Grohoski, Harnett, Hasenfus, Hepler, Kessler, Landry, Lookner, Madigan, Mathieson, Matlack, McCrea, McCreight, Melaragno, Meyer, Millett, Morales, Moriarty, O'Neil, Osher, Paulhus, Pebworth, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Poirier, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Sachs, Salisbury, Sheehan, Stover, Supica, Sylvester, Talbot Ross, Tepler, Tucker, Warren, Williams, Zager, Zeigler, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Andrews, Arata, Austin, Bernard, Bickford, Blier, Caiazzo, Carmichael, Cebra, Cloutier, Connor, Corey, Costain, Crockett, Dillingham, Dolloff, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Fay, Foster, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Hanley, Harrington, Head, Hutchins, Kinney, Kryzak, Lemelin, Libby, Lyford, Lyman, Martin J, Martin R, Martin T, Mason, Millett, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, O'Connell, O'Connor, Ordway, Perkins, Pickett, Pierce, Quint, Roche, Rudnicki, Sampson, Skolfield, Stanley, Stearns, Stetkis, Terry, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, White B, White D.

ABSENT - Bailey, Bradstreet, Collamore, Doudera, Grignon, Hymanson, Javner, Johansen, McDonald, Parry, Prescott, Roeder, Sharpe, Theriault, Tuttle, Warren, Wood.

Yes, 68; No, 65; Absent, 17; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

68 having voted in the affirmative and 65 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 17 being absent, and accordingly the Veto was **SUSTAINED**.

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 198)

SENATE OF MAINE
130TH LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

July 1, 2021
The Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under Legislative Document 609 finally passed in the 130th Legislature, I am pleased to appoint Dana Totman to the Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions. With this appointment, he will be serving as a representative of a statewide organization that advocates for affordable housing, effective the date of this letter.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this appointment.

Sincerely,
S/Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 199)

SENATE OF MAINE
130TH LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

July 1, 2021
The Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under Legislative Document 609 finally passed in the 130th Legislature, I am pleased to appoint Heather Spaldingto the Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions. With this appointment, she will be serving as a representative of statewide agricultural interests, effective the date of this letter.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this appointment.

Sincerely,
S/Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 200)

SENATE OF MAINE
130TH LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

July 1, 2021
The Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt:
Pursuant to my authority under Legislative Document 609 finally passed in the 130th Legislature, I am pleased to appoint the following Senators to the Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions:
Senator Craig Hickman of Kennebec
Senator Matt Pouliot of Kennebec
With this appointment, they will serve as Senators representing the two parties holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature. Their appointments are effective the date of this letter.
Please let me know if you have any questions regarding either appointment.
Sincerely,
S/Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 201)

SENATE OF MAINE
130TH LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

July 1, 2021
The Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt:
Pursuant to my authority under Legislative Document 609 finally passed in the 130th Legislature, I am pleased to appoint John Napolitano to the Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions. With this appointment, he will be serving as a representative of the building trades, effective the date of this letter.
Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this appointment.
Sincerely,
S/Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 202)

SENATE OF MAINE
130TH LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

July 1, 2021
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt:
Pursuant to my authority under Legislative Document 609 finally passed in the 130th Legislature, I am pleased to appoint Kate Dufour to the Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions. With this appointment, she will be serving as a representative of a statewide municipal association, effective the date of this letter.
Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this appointment.
Sincerely,
S/Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 203)

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

July 8, 2021
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt:
Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (I) (a), I am appointing Representative Jack Ducharme of Madison to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, effective immediately. Representative Ducharme is to fill the vacant seat left as a result of the Honorable Justin Fecteau's resignation.
Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding this appointment.
Sincerely,
S/Ryan M. Fecteau
Speaker of the House
READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 204)

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

July 9, 2021
Honorable Robert Hunt
Clerk of the House
#2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0002
Dear Clerk Hunt:
Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (I) (a) and Joint Rule 371, I have appointed Representative Mark Blier of Buxton as a member of the Government Oversight Committee

replacing Representative Kathleen Dillingham of Oxford, effective immediately.
Should you have any questions regarding this appointment, please do not hesitate to contact me.
Sincerely,
S/Ryan M. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 205)

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

July 14, 2021
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt,
Pursuant to my authority under Resolve 2021, Ch. 59, I am writing to inform you that I am appointing myself, Speaker of the House Ryan Fecteau of Biddeford, to serve on the *Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions* as a member from the Maine House of Representatives, effective immediately.
Should you have any questions regarding this appointment, please do not hesitate to contact me.
Best,
S/Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 208)

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

July 14, 2021
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt,
Pursuant to my authority under Resolve 2021, Ch. 59, I have appointed the following to the *Commission To Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Zoning and Land Use Restrictions*, effective immediately:
Representative Amy Arata of New Gloucester
Jeff Lavine of Portland
Madeline Hill of Bailey Island
Erin Cooperride of East Boothbay
Cheryl Golak of Harpswell
Anthony Jackson of Brewer
Should you have any questions regarding these appointments, please do not hesitate to contact me.
Best,
S/Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 209)

SENATE OF MAINE
130TH LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

July 15, 2021
The Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt:
Pursuant to my authority under Title 3, MRSA, §227, I am pleased to appoint the following individuals to the Maine-Canadian Legislative Advisory Commission, effective the date of this letter:
Justin Chenette of Saco
Vincent Frallicciardi of Madawaska
Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this appointment.
Sincerely,
S/Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 210)

SENATE OF MAINE
130TH LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

July 15, 2021
The Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt:
Pursuant to my authority under Title 1, MRSA, Chapter 13, Section 411, I am pleased to appoint Justin Chenette to the Right to Know Advisory Committee, effective the date of this letter. He will be serving in seat number 13 on the committee, as a representative of the public.
Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this appointment.
Sincerely,
S/Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The Following Communication: (S.C. 699)

MAINE SENATE
130TH LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

July 1, 2021
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt:
Please be advised the Senate today adhered to its previous action whereby it Failed to Engross Bill "An Act To Make Possession of Scheduled Drugs for Personal Use a Civil Penalty" (H.P. 713) (L.D. 967) in non-concurrence.
Best Regards,
S/Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The Following Communication: (S.C. 700)

MAINE SENATE
130TH LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

June 30, 2021
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt:

Senate Paper 82, Legislative Document 194, "An Act To Prohibit Contributions, Expenditures and Participation by Foreign Government-owned Entities To Influence Referenda," having been returned by the Governor, together with objections to the same, pursuant to Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, after reconsideration, the Senate proceeded to vote on the question: "Shall this Bill become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?" 22 voted in favor and 12 against, and accordingly it was the vote of the Senate that the Bill not become a law and the veto was sustained.

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

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

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

ORDERS

On motion of Representative CARLOW of Buxton, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 1298)

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING CLEAN ENERGY'S IMPORTANCE TO MAINE'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND ECONOMIC FUTURE

WHEREAS, the State has a proud history advancing Maine's clean energy sector to support infrastructure developments and other key industries; and

WHEREAS, Maine can continue to expand in-state energy production by taking advantage of opportunities in clean energy, thereby expanding and diversifying our economic base while achieving 100 percent renewable energy by 2050; and

WHEREAS, clean energy is part of America's energy future and includes not only generation from renewable sources but also upgrades to technologies and energy storage; and

WHEREAS, Maine can invest in our energy infrastructure to include affordable, efficient battery storage technologies; and

WHEREAS, over 11,900 Maine citizens are currently employed in the clean energy sector; and

WHEREAS, further bipartisan infrastructure investments and the advancement of clean energy innovation on the federal level will help spur economic development and new business growth, creating future-facing jobs for hard-working Maine citizens while supporting stronger, more vibrant and increasingly cleaner communities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirtieth Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize the value of clean energy, including the promise of abundant job opportunities, economic growth, energy independence, consumer choice, lower energy prices and a cleaner environment; and be it further

RESOLVED: That we recognize that clean energy generation from all renewable sources plays an important role in Maine's diverse energy portfolio and that investing in clean energy infrastructure is of fundamental importance to the long-term health of our roads, bridges, electrical grid, cybersecurity, economy and quality of life.

READ.

Representative DILLINGHAM of Oxford **REQUESTED** a roll call on **ADOPTION**.

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

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

Representative **FOSTER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Very briefly, although I believe we all approve and wish to have clean energy and increased jobs, I will not go through this resolution entirely to discuss areas that I don't entirely agree with, but I will point out a couple of issues that I have. One is we continue to promote clean energy jobs and the number is issued here at 11,900. However, I have many constituents who are currently employed in the energy field who eventually will be displaced from those positions, I think that's something that is something we need to consider. And, finally and most especially, when we talk about lower energy prices, I believe we are not being honest in our consideration of where we're going to be as we move to all clean energy generation and that again is pointed out in some of the actions already taken by this Legislature and the resultant increases to rates to our ratepayers in the State of Maine. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Penobscot, Representative Hutchins.

Representative **HUTCHINS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I, too, rise in opposition to this order. As much as anything, because it's not clear. You know, what's clean energy? What's clean elections? We can put these terms out there and it doesn't really tell us very much. If we have a failed clean energy process that does more harm than good and I think some of what we're proposing at this point, i.e. offshore wind turbines would be a good example of that, it falls under the explanation of clean energy but as Texas has proved, it's not a dependable energy. And so, I think this is a very premature type of thing to pass that somebody will hang their hat on and say see, we passed something that, so, we have to do X, Y and Z, whatever it might be, before we know whether X, Y and Z are going to be helpful. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 428

YEA - Alley, Arata, Arford, Babbidge, Bell, Berry, Blume, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Caiazzo, Cardone, Carlow, Cloutier, Collings, Copeland, Corey, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Cuddy, Dodge, Doore, Dunphy, Evangelos, Evans, FecteauR, Geiger, Gere, Gramlich, Grohoski, Harnett, Hasenfus, Kessler, Lookner, Madigan, MartinJ, MartinR, Mathieson, Matlack, McCrea, McCreight, Melaragno, Meyer, MillettH, MillettR, Morales, Moriarty, Newman, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Paulhus, Pebworth, PerryA, PerryJ, Pierce, Pluecker, Poirier, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Roche, Sachs, Salisbury, Sheehan, Stover, Supica, Sylvester, Talbot Ross, Tepler, Terry, Tucker, Wadsworth, WarrenC, WhiteB, Williams, Zager, Zeigler.

NAY - Andrews, Austin, Bernard, Bickford, Blier, Carmichael, Cebra, Connor, Costain, Dillingham, Dolloff, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Foster, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Hanley, Harrington, Head, Hutchins, Kinney, Kryzak, Lemelin, Libby, Lyford, Lyman, MartinT, MasonR, Morris, Nadeau, O'Connor, Ordway, Perkins, Pickett, Quint, Rudnicki, Sampson, Skolfield, Stanley, Stearns, Stetkis, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, WhiteD.

ABSENT - Bailey, Bradstreet, Collamore, Doudera, Fay, Grignon, Hepler, Hymanson, Javner, Johansen, Landry, McDonald, Parry, Prescott, Reckitt, Roeder, Sharpe, Theriault, Tuttle, WarrenS, Wood.

Yes, 79; No, 50; Absent, 21; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

79 having voted in the affirmative and 50 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 21 being absent, and accordingly the Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED** and sent for concurrence.

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

BILLS RECALLED FROM GOVERNOR

(Pursuant to Joint Order - House Paper 1292)

An Act To Include within the Definitions of "Public Employee" and "Judicial Employee" Those Who Have Been Employed for Less Than 6 Months

(H.P. 580) (L.D. 775)
(C. "A" H-191)

- In House, **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** on June 7, 2021.
- In Senate, **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** on June 8, 2021.

On motion of Representative SYLVESTER of Portland, the Bill and all accompanying papers were **COMMITTED** to the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** in **NON-CONCURRENCE** and sent for concurrence.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE
Divided Report

Majority Report of the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-397)** on Bill "An Act To Provide Allocations for the Distribution of State Fiscal Recovery Funds" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 577) (L.D. 1733)

Signed:
Senators:
BREEN of Cumberland
BAILEY of York

Representatives:
PIERCE of Falmouth
CARDONE of Bangor
CLOUTIER of Lewiston
FAY of Raymond
HYMANSON of York
MARTIN of Eagle Lake

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (S-398)** on same Bill.

Signed:
Senator:
DAVIS of Piscataquis

Representatives:
COREY of Windham
DUCHARME of Madison
MILLETT of Waterford

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-397) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENTS "A" (S-399) AND "B" (S-400)** thereto.

READ.

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

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

Representative **PIERCE**: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, this Body has the immense responsibility to be active stewards of federal relief funds to Maine. This is a once in a generation opportunity to strengthen our economy, support families, address longstanding issues that have held our State back. Following a reflection on the draft of the American Rescue Plan framework outlined last month from the Chief Executive's original Maine's Job and Recovery Plan, was fine tuned in our committee based on the guidance of the Treasury to infuse the funds of $983 million into Maine's economy while providing stability and certainty for Maine people, businesses and communities to achieve long-term growth. This Body took a vote during the first supplemental budget process to have oversight and a voice in these unallocated dollars and that is the work we have done with our counterparts over the last few months. As written, the bill also provides transparency guidelines so the Legislature and the public can track these funds injected into the Maine economy and communities and, in addition, have regular updates that will also be provided to the Legislature starting in October. The federal funds have parameters and through the Appropriations work on this bill, these funds will meet current and longstanding needs and move our State forward on a path of strong recovery.

This bill will provide funding for Maine's child care infrastructure and much-needed broadband expansion. It will help us accomplish water infrastructure projects and provide more access to water testing for Maine families. It will fund weatherization efforts that will help people stay in their homes. This bill includes economic recovery funds for small businesses in our communities that are struggling to make it and it will provide support for entrepreneurship and new business ventures by increasing access to research and development grants and offering technical assistance and cutting through bureaucratic red tape. At a time when housing prices are soaring and available units are scarce, this bill will allow Maine to build new affordable housing to keep workers, families and older Mainers in our communities. And under this measure, the workers who construct these units will be paid a living wage for their labor, ensuring projects won't be delayed. The pandemic showed us that Maine, sadly, had some of the highest health disparities by race in the nation. This bill provides the funding to address this glaring problem. The pandemic put pressure on our families to provide direct care to older family members and workers in our care economy who serve vulnerable Mainers.

This bill provides support for those caretakers who we depend on. The pandemic led many more families to experience the outdoors and this bill allows us to improve our State parks and our campgrounds in addition to many other infrastructure projects. The pandemic tested our community colleges and our universities and this bill provides additional support so they can help more students get back on track and to join our workforce. Today, our service involves voting on a package that does immense good for our State. As a Body, we must acknowledge the many changes and sacrifices that Maine people have had to make to get through a difficult year and we must do everything in our power to continue that positive growth. When you get a chance to make a transformational investment in your state, you step up to the plate. This bill invests in our economic recovery from the pandemic, invests in our long-term economic growth and invests in Maine's essential infrastructure. Mr. Speaker, I ask you and the rest of my Esteemed Colleagues to join me in voting for this bill.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Waterford, Representative Millett.

Representative **MILLETT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I would like to oppose the pending motion, realizing that I am not in a posture to speak to the Minority Report, but simply to express the fact that the committee divided on only a handful of issues. One basically made the difference and that is an issue which would need to be debated here and action taken at some point because the risks of not doing what this bill chooses to do, which is to put in motion the actual allocation across our economy of nearly a billion dollars of federal money of a one-time nature and stimulate the economy and address the issues that have arisen during the pandemic year, would be unfortunate if we cannot move it along for another 90 days. That issue which divides us is a simple issue of the use of $50 million of affordable housing bonds that would be, under the Majority Report, split into two parts; 30 million would be awarded through the normal process of bidding, review and acceptance of bids handled by the Maine State Housing Authority, the other 20, per this bill as amended and another bill that will follow, LD 1656, would put the other 20 million into a posture of only being awarded after they had been submitted and a negotiation occurred with a proposed contractor that agreed to include project labor agreements within that bid. We feel that's the wrong way to go, it would limit the amount of affordable housing that could be built, drive up the price of what is referred to here as affordable housing and be an unfortunate tragedy in the process. So, I would just ask for a roll call on the motion to adopt the Majority Report and hope that in the course of the day and the days that may follow, we can find a pathway to an appropriate action on nearly a billion dollars in one single bill getting out there for its intended purposes without the unfortunate delay of 90 days simply because we're in a partisan dispute. I thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Representative MILLETT of Waterford **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 429

YEA - Alley, Arata, Arford, Babbidge, Bell, Berry, Blume, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Caiazzo, Cardone, Cloutier, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Cuddy, Dodge, Doore, Dunphy, Evangelos, Evans, Fay, Geiger, Gere, Gramlich, Grohoski, Harnett, Hasenfus, Hepler, Kessler, Landry, Lookner, Madigan, Martin J, Martin R, Mathieson, Matlack, McCrea, McCreight, Melaragno, Meyer, Millett, Morales, Moriarty, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Paulhus, Pebworth, Perry A, Perry J, Pierce, Pluecker, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Sachs, Salisbury, Sheehan, Stover, Supica, Sylvester, Talbot Ross, Tepler, Terry, Tucker, Warren, White, Williams, Zager, Zeigler, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Andrews, Austin, Bernard, Bickford, Blier, Carlow, Carmichael, Cebra, Connor, Corey, Costain, Dillingham, Dolloff, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Foster, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Hanley, Harrington, Head, Hutchins, Kinney, Kryzak, Lemelin, Libby, Lyford, Lyman, Martin, Mason, Millett, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, O'Connor, Ordway, Perkins, Pickett, Poirier, Quint, Roche, Rudnicki, Sampson, Skolfield, Stanley, Stearns, Stetkis, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, White.

ABSENT - Bailey, Bradstreet, Collamore, Doudera, Grignon, Hymanson, Javner, Johansen, McDonald, Parry, Prescott, Roeder, Sharpe, Theriault, Tuttle, Warren, Wood.

Yes, 76; No, 57; Absent, 17; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

76 having voted in the affirmative and 57 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 17 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-397)** was **READ** by the Clerk.

Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor **PRESENTED House Amendment "A" (H-745)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (S-397)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, for over a decade, nearly 16 years, as a matter of fact, the State has reneged on its promise to retired teachers. In the early 2000s, the State started a program to provide retirement health benefits for qualified retired teachers and ed techs, twos and threes, so they can retire with the dignity they deserve. At the same time, the State made a commitment to increase it by 5% a year, the amount the State pays. Then the economic collapse of 2008 and subsequent budget shortfalls stopped all progress and the State has been stuck at 45% ever since. And every year there is a bill to address this issue and every year the bill dies in some procedural argument. Every year, these retired teachers get their hopes up, only to find the bill they support does not make it through again and again. Let us stop these process arguments and instead make sure our state's dedicated retired teachers can get the health care they need when they retire. The amendment before you will lift the amount the State pays to 55% from the current 45%, where it has been stuck for, as I said, over a decade, nearly 16 years. And due to changes in the plan design, the State can pay 55% of the cost of the health care plans for retirees with no additional cost to the State for the next two years. Let me say that again; we can increase the amount we contribute to 55% now, for retired teachers without increasing the cost to the State. That is because of changes that were made to the plan for retired teachers which have drastically reduced the costs to the State and the retiree. It is important to note the plan we help pay for is Medicare supplemental plan, which we all know retirees need. However,

I have also learned there are over one thousand teachers in Maine who for technical reasons do not qualify for Medicare. This health care plan is their only health insurance in retirement. We owe it to them to see through on this promise, Mr. Speaker.

Some may point to estimated cost increases referenced in the fiscal note for years three and four. The fiscal note is inaccurate. In fact, the fiscal note estimated a cost increase for the current year starting July 1, 2021 but according to the Maine Education Association, the cost of the plan decreased nearly another 5% starting July 1st, yet again showing additional savings we can and should use to help provide more to our retired educators. Overall, this bill will impact over 8500 families in our State, in every corner, in every district. In fact, this bill will positively impact 8500 retired teachers and ed techs who have dedicated their careers to help children learn and grow. They are our constituents and leaders in our communities and they are the art teacher that fostered our creative interests when we were in grammar school and they are Marylou Weaver, a teacher that's very dear to me who worked at Winter Harbor Grammar School, a very tiny grammar school, for a very low salary during her career. And I thank her immensely for that sacrifice because I didn't realize at the time about what a low-paying job and what a sacrifice that was for her. And she fostered my creative interests and artistic ability and, for what it's worth, when I went on and graduated high school, I was voted most artistic in my senior class and I credit that to Marylou Weaver. When she retired, she has had a lot of health difficulties and her pension is so low and her health insurance is so high that she absolutely struggles to make ends meet and that is a disservice to our teachers. What I find especially troubling about the situation is that teachers who sacrificed the most during their career by taking these lower-paying wages to dedicate their career to teaching children in rural areas are the ones who suffer even more dramatically in retirement because of the low reimbursement from the State. This particular group of teachers dedicated their lives teaching our students and now they are suffering because of a broken system. It is incumbent upon us to live up to the promises made. These teachers gave up many years of their youth for our children's future. We should not turn our back on them in their retirement years. Let us end the process arguments against this bill and stand with retired teachers by approving this amendment today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Belfast, Representative Dodge.

Representative **DODGE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I rise in strong support of the amendment and I thank the Representative from Winter Harbor for offering the amendment, which provides me the opportunity to speak on behalf of retired teachers, a group whose financial situation reads like the book of Job. I support this amendment because the Maine Education Association Benefits Trust has negotiated a plan with a zero increase in premiums over the next two years. I support this amendment because incremental increases in the covered costs of retired teachers' health insurance were part of the original plan when the benefit was put in place at a level well below the coverage of other State workers at the time. I support this amendment because this is the same subset of workers who were enticed to join the State retirement system and not allowed to participate in Social Security, whose cost-of-living adjustments were frozen, then cut to balance State budgets and now are based only on $20,000 instead of their entire pension benefit. This means they are continually falling behind where they would have been. Perhaps you also remember the attempt to establish that their cost-of-living adjustments, or COLAs, were a statutory agreement. I support this amendment because these public servants have had their normal retirement age raised from 60 to 62 to 65. This means that some may teach 20, 25, 30, or in some cases, 40 years and still lose money from their pensions for not reaching the statutory age of retirement.

I support this amendment because the current health insurance inequity disproportionately affects moms who take time away from teaching to raise their families. This results in fewer years of service, which means not only a smaller pension but a higher percentage of that pension paying the 55% remaining costs of their health insurance. I support this amendment because retired teacher pensions through the Maine Public Employee Retirement System do not have tax exemption parity with Social Security. In fact, achieving tax parity would take five years of $5,000 increments. To add further gravity to the reasons to support this amendment, teachers often work summer jobs to make ends meet and acquire their Social Security quarters, only to retire and experience federal fiscal harm of income reductions through the Windfall Elimination Provision, called the WEP, W-E-P and the government pension offset, called the GPO. Adoption of this amendment would reduce the collective harm inflicted to the retired teachers of Maine. It would be the fulfillment of a promise made to these same teachers. Though saddened to hear that ARPA funds do not meet appropriate funding rules, I am heartened by the possibility of bipartisan support moving forward to pass this retired teacher health insurance relief in the future. Maine teachers have waited too long for this. They have waited long enough. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **COLLINGS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I am rising to support this amendment and I've never in my, I believe, five years in the Legislature, have voted for an amendment on any budgetary issues coming out of appropriations. I've respected the work and I've not wanted to insert an issue I've been working on, on top of what's already been done and has been vetted thoroughly. So, I wouldn't want to add something that would cost more money out of respect to everyone else, but in this case, this wouldn't cost any money, it would be zero dollars for the biennium. And with the fact that, Mr. Speaker, since 1987, I believe was the year when they first put a retirement health care; for retired teachers, they first allotted to cover 10% of their health care premium, the State did that and they then subsequently rose it by 5% every biennial or every year until it got to 25% and there was an intent then to teachers to get up to 100%, which other retirees in the system were able to get to. And that went to 25%, it didn't escalate, it didn't continue to go to 100%. Years later, in 2001, they took it back up and it was pretty much unanimous bipartisan support, Democrats and Republicans put it in the budget to make it go up again and then it went up every year until it reached 45% and then sometime about 16 years ago or so, it stopped. And in the past several years, this bill has come through, it's come through appropriations, for one reason or the other, with overwhelming support in the committee and the House and the Senate, it just hasn't moved forward. So, I think with the fact that teachers have been waiting since 1987 for this promise to be fulfilled, I think they've waited long enough and I think we have a chance now to move this down the field a little bit for over 8,000 retired teachers. The fact that it will cost nothing for us in this biennium I think is all the reason to do this and I would encourage you to support the amendment. Thank you.

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

Representative **SYLVESTER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I cannot tell you how grumpy I am about all this. I think that this is an issue that I support wholeheartedly, this is an issue that I fought for in both the Social Security clip that has been mentioned before and the offsets as well as funding this retirement the way that teachers need to be funded. I thank both the Representatives from Winter Port and Portland for bringing bills forward that try to fix this problem. And so, I find myself standing here today looking at a budget process that has gone through and it did not find this something that they wanted to fund in the budget and having worked on a plan to move it forward and yet with every bit of my being wanting to support teachers, Mr. Speaker. And I at the end of the day look at this and I think about how can this move forward, how can we in this Body guarantee that we will find that money down the road? And I only have one answer to that question. And the answer to that question is if we did this as a Body in a bipartisan fashion, then we are saying to each other, we are pledging to each other, Mr. Speaker, that that money will be found, though we may not know today where that money comes from. And so, Mr. Speaker, if I were asked right now how I'm going to vote for it, I would say this; that I'm going to watch the board and if we can do this together as a Body and pledge to each other that we will find this money, then I will support teachers today like I support them every day of every bit of my life. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Representative DUNPHY of Old Town of Gorham moved that **House Amendment "A" (H-745)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (S-397)** be **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE House Amendment "A" (H-745)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (S-397)**.

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

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Indefinite Postponement of House Amendment “A” (H-745) to Committee Amendment “A” (S-397). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 430

YEA - Brennan, Cardone, Crockett, Moriarty, Perry, Pierce.

NAY - Alley, Andrews, Arata, Arford, Austin, Babbidge, Bell, Bernard, Berry, Blier, Blume, Brooks, Bryant, Caiazzo, Carlow, Carmichael, Cebra, Cloutier, Collings, Connor, Copeland, Corey, Costain, Crafts, Craven, Cuddy, Dillingham, Dodge, Dolloff, Doore, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Evangelos, Evans, Faulkingham, Fay, Foster, Geiger, Gere, Gifford, Gramlich, Greenwood, Griffin, Grohoski, Haggan, Hall, Hanley, Harnett, Harrington, Hasenfus, Head, Hepler, Hutchins, Kessler, Kinney, Kryzak, Landry, Lemelin, Libby, Lookner, Lyford, Lyman, Madigan, Martin J, Martin R, Martin T, Mason, Mathieson, Matlack, McCrea, McCreight, Melaragno, Meyer, Millett H, Millett R, Morales, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, O'Connell, O'Connor, O'Neil, Ordway, Osher, Paulhus, Pebworth, Perkins, Perry, Pickett, Pluecker, Poirier, Quint, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Roche, Rudnicki, Sachs, Salisbury, Sampson, Sheehan, Skolfield, Stanley, Stearns, Stetkis, Stover, Supica, Sylvester, Talbot Ross, Tepler, Terry, Thorne, Tucker, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Warren, White B, White D, Williams, Zager, Zeigler, Mr. Speaker.

ABSENT - Bailey, Bickford, Bradstreet, Collamore, Doudera, Grignon, Hymanson, Javner, Johansen, McDonald, Parry, Prescott, Roeder, Sharpe, Theriault, Tuttle, Warren, Wood.

Yes, 6; No, 126; Absent, 18; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

6 having voted in the affirmative and 126 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 18 being absent, and accordingly the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE House Amendment "A" (H-745)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (S-397) FAILED**.

Representative DUNPHY of Old Town **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ADOPT House Amendment "A" (H-745)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (S-397)**.

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

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Adoption of House Amendment "A" (H-745) to Committee Amendment "A" (S-397). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 431

YEA - Alley, Andrews, Arata, Arford, Austin, Babbidge, Bell, Bernard, Berry, Blier, Blume, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Caiazzo, Carlow, Carmichael, Cebra, Cloutier, Collings, Connor, Copeland, Corey, Costain, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Cuddy, Dillingham, Dodge, Dolloff, Doore, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Evangelos, Evans, Faulkingham, Fay, Foster, Geiger, Gere, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Grohoski, Haggan, Hall, Hanley, Harnett, Harrington, Hasenfus, Head, Hepler, Hutchins, Kessler, Kinney, Kryzak, Landry, Lemelin, Libby, Lookner, Lyford, Lyman, Madigan, Martin J, Martin R, Martin T, Mason, Mathieson, Matlack, McCrea, McCreight, Melaragno, Meyer, Millett H, Millett R, Morales, Moriarty, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, O'Connell, O'Connor, O'Neil, Ordway, Osher, Paulhus, Pebworth, Perkins, Perry, Pickett, Pluecker, Poirier, Quint, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Roche, Rudnicki, Sachs, Salisbury, Sampson, Sheehan, Skolfield, Stanley, Stearns, Stetkis, Stover, Supica, Sylvester, Talbot Ross, Tepler, Terry, Thorne, Tucker, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Warren, White B, White D, Williams, Zager, Zeigler, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Cardone, Perry, Pierce.

ABSENT - Bailey, Bickford, Bradstreet, Collamore, Doudera, Gramlich, Grignon, Hymanson, Javner, Johansen, McDonald, Parry, Prescott, Roeder, Sharpe, Theriault, Tuttle, Warren, Wood.

Yes, 128; No, 3; Absent, 19; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

128 having voted in the affirmative and 3 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 19 being absent, and accordingly **House Amendment "A" (H-745)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (S-397)** was **ADOPTED**.

Representative DILLINGHAM of Oxford **PRESENTED House Amendment "C" (H-747)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (S-397)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Oxford, Representative Dillingham.

Representative **DILLINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm presenting this amendment in hopes to address the previous speaker from Waterford when he talked about some of the differences that happened as the LD 1733 was being crafted. This amendment hopes to address some of those differences, that we could come to an agreement and reach a two-thirds support of the bill in order to be able to get these funds out to our communities, our businesses and support our economy quickly rather than waiting for the disbursements for 90 days. Thank you.

Representative DUNPHY of Old Town moved that **House Amendment "C" (H-747)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (S-397)** be **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

Representative DILLINGHAM of Oxford **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** of **House Amendment "C" (H-747)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (S-397)**.

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

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Indefinite Postponement of House Amendment "C" (H-747) to Committee Amendment "A" (S-397). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 432

YEA - Alley, Arford, Babbidge, Bell, Berry, Blume, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Caiazzo, Cardone, Cloutier, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Cuddy, Dodge, Doore, Dunphy, Evangelos, Evans, Fay, Geiger, Gere, Gramlich, Grohoski, Harnett, Hasenfus, Hepler, Kessler, Landry, Lookner, Madigan, Martin J, Martin R, Mathieson, Matlack, McCrea, McCreight, Melaragno, Meyer, Millett, Morales, Moriarty, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Paulhus, Pebworth, Perry A, Perry J, Pierce, Pluecker, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Sachs, Salisbury, Sheehan, Stover, Supica, Sylvester, Talbot Ross, Tepler, Terry, Tucker, Warren, White, Williams, Zager, Zeigler, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Andrews, Arata, Austin, Bernard, Bickford, Blier, Carlow, Carmichael, Cebra, Connor, Corey, Costain, Dillingham, Dolloff, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Foster, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Hanley, Harrington, Head, Hutchins, Kinney, Kryzak, Lemelin, Libby, Lyford, Lyman, Martin, Mason, Millett, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, O'Connor, Ordway, Perkins, Pickett, Poirier, Quint, Roche, Rudnicki, Sampson, Skolfield, Stanley, Stearns, Stetkis, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, White.

ABSENT - Bailey, Bradstreet, Collamore, Doudera, Faulkingham, Grignon, Hymanson, Javner, Johansen, McDonald, Parry, Prescott, Roeder, Sharpe, Theriault, Tuttle, Warren, Wood.

Yes, 75; No, 57; Absent, 18; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 57 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 18 being absent, and accordingly **House Amendment "C" (H-747)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (S-397)** was **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Oxford, Representative Dillingham.

Representative **DILLINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Would it be appropriate if you could help us and walk us through folks understanding what their voting is going to do? I'll give it a stab and then you can correct me. So, we're going to be taking up two amendments that came from the Senate which would put us in concurrence with the Senate, but with our own House adoption we will send it back in nonconcurrence. The majority does have an emergency preamble on it so we're taking simple majority votes now but it would then come back if the Senate also adopts the House amendment, it would come back in concurrence and then we would also then have a two-thirds vote to try to reach the emergency preamble. Did I walk through that enough so everyone understands where we're going to be and the Speaker can correct me.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would answer in the affirmative except for one of the Senate amendments removes the Emergency Preamble.

Subsequently, **Senate Amendment "A" (S-399)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (S-397)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

Senate Amendment "B" (S-400) to **Committee Amendment "A" (S-397)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

Representative DUNPHY of Old Town **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ADOPT Committee Amendment "A" (S-397)** as Amended by **Senate Amendments "A" (S-399)**, **"B" (S-400)** and **House Amendment "A" (H-745)** thereto.

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

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Adoption of Senate Amendments "A" (S-399), "B" (S-400) and House Amendment "A" (H-745) thereto. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 433

YEA - Alley, Arford, Babbidge, Bell, Berry, Blume, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Caiazzo, Cardone, Cloutier, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Cuddy, Dodge, Doore, Dunphy, Evangelos, Evans, Faulkingham, Fay, Geiger, Gere, Gramlich, Grohoski, Hasenfus, Hepler, Kessler, Landry, Lookner, Madigan, Martin J, Martin R, Mathieson, Matlack, McCrea, McCreight, Melaragno, Meyer, Millett, Morales, Moriarty, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Paulhus, Pebworth, Perry A, Perry J, Pierce, Pluecker, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Sachs, Salisbury, Sheehan, Stover, Supica, Sylvester, Talbot Ross, Tepler, Terry, Tucker, Warren, White, Williams, Zager, Zeigler, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Andrews, Arata, Austin, Bernard, Bickford, Blier, Carlow, Carmichael, Cebra, Connor, Corey, Costain, Dillingham, Dolloff, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Foster, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Hanley, Harrington, Head, Hutchins, Kryzak, Lemelin, Libby, Lyford, Lyman, Martin, Mason, Millett, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, O'Connor, Ordway, Perkins, Pickett, Poirier, Quint, Roche, Rudnicki, Skolfield, Stanley, Stearns, Stetkis, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, White.

ABSENT - Bailey, Bradstreet, Collamore, Doudera, Grignon, Harnett, Hymanson, Javner, Johansen, Kinney, McDonald, Parry, Prescott, Roeder, Sampson, Sharpe, Theriault, Tuttle, Warren, Wood.

Yes, 75; No, 55; Absent, 20; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 55 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 20 being absent, and accordingly **Committee Amendment "A" (S-397) as Amended by Senate Amendments "A" (S-399)**, **"B" (S-400)** and **House Amendment "A" (H-745)** thereto was **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-397) as Amended by Senate Amendments "A" (S-399)**, **"B" (S-400)** and **House Amendment "A" (H-745)** thereto in **NON-CONCURRENCE** and sent for concurrence.

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

SENATE PAPERS

Non-Concurrent Matter

An Act To Protect Farm Workers by Allowing Them To Organize for the Purpose of Collective Bargaining

(H.P. 107) (L.D. 151)

(C. "A" H-679)

PASSED TO BE ENACTED in the House on July 17, 2021.

Came from the Senate **FAILING** of **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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

Representative DILLINGHAM of Oxford **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **INSIST**.

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 434

YEA - Alley, Arford, Babbidge, Bell, Berry, Blume, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Caiazzo, Cardone, Cloutier, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Dodge, Doore, Dunphy, Evangelos, Evans, Fay, Geiger, Gere, Gramlich, Grohoski, Harnett, Hasenfus, Hepler, Kessler, Lookner, Madigan, Martin J, Martin R, Mathieson, Matlack, McCrea, McCreight, Melaragno, Meyer, Millett, Morales, Moriarty, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Paulhus, Pebworth, Perry A, Perry J, Pierce, Pluecker, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Sachs, Salisbury, Sheehan, Stover, Supica, Sylvester, Talbot Ross, Tepler, Terry, Tucker, Warren, White, Williams, Zager, Zeigler, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Andrews, Arata, Austin, Bernard, Bickford, Blier, Carlow, Carmichael, Cebra, Connor, Corey, Costain, Dillingham, Dolloff, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Foster, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Hanley, Harrington, Head, Hutchins, Kinney, Kryzak, Landry, Lemelin, Libby, Lyford, Lyman, Martin, Mason, Millett, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, O'Connor, Ordway, Perkins, Pickett, Poirier, Quint, Roche, Rudnicki, Skolfield, Stanley, Stearns, Stetkis, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, White.

ABSENT - Bailey, Bradstreet, Collamore, Cuddy, Doudera, Grignon, Hymanson, Javner, Johansen, McDonald, Parry, Prescott, Roeder, Sampson, Sharpe, Theriault, Tuttle, Warren, Wood.

Yes, 73; No, 58; Absent, 19; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

73 having voted in the affirmative and 58 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 19 being absent, and accordingly the House voted to **INSIST**.

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

Bill "An Act To Clarify Funding for the Office of Affordable Health Care"

(S.P. 592) (L.D. 1736)

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

Came from the Senate, under suspension of the rules and **WITHOUT REFERENCE** to a Committee, the Bill **READ TWICE** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**.

Representative DILLINGHAM of Oxford **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to suspend of the rules in order to give the Bill its **FIRST READING** and **WITHOUT REFERENCE** to a Committee.

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

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

Representative **DUNPHY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wish to speak to item 1-1, LD 1736. This bill is a technical fix. It was a drafting error from the nonpartisan staff. What this is doing is attaching the appropriation that we approved on LD 120.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is to Suspend of the rules in order to give the Bill its First Reading and Without Reference to a Committee. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 435

YEA - Alley, Arford, Babbidge, Bell, Berry, Blume, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Caiazzo, Cardone, Cloutier, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Cuddy, Dodge, Doore, Dunphy, Evangelos, Evans, Fay, Geiger, Gere, Gramlich, Grohoski, Harnett, Hasenfus, Hepler, Kessler, Landry, Lookner, Madigan, Martin J, Martin R, Mathieson, Matlack, McCrea, McCreight, Melaragno, Meyer, Millett, Morales, Moriarty, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Paulhus, Pebworth, Perry A, Perry J, Pierce, Pluecker, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Sachs, Salisbury, Sheehan, Stover, Supica, Sylvester, Talbot Ross, Tepler, Terry, Tucker, Warren, White, Williams, Zager, Zeigler, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Andrews, Arata, Austin, Bernard, Bickford, Blier, Carlow, Carmichael, Cebra, Connor, Corey, Costain, Dillingham, Dolloff, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Foster, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Hanley, Harrington, Head, Hutchins, Kinney, Kryzak, Lemelin, Libby, Lyford, Lyman, Martin, Mason, Millett, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, O'Connor, Ordway, Perkins, Pickett, Poirier, Quint, Roche, Rudnicki, Skolfield, Stanley, Stearns, Stetkis, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, White.

ABSENT - Bailey, Bradstreet, Collamore, Doudera, Grignon, Hymanson, Javner, Johansen, McDonald, Parry, Prescott, Roeder, Sampson, Sharpe, Theriault, Tuttle, Warren, Wood.

Yes, 75; No, 57; Absent, 18; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 57 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 18 being absent, and accordingly under suspension of the rules and **WITHOUT REFERENCE** to a Committee, the Bill was **READ ONCE**.

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

Representative DILLINGHAM of Oxford **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENGROSSED**.

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 436

YEA - Alley, Arford, Babbidge, Bell, Berry, Blume, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Caiazzo, Cardone, Cloutier, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Cuddy, Dodge, Doore, Dunphy, Evangelos, Evans, Fay, Geiger, Gere, Gramlich, Grohoski, Harnett, Hasenfus, Hepler, Kessler, Lookner, Madigan, Martin J, Martin R, Mathieson, Matlack, McCrea, McCreight, Melaragno, Meyer, Millett, Morales, Moriarty, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Paulhus, Pebworth, Perry A, Perry J, Pierce, Pluecker, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Sachs, Salisbury, Sheehan, Stover, Supica, Sylvester, Talbot Ross, Tepler, Terry, Tucker, Warren, White, Williams, Zager, Zeigler, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Andrews, Arata, Austin, Bickford, Blier, Carlow, Carmichael, Cebra, Connor, Corey, Costain, Dillingham, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Foster, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Hanley, Harrington, Head, Hutchins, Kinney, Kryzak, Lemelin, Libby, Lyford, Lyman, Martin, Mason, Millett, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, O'Connor, Ordway, Perkins, Pickett, Poirier, Quint, Roche, Rudnicki, Skolfield, Stanley, Stearns, Stetkis, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, White.

ABSENT - Bailey, Bernard, Bradstreet, Collamore, Dolloff, Doudera, Grignon, Hymanson, Javner, Johansen, Landry, McDonald, Parry, Prescott, Roeder, Sampson, Sharpe, Theriault, Tuttle, Warren, Wood.

Yes, 74; No, 55; Absent, 21; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 55 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 21 being absent, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Clarify the Definition of 'Qualified Investment' for Purposes of the Income Tax Credit for Paper Manufacturing Facility Investment"

(S.P. 593) (L.D. 1737)

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

Came from the Senate, under suspension of the rules and **WITHOUT REFERENCE** to a Committee, the Bill **READ TWICE** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**.

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

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

Representative **DUNPHY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With regard to item 1-2, LD 1737, I again wanted to point out this is a technical fix. This bill corrects an error in the year of the qualified investment of a prior bill. Thank you.

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

Under further suspension of the rules, the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** in concurrence.

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

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 591)

JOINT RESOLUTION TO REAFFIRM THE IMPORTANCE OF MAINTAINING THE MAINE SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS IN THE TOWN OF LIMESTONE

WHEREAS, the Maine School of Science and Mathematics was founded by the Maine Legislature in 1995; and

WHEREAS, the Maine Legislature intended for the school to be located in Limestone and to provide high-achieving high school students with an intensive curriculum emphasizing science and mathematics; and

WHEREAS, the school has thrived at its current location and earned distinction as the first-ranked public high school in Maine and the 2nd-ranked public high school in the United States according to U.S. News and World Report in 2019; and

WHEREAS, the school also earned distinction as the 2nd-ranked magnet school in the United States in 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Town of Limestone, located in Aroostook County, provides the school's students access to a unique and beautiful natural landscape, kind and hard-working neighbors and a community with a rich history that includes diverse cultural influences; and

WHEREAS, the school offers the best of educational opportunities for students from across the United States and around the world and provides enormous economic and cultural advantages to the people of Aroostook County; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirtieth Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, on behalf of the people we represent, reaffirm the importance of maintaining the Maine School of Science and Mathematics in the Town of Limestone.

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

READ and **ADOPTED** in concurrence.

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

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

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

Recognizing:

Popham Chapel, in Phippsburg, on its 125th Anniversary. A nondenominational chapel built in 1896 with funds raised by a group of women living around Popham Beach, the Chapel and the Chapel House have become a mainstay of the community through ministry and charitable work, including providing emergency living space for families displaced by fire or flood. The Ladies of the Popham Circle have sustained the chapel with chowder suppers, baked bean suppers, bake sales, silent auctions and craft fairs, as have the donations of year-round and summer residents. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 354)

Presented by Representative HEPLER of Woolwich.
Cosponsored by Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative HEPLER of Woolwich, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Woolwich, Representative Hepler.

Representative **HEPLER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I rise today to congratulate this mainstay of the Phippsburg community on its 125th birthday.

Since its founding as a nondenominational church for the small community of Popham Beach, the chapel and the chapel house have become an important mainstay of the community through its ministry and charitable work. The space includes emergency living space for families displaced by flood or fire. We're grateful for this group of women now known as the Popham Circle for initiating and sustaining this work. And, in anticipation of this 125th anniversary, the chapel has planned three days of special events including a dedication of its brick walkway fundraiser, an afternoon of reminiscences by local residents and an opportunity for people, whether originally married in this chapel or not, to renew their vows. So, if you are free on August 6th, head south to Phippsburg and the chapel is nearly at the end of the road. Thank you.

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

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In Memory of:

Marilyn Hinkley Graham, of Pittsfield. Mrs. Graham was a teacher and reading specialist who had a 42-year career teaching reading, language arts, social studies and Title 1. She began her career in 1970 as a second grade teacher at the Grammar School in Pittsfield before moving to Warsaw Middle School in 1977. A year after her retirement in 2014, she returned to work as a Literacy Educational Technician in Title 1. She was a member of the Maine Education Association and the National Education Association since 1970, as well as a member of Delta Kappa Gamma, an international society for women educators. She was also a member of the First Baptist Church in Pittsfield, where she was a choir member and played in the bell ensemble. Mrs. Graham will be long remembered and sadly missed by her husband of 51 years, William, her family and friends and all those whose lives she touched;

(HLS 347)

Presented by Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield.
Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative DILLINGHAM of Oxford, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

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

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

SENATE PAPERS
Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act To Provide Allocations for the Distribution of State Fiscal Recovery Funds" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 577) (L.D. 1733)

PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-397) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENTS "A" (S-399) AND "B" (S-400) AND HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-745) thereto in the House on July 19, 2021.

Came from the Senate **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-397) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENTS "A" (S-399), "B" (S-400) AND "D" (S-405) AND HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-745)** thereto in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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

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

SENATE PAPERS
Non-Concurrent Matter

Resolve, To Create the Criminal Records Review Committee

(H.P. 408) (L.D. 563)
(C. "A" H-297)

FINALLY PASSED in the House on June 8, 2021.

Came from the Senate **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-297) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-357)** thereto in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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

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

ENACTORS
Acts

An Act To Clarify Funding for the Office of Affordable Health Care

(S.P. 592) (L.D. 1736)

An Act To Clarify the Definition of "Qualified Investment" for Purposes of the Income Tax Credit for Paper Manufacturing Facility Investment

(S.P. 593) (L.D. 1737)

Reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed, **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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

ORDERS

On motion of Representative PERRY of Bangor, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 1301)

JOINT RESOLUTION, RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL DAY OF THE COWBOY ON JULY 24, 2021

WHEREAS, the National Day of the Cowboy 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and its volunteers work to establish in all 50 states in perpetuity the National Day of the Cowboy, which honors pioneer heritage and cowboy culture on the 4th Saturday every July; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of the Cowboy nonprofit organization contributes to the preservation of America's cowboy culture and pioneer heritage so that the history and culture that the National Day of the Cowboy honors can be shared and perpetuated for the public good through education, the arts, literature, celebrations, gatherings, rodeos and other community activities; and

WHEREAS, in 2006, Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano became the first governor to issue a National Day of the Cowboy proclamation, and since then many governors have issued National Day of the Cowboy proclamations and many states have established the National Day of the Cowboy in perpetuity; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of the Cowboy flag flies in 36 states and 6 countries and, as well as being celebrated annually in nearly every state in America, the National Day of the Cowboy has been celebrated with events held in Lebanon, England, Italy, Canada and Wales; and

WHEREAS, the National Day of the Cowboy celebrations are now hosted at numerous museums across the country, including the Eiteljorg Museum, Booth Museum, American Quarter Horse Museum, Chisholm Trail Heritage Center, Flint Hills Discovery Center, Autry Museum of the American West, North Dakota Cowboy Hall of Fame and National Cowboy Hall of Fame, to name a few; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirtieth Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize the National Day of the Cowboy on July 24, 2021.

READ.

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

Representative **PERRY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I really didn't intend to speak on this motion but I've been questioned about it, the National Day of the Cowboy and so, I will give an explanation. The pro bull rider's association comes to Bangor twice a year. Bangor is actually their most successful location to bring the bull riding and it was the last major event we had at the Cross Center before the pandemic and they closed down, it's the first big event we're going to have when we reopen this weekend and Saturday is the National Day of the Cowboy and I'm going to present them this resolution. So, thank you all.

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (S.C. 717)

MAINE SENATE
130TH LEGISLATURE

July 19, 2021
Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0002
Dear Speaker Fecteau:
In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A. §158 and Joint Rule 506 of the 130th Maine Legislature, please be advised that the Senate today confirmed the following nominations:
Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology:
To the Maine Connectivity Authority
Timothy R. Schneider, Esq. of Falmouth for appointment
Robert J. Souza of Durham for appointment
Michael C. Reed of Palermo for appointment
John M. Chandler of Falmout for appointment
Danielle Louder of Cornville for appointment
Daniel P. Belyea of Vassalboro for appointment
Carlos Javier Barrionuevo of Georgetown for appointment
Best Regards,
S/Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The Following Communication: (S.C. 718)

MAINE SENATE
130TH LEGISLATURE

July 19, 2021
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt:
Senate Paper 306, Legislative Document 954, "An Act To Provide Equal Access to the Benefits of the Maine Food Sovereignty Act," having been returned by the Governor, together with objections to the same, pursuant to Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, after reconsideration, the Senate proceeded to vote on the question: "Shall this Bill become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?"
21 voted in favor and 13 against, and accordingly it was the vote of the Senate that the Bill not become a law and the veto was sustained.
Best Regards,
S/Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The Following Communication: (S.C. 719)

MAINE SENATE
130TH LEGISLATURE

July 19, 2021
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt:
Senate Paper 525, Legislative Document 1711, "An Act To Enhance Enforcement of Employment Laws," having been returned by the Governor, together with objections to the same, pursuant to Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, after reconsideration, the Senate proceeded to vote on the question: "Shall this Bill become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?"
19 voted in favor and 15 against, and accordingly it was the vote of the Senate that the Bill not become a law and the veto was sustained.
Best Regards,
S/Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The Following Communication: (S.C. 720)

MAINE SENATE
130TH LEGISLATURE

July 19, 2021
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt:
Senate Paper 264, Legislative Document 677, "An Act To Improve Public Sector Labor Relations by Amending the Laws Governing Arbitration under Certain Public Employees Labor

Relations Laws," having been returned by the Governor, together with objections to the same, pursuant to Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, after reconsideration, the Senate proceeded to vote on the question: "Shall this Bill become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?"

19 voted in favor and 14 against, and accordingly it was the vote of the Senate that the Bill not become a law and the veto was sustained.

Best Regards,

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The Following Communication: (S.C. 721)

MAINE SENATE
130TH LEGISLATURE

July 19, 2021

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

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Senate Paper 461, Legislative Document 1411, "An Act To Establish the Maine Buy American and Build Maine Act," having been returned by the Governor, together with objections to the same, pursuant to Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, after reconsideration, the Senate proceeded to vote on the question: "Shall this Bill become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?"

19 voted in favor and 15 against, and accordingly it was the vote of the Senate that the Bill not become a law and the veto was sustained.

Best Regards,

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

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

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

Bill "An Act To Fund Collective Bargaining Agreements with Executive Branch Employees" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1299) (L.D. 1735)

Which was **TABLED** by Representative DILLINGHAM of Oxford pending **ADPTION** of House Amendment "A" (H-744).

Subsequently, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford moved that the House **ADOPT House Amendment "A" (H-744)**.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Waterford, Representative Millett.

Representative **MILLETT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I spoke briefly to this bill earlier this morning when an amendment was presented by the Majority Leader that caught me off guard, I wasn't prepared for it. I will acknowledge that she went out of her way to explain to me what her purposes were and shared the amendment draft with me. I must say that I find it troubling still and this is not in disrespect to Representative Dunphy, who I greatly admire, we are setting a precedent here today in that the collective bargaining process for our Executive Branch employees is being played out here on the floor. The amendment really does do two things that will expand the cost and open the door for more beneficial amendments and negotiations at the table by increasing the ceilings for the amounts that could come out of the general fund and highway fund salary plans and by striking a piece on lump sum adjustments. We are exposing ourselves to additional costs. I think the issue here that is different that may open this door somewhat of a crack legitimately is that unusually, unlike most years when bargaining would have been concluded before June 30th, it has not been concluded for four different units this year. And two of them, the Maine State Employees Association is negotiating a 60-day window to get a contract agreed to by the end of August. Two others units and unions, the Maine State Troopers Association and the Maine State Law Enforcement Group, have until January 1 to negotiate agreement. So, we are being asked to advance and wrap our arms around before the details are known, collective bargaining and contracts for those unions that are still at the table.

I will be opposing this bill because I think it sets a very bad precedent. I really am honored to have been asked to sponsor the bill by the administration, thinking that it was simply advancing the process to let it play out as it normally would. Today, the rules have changed and we are opening the door to becoming part of the bargaining process ourselves. So, without disrespect for the Majority Leader, I would just say be careful about this, we are starting a new precedent, we are becoming involved in the bargaining process. I will oppose the adoption of the amendment and urge you to seriously consider the action that you will be taking and I ask for a Roll Call on the adoption of the amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ADOPT House Amendment "A" (H-744)**.

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

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Adoption of House Amendment "A" (H-744). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 437

YEA - Alley, Arford, Babbidge, Bell, Berry, Blume, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Caiazzo, Cardone, Cloutier, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Cuddy, Dodge, Doore, Dunphy, Evans, Fay, Geiger, Gere, Gramlich, Grohoski, Harnett, Hasenfus, Hepler, Kessler, Lookner, Madigan, Martin, Mathieson, Matlack, McCrea, McCreight, Melaragno, Meyer, Millett, Morales, Moriarty, O'Connell, O'Neil, Pebworth, Perry A, Perry J, Pierce, Pluecker, Reckitt, Rielly, Roberts, Sachs, Salisbury, Sheehan, Stover, Supica, Sylvester, Talbot Ross, Tepler, Terry, Tucker, Warren, White, Williams, Zager, Zeigler, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Arata, Austin, Bernard, Bickford, Blier, Carlow, Carmichael, Connor, Corey, Costain, Dillingham, Dolloff, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Foster, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Hanley, Head, Hutchins, Hymanson, Javner, Kryzak, Landry, Lemelin, Libby, Lyford, Lyman, Mason, Millett, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, Ordway, Perkins, Poirier, Quint, Roche, Rudnicki, Sampson, Skolfield, Stanley, Stearns, Stetkis, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth.

ABSENT - Andrews, Bailey, Bradstreet, Cebra, Collamore, Doudera, Evangelos, Faulkingham, Grignon, Harrington, Johansen, Kinney, Martin J, Martin T, McDonald, O'Connor, Osher, Parry, Paulhus, Pickett, Prescott, Riseman, Roeder, Sharpe, Theriault, Tuttle, Warren, White, Wood.

Yes, 69; No, 52; Absent, 29; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

69 having voted in the affirmative and 52 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 29 being absent, and accordingly **House Amendment "A" (H-744)** was **ADOPTED**.

Representative DILLINGHAM of Oxford **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-744)**.

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

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Passage to be Engrossed as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-744). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 438

YEA - Alley, Arford, Babbidge, Bell, Berry, Blume, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Cardone, Cloutier, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Cuddy, Dodge, Doore, Dunphy, Evans, Fay, Geiger, Gere, Gramlich, Grohoski, Harnett, Hasenfus, Hepler, Kessler, Lookner, Madigan, Martin, Mathieson, Matlack, McCrea, McCreight, Melaragno, Meyer, Millett, Morales, Moriarty, O'Connell, O'Neil, Pebworth, Perry, Pierce, Pluecker, Reckitt, Roberts, Sachs, Salisbury, Sheehan, Stover, Supica, Sylvester, Talbot Ross, Tepler, Terry, Tucker, Warren, White, Williams, Zager, Zeigler, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Arata, Austin, Bernard, Bickford, Blier, Carlow, Carmichael, Connor, Corey, Costain, Dillingham, Dolloff, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Foster, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Hanley, Head, Hutchins, Hymanson, Javner, Kryzak, Landry, Lemelin, Libby, Lyford, Lyman, Mason, Millett, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, Ordway, Perkins, Perry, Poirier, Quint, Roche, Rudnicki, Sampson, Skolfield, Stanley, Stearns, Stetkis, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth.

ABSENT - Andrews, Bailey, Bradstreet, Caiazzo, Cebra, Collamore, Crockett, Doudera, Evangelos, Faulkingham, Grignon, Harrington, Johansen, Kinney, Martin J, Martin T, McDonald, O'Connor, Osher, Parry, Paulhus, Pickett, Prescott, Rielly, Riseman, Roeder, Sharpe, Theriault, Tuttle, Warren, White, Wood.

Yes, 65; No, 53; Absent, 32; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

65 having voted in the affirmative and 53 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 32 being absent, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-744)** and sent for concurrence.

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

ENACTORS

Act

An Act To Provide Allocations for the Distribution of State Fiscal Recovery Funds

(S.P. 577) (L.D. 1733)
(H. "A" H-745, S. "A" S-399, S. "B" S-400 and S. "D" S-405 to C. "A" S-397)

Reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed, **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Resolve

Resolve, To Create the Criminal Records Review Committee

(H.P. 408) (L.D. 563)
(S. "A" S-357 to C. "A" H-297)

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

On motion of Representative DILLINGHAM of Oxford, was **SET ASIDE**.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on **FINAL PASSAGE**.

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

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

YEA - Alley, Arford, Babbidge, Bell, Berry, Blume, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Caiazzo, Cardone, Cloutier, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, Cuddy, Dodge, Doore, Dunphy, Evans, Fay, FecteauR, Geiger, Gere, Gramlich, Grohoski, Harnett, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hymanson, Kessler, Landry, Lookner, Madigan, MartinR, Mathieson, Matlack, McCrea, McCreight, Melaragno, Meyer, MillettR, Moriarty, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Pebworth, PerryA, PerryJ, Pierce, Pluecker, Reckitt, Rielly, Roberts, Sachs, Salisbury, Sheehan, Stover, Supica, Sylvester, Talbot Ross, Tepler, Terry, Tucker, WarrenC, WhiteB, Williams, Zager, Zeigler.

NAY - Arata, Austin, Bernard, Bickford, Blier, Carmichael, Connor, Corey, Costain, Dillingham, Dolloff, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Foster, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Hall, Hanley, Head, Hutchins, Javner, Kryzak, Lemelin, Libby, Lyford, Lyman, MasonR, MillettH, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, Ordway, Perkins, Pickett, Poirier, Quint, Roche, Rudnicki, Sampson, Skolfield, Stanley, Stearns, Stetkis, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth.

ABSENT - Andrews, Bailey, Bradstreet, Carlow, Cebra, Collamore, Craven, Doudera, Evangelos, Faulkingham, Grignon, Haggan, Harrington, Johansen, Kinney, MartinJ, MartinT, McDonald, Morales, O'Connor, Parry, Paulhus, Prescott, Riseman, Roeder, Sharpe, Theriault, Tuttle, WarrenS, WhiteD, Wood.

Yes, 70; No, 49; Absent, 31; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

70 having voted in the affirmative and 49 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 31 being absent, and accordingly the Resolve was **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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

ORDERS

On motion of Representative STETKIS of Canaan, the following House Order: (H.O. 11)

WHEREAS, the politicization of race and the incitement of racial tension and division has spiked in recent years in Maine and across the United States; and

WHEREAS, prior Legislatures have made it a priority to eliminate sexism and racism from the Legislature by enacting laws requiring all Legislators, legislative staff and lobbyists to attend sexual and racial harassment prevention training; and

WHEREAS, racial and gender parity has been a priority in the 130th Legislature as evidenced by dozens of pieces of proposed legislation, many hours of public testimony and the

appropriation of thousands of taxpayer dollars to reduce and eliminate racial and gender discrimination; and

WHEREAS, 49% of Maine's population is male, a large majority of those males are Caucasian heterosexuals and all are sons, fathers, husbands, uncles or grandfathers; and

WHEREAS, a declaration that all Caucasian heterosexual males are unfit to serve in public office is a grave offense; and

WHEREAS, Maine's elected officials are held to a higher standard than the citizens they serve; and

WHEREAS, there is precedent stemming from the 130th Legislature and prior Legislatures for punitive action being taken against Legislators and others connected to the State House for offensive social media communications; and

WHEREAS, on July 1, 2021, Representative Charlotte Warren of Hallowell engaged in reprehensible racist and sexist communications on public social media; and

WHEREAS, elected officials serving the State must uphold and demonstrate the principle that all people are created equal, as proclaimed in our Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution and the Constitution of Maine; now, therefore, be it

ORDERED, that We, the Members of the House of Representatives of the One Hundred and Thirtieth Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, on behalf of the people we represent, call for Representative Charlotte Warren of Hallowell to be removed as a member of all committees of the Legislature and removed from all leadership responsibilities, in response to her disparaging racist and sexist communications.

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Canaan, Representative Stetkis.

Representative **STETKIS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, over the past seven years that you and I have served in this Legislature together, there's been a great amount of sensitivity focused towards racial, sexual and gender bias. So much so that words in our government documents have been erased and replaced with gender-neutral words. At the beginning of this legislative session, we were all required to attend a sexual harassment and racial sensitivity training course and acknowledge our participation with a signature. On top of that, Mr. Speaker, we in the Legislature have been so sensitive to racism and words or symbols that some could perceive as racist, that they've been removed and banned from our public schools. Mr. Speaker, just a couple weeks ago in this very room, the Representative from Gardiner told us that racism in Maine's farming community is so prevalent that it requires the adoption of a new law. Mr. Speaker, those of us in this room elected to represent our communities are held to a higher standard in the public eye, in part because we oversee the creation of the rules and regulations and the laws that everyone is expected to abide by; even us. Especially us. And if these rules are not abided by, there is a consequence to be paid. Mr. Speaker, the thoughts posted by the Representative from Hallowell on July 1st on social media were no meaningless rant. Just a part of that statement and I quote, straight white men are too emotional to be in politics, end-quote, by an elected Member of this Body is a very serious and troubling thing. Negatively singling out or excluding any person based on their sexual preference, any person based on their race or any person based on being male or female is highly offensive and against the principles and tenets of our most basic civil rights in America.

Mr. Speaker, these men, white, heterosexual men, are the same men who run into burning buildings to rescue anyone and everyone. Those who wear the badge and patrol our streets to keep us safe, not knowing if they will return home at the end of their shifts, as well as those men who put on our nation's uniform and have been called to travel to all corners of the globe to free men, women and children who oftentimes don't look like them and far too often returning in flag-draped coffins or in pieces physically or mentally. Mr. Speaker, it's also hundreds of thousands of forgotten men in Maine being maligned; the plumber, the fisherman, the factory worker that grind out a living for themselves and their families day in and day out providing goods and services that make all of our lives better. Mr. Speaker, the idea that these men are unfit to serve in their government based on their race or their gender or sexual orientation moves us backwards as a society, not forward. And, Mr. Speaker, let's not forget about the mothers, the sisters, daughters and granddaughters who love these white heterosexual men. I know the ones who have reached out to me are furious.

Mr. Speaker, the world of every single word or action being scrutinized through the lens of some sort of bias or injustice is not the world in which I wish to live. But, nonetheless, it is one that has been created in recent years in our country and state. Mr. Speaker, people are being fired from their jobs or run out of their careers almost daily around our country based on perceived offensive comments or photos on social media. Mr. Speaker, in a recent case involving the capital police chief, your joint public statement to the press was; should these professionals be unable to maintain public trust, they should tender their resignations. Mr. Speaker, it is as important, if not more important, that the public, the people we serve, trust us and trust that their government officials are subject to the same principles expected of them. Mr. Speaker, you and I and the others in this chamber have been required to attend multiple orientations concerning the importance of maintaining the public's trust in this Body. As individual legislators requiring yearly financial disclosures, our communications are subject to FOIA requests, as well as any other hint of a conflict of interest all in the name of maintaining the public's trust. I fear that if nothing of real consequence is done in this matter, the message being sent erodes the public's trust in this entire Body.

Mr. Speaker, see something/say something. We all saw something; a derogatory and insensitive comment directed at a specific race, gender and sexual orientation in its full context is written. Today, with this House order, I'm saying something. In this House order, I'm asking for the Representative from Hallowell at the very least be removed from her committee assignments and any leadership roles she may be assigned. Mr. Speaker, it's now up to you. Please do something. You have the authority and you have the power to maintain the public's trust in this Body. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I'd ask for a Roll Call.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ADOPT** the House Order.

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

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

Representative DUNPHY of Old Town moved that the House Order be **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Oxford, Representative Dillingham.

Representative **DILLINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I reluctantly rise to speak on this issue. I'm going to do something I'm not normally comfortable doing and I'm just going to speak without having something written in front of me. First, I would like a Roll Call on the indefinite postponement, but I will be supporting the indefinite postponement. And I don't do that

lightly. I don't do it because I disagree with what my seatmate has had to say. I think he was very eloquent pointing out the position that he has, along with many other members of my caucus and individuals that we've heard from over the last couple weeks. But I'm going to support it because at the end of the day, when we are elected, we are expected to be held to a higher level, we should be conducting ourselves with civility towards each other, but when we are elected, we do not give up our freedom of our right to speech. And I have ardently defended that for my members, I think we could go through a litany of history of issues that have happened on social media or have been said elsewhere and I have always ardently defended the ability for those members to express their beliefs.

With the Representative from Hallowell, her expression was that she has come to this conclusion, meaning this is her personal belief. I don't agree with it, I don't condone what she said, but I support her right to have that personal belief for whatever reason she may have. I have concerns that if we start to go down the road of censoring our personal beliefs in this Body and removing people from their committees, we won't have anyone left. Again, I do believe, I would love to see, as I've called for, a public apology as we've done in the past with other Members, from the Member from Hallowell, but to rise to the level of removing from committee or leadership role, it does not fall within the purview of what we have set forth in our rules or in anything that comes before guidance around coming before our House Ethics Committee. So, again, I will be supporting the indefinite postponement, reluctantly so, but I will always stand for ability for every Member in this chamber to be able to express their beliefs freely and rightfully. So, thank you very much.

Representative DILLINGHAM of Oxford **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** the House Order.

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

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

Representative **UNDERWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You removed some Members of the opposite party for not wearing a mask. Now, this Representative, Representative Stetkis, was correct. This, what happened, Mr. Speaker, was a lot worse than removing a mask. It was an insult to all the white people, particularly the white men, in this chamber and it deserves your immediate attention and to discipline the individual involved. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Standish, Representative Ordway.

Representative **ORDWAY**: I didn't want to rise today, Mr. Speaker, my Colleagues in the House. Thousands of Americans have died to defend the rights of our Constitution. If you don't agree with what the Representative from Hallowell said, that's fine, but she has the right to say it and straight, white male, might be emotional, cried at the end of Rudy, believe me. I swore to defend the Constitution and her right to say whatever, my right to say whatever, Mr. Speaker, your right to say whatever. The First Amendment gives us that right and we're here to defend the Constitution and we all took that oath. Please defeat this motion.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Naples, Representative Cebra.

Representative **CEBRA**: I thank the Speaker and the Members of the House. You know, either we believe in the basic foundational principles that make us what we are or we don't. You and I don't agree, I don't agree with these people half the time, I don't agree with these people most of the time, but you know what, the ability for us to speak and say what we believe is the foundational principle that makes us what we are. So, I would suggest to all my fellow legislators, those who can't stand me and those who can't stand me, that we take a moment and take a deep breath and we remember what we are, as Americans. Americans mean different things to different people. Danny and I here serve on Transportation together and we get along, we can talk. Other people that I've served with over the last 16 years, we can get along and we talk. The reason that we do what we do here is not because we're going to bang heads all day long. We do that, we do that because we believe in something, we believe in something, they believe in something, that's fine. But you know what, at the end of the day, you and I know somebody's going to stand up and say you've got to address the Speaker, but you can say what you want and I can say what I want and at the end of the day, I love you, you love me and this is America and this is Maine. God bless America. God bless Maine. And let us continue to do this in the future, no matter what the things that hold us down, the things that pit us against each other. I don't despise anybody in this room. As a matter of fact, I respect every single one of you. You know why? You were elected by the people who put you here. You, too, buddy. So, I'm just going to say I really support the indefinite postponement. You know why? Because God bless America and every single one you. Thanks, Speaker.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 440

YEA - Alley, Arata, Arford, Babbidge, Bell, Berry, Bickford, Blier, Blume, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Caiazzo, Cardone, Cebra, Cloutier, Collings, Connor, Copeland, Corey, Costain, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Cuddy, Dillingham, Dodge, Doore, Downes, Ducharme, Dunphy, Evans, Fay, FecteauR, Geiger, Gere, Gifford, Gramlich, Grohoski, Hall, Harnett, Harrington, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hutchins, Hymanson, Javner, Kessler, Kryzak, Landry, Lemelin, Libby, Lookner, Madigan, MartinR, MartinT, Mathieson, Matlack, McCrea, McCreight, Melaragno, Meyer, MillettH, MillettR, Morales, Moriarty, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, O'Connell, O'Neil, Ordway, Osher, Pebworth, Perkins, PerryA, PerryJ, Pickett, Pierce, Pluecker, Poirier, Reckitt, Rielly, Roberts, Roche, Sachs, Salisbury, Sheehan, Skolfield, Stanley, Stover, Supica, Sylvester, Talbot Ross, Tepler, Terry, Tucker, Tuell, Wadsworth, WarrenC, WhiteB, WhiteD, Williams, Zager, Zeigler.

NAY - Austin, Bernard, Carmichael, Dolloff, Drinkwater, Foster, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hanley, Head, Lyford, Lyman, MasonR, Quint, Rudnicki, Sampson, Stearns, Stetkis, Thorne, Underwood.

ABSENT - Andrews, Bailey, Bradstreet, Carlow, Collamore, Doudera, Evangelos, Faulkingham, Grignon, Johansen, Kinney, MartinJ, McDonald, O'Connor, Parry, Paulhus, Prescott, Riseman, Roeder, Sharpe, Theriault, Tuttle, WarrenS, Wood.

Yes, 105; No, 21; Absent, 24; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

105 having voted in the affirmative and 21 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 24 being absent, and accordingly the House Order was **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

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

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

Representative **PICKETT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I rise this afternoon to recognize an important milestone in our State that took place on July 15th when the Maine State Police celebrated their 100th anniversary. For the last 100 years, our State has been fortunate to have countless men and women swear an oath to protect their fellow Mainers and to keep our communities safe. Maine has one of the lowest, if not the lowest crime rate in the country and that is not by accident and our State police play a large role in that. Their service and sacrifice often goes unnoticed and I would like to take the opportunity to recognize their sense of duty and their continued commitment to doing what is right. I served with the Maine State Police for over 22 years and had the privilege to work with some of the most professional and integrity-driven brothers and sisters in the law enforcement profession. Those who put on the uniform, any uniform in law enforcement are our loved ones, our friends and our neighbors. Some even work here in this very building every day. We're grateful for their selfless service to our State and I hope all of you will join with me in celebrating the centennial of our Maine State Police. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **PERRY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, before I make my announcement, it looks like we're wrapping up here and I just wanted to say what a good job I think you've done, Mr. Speaker, leadership on both sides, the appropriations committee, unanimous budgets, the way we've pulled things together after a rocky start with the pandemic and working remotely and that was my biggest disappointment with this session was we were separated for so long, it's been so hard to get to know everyone who's new here in the Legislature. So, as we get ready to adjourn, I want to personally invite anyone in this building, not just the Legislature, if you come through Bangor this summer, we got half a beautiful summer left, if you want to have a cup of coffee, a drink, lunch, bull riding, whatever, please look me up. I would love to entertain anyone who finds their way to Bangor this summer. Thank you.

ENACTORS
Emergency Measure

An Act To Fund Collective Bargaining Agreements with Executive Branch Employees

(H.P. 1299) (L.D. 1735)
(H. "A" H-744)

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

On motion of Representative DUNPHY of Old Town, under suspension of the rules, the House **RECONSIDERED** its action whereby the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**.

Representative DUNPHY of Old Town **PRESENTED House Amendment "B" (H-749)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Oxford, Representative Dillingham.

Representative **DILLINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Actually, could we hear what the amendment is?

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

Representative **DUNPHY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The amendment removes the emergency measure from the bill.

Subsequently, **House Amendment "B" (H-749)** was **ADOPTED**.

Representative DILLINGHAM of Oxford **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by House Amendments "A" (H-744)** and **"B" (H-749)**.

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

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Passage to be Engrossed as Amended by House Amendments "A" (H-744) and "B" (H-749). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 441

YEA - Alley, Arford, Bell, Berry, Blume, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Caiazzo, Cardone, Cloutier, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Cuddy, Dodge, Doore, Dunphy, Evans, Fay, Geiger, Gere, Gramlich, Grohoski, Harnett, Hasenfus, Hepler, Kessler, Landry, Lookner, Madigan, Martin, Mathieson, Matlack, McCrea, McCreight, Melaragno, Meyer, Millett, Morales, Moriarty, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Pebworth, Perry, Pierce, Pluecker, Reckitt, Rielly, Roberts, Sachs, Salisbury, Sheehan, Stover, Supica, Sylvester, Talbot Ross, Tepler, Terry, Tucker, Warren, White, Williams, Zager, Zeigler, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Arata, Austin, Bernard, Bickford, Blier, Carmichael, Connor, Corey, Costain, Dillingham, Dolloff, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Foster, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Hanley, Head, Hutchins, Hymanson, Javner, Kryzak, Lemelin, Libby, Lyford, Lyman, Martin, Mason, Millett, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, Ordway, Perkins, Perry, Pickett, Poirier, Quint, Roche, Rudnicki, Skolfield, Stanley, Stearns, Stetkis, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, White.

ABSENT - Andrews, Babbidge, Bailey, Bradstreet, Carlow, Cebra, Collamore, Doudera, Evangelos, Faulkingham, Grignon, Harrington, Johansen, Kinney, Martin, McDonald, O'Connor, Parry, Paulhus, Prescott, Riseman, Roeder, Sampson, Sharpe, Theriault, Tuttle, Warren, Wood.

Yes, 69; No, 53; Absent, 28; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

69 having voted in the affirmative and 53 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 28 being absent, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by House Amendments "A" (H-744)** and **"B" (H-749)** in **NON-CONCURRENCE** and sent for concurrence.

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

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

Expression of Legislative Sentiment in memory of Marilyn Hinkley Graham, of Pittsfield (HLS 347)

Which was **TABLED** by Representative DILLINGHAM of Oxford pending **ADOPTION**.

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

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

ORDERS

On motion of Representative DUNPHY of Old Town, the following Joint Order: (H.P. 1302)

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that the following specified matters be held over to any special or regular session of the 130th Legislature:

Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

H.P. 127, L.D. 174 - An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Ending Hunger by 2030 Advisory Group

H.P. 154, L.D. 219 - An Act To Enhance the Agricultural Marketing Loan Fund by Establishing a Variable Interest Rate for Loans and To Allow Participants in the Maine Farms for the Future Program To Borrow at That Rate

S.P. 177, L.D. 471 - An Act To Require Legislative Approval for Certain Leases of Public Lands

S.P. 201, L.D. 493 - An Act To Allow Custom Slaughterhouses To Produce Cuts of Meat To Be Sold Commercially in the State

H.P. 429, L.D. 586 - An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

H.P. 541, L.D. 736 - An Act To Enhance the Ecological Reserve System

H.P. 624, L.D. 856 - An Act To Balance Renewable Energy Development with Natural and Working Lands Conservation

S.P. 343, L.D. 1075 - An Act To Protect Public Lands

Appropriations and Financial Affairs

S.P. 10, L.D. 3 - An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Maintenance and Improvement of Maine National Guard Facilities

S.P. 28, L.D. 21 - An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Provide a New Dormitory Facility at the Maine School of Science and Mathematics

H.P. 8, L.D. 42 - An Act Making Certain Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government

H.P. 15, L.D. 49 - An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Infrastructure To Address Sea Level Rise

H.P. 16, L.D. 50 - An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Housing for Persons Who Are Homeless

H.P. 41, L.D. 75 - An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Replace and Repair Bureau of Forestry Aircraft

H.P. 89, L.D. 133 - An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Fire Stations

H.P. 106, L.D. 150 - An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Fund Hazardous Substance Site Cleanups

S.P. 73, L.D. 169 - An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Stimulate Investment in Innovation by Maine Businesses To Produce Nationally and Globally Competitive Products and Services

H.P. 128, L.D. 175 - An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Create and Enhance Regional Homeless Shelters

H.P. 134, L.D. 181 - An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Complete the Renovation of a Wharf and Bulkhead in Portland for Marine Research

H.P. 153, L.D. 218 - An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Accelerate Weatherization Efforts in the State

S.P. 101, L.D. 240 - An Act Making Certain Appropriations and Allocations and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government

H.P. 211, L.D. 298 - An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Fund Capital Improvements and Equipment for Career and Technical Education Centers and Regions To Prepare Students To Join Maine's Workforce

S.P. 129, L.D. 304 - An Act To Make Certain Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government

H.P. 231, L.D. 327 - An Act To Return Surplus Money to Maine Taxpayers

H.P. 233, L.D. 329 - An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Issuance of Bonds

S.P. 146, L.D. 339 - An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Issuance of Bonds

S.P. 155, L.D. 370 - An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Upgrade and Replace Infrastructure of the Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation

S.P. 157, L.D. 371 - An Act To Make Adjustments to General Fund Appropriations Related to the Supplemental Budget

S.P. 159, L.D. 373 - An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Invest in Maine's Railroad Infrastructure

H.P. 268, L.D. 384 - An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Fund the Transition from a Fossil Fuel-based to an Electrical Energy Economy

H.P. 342, L.D. 466 - An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Support a Climate Center at the Gulf of Maine Research Institute

H.P. 355, L.D. 481 - An Act To Propose a General Fund Bond Issue To Train Workers in High-demand Sectors and Support the State's 10-year Economic Plan Goal of Increasing Wages by 10 Percent

H.P. 380, L.D. 517 - An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Promote the Construction of Energy-efficient Affordable Homes and the Adaptive Reuse, Repair and Weatherization of Existing Homes for Low-income Seniors

H.P. 499, L.D. 687 - An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Promote the Conservation of Land, Working Waterfronts, Water Access and Outdoor Recreation

H.P. 514, L.D. 702 - An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Recapitalize the School Revolving Renovation Fund

H.P. 586, L.D. 781 - An Act To Strengthen Maine's Economy

H.P. 715, L.D. 969 - An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for the Construction of a Convention Center in Portland, Improvements to the Augusta Civic Center and a Competitive Grant Program for Capital Improvements to Public Venues across the State

S.P. 313, L.D. 983 - An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Promote Land Conservation, Working Waterfronts, Water Access and Outdoor Recreation

S.P. 318, L.D. 987 - An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for the Portland Harbor Commercial Revitalization Project's Confined Aquatic Disposal Cell and Dredging Projects

H.P. 799, L.D. 1084 - An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Create Energy-efficient and Affordable Homes for Maine People

H.P. 801, L.D. 1086 - An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Upgrade Customs Facilities at the Portland International Jetport and the Bangor International Airport To Promote International Tourism and Commerce

S.P. 355, L.D. 1094 - An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Reduce Homeowner and Municipal Energy Bills through Increased Efficiency and Weatherization Projects

S.P. 356, L.D. 1095 - An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Purchase 4 Nursing Simulators for Use by the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System

S.P. 402, L.D. 1235 - An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Connect Maine with a World-class Internet Infrastructure

H.P. 1090, L.D. 1475 - An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Targeted Food Processing Infrastructure

H.P. 1130, L.D. 1526 - An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Strengthen University of Maine System Workforce Education and Innovation

H.P. 1186, L.D. 1597 - An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Strengthen Maine's Health Care Workforce

S.P. 521, L.D. 1637 - An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Provide Funds for Maine To Meet the State's Carbon Reduction Goals by Supporting the Use of Biofuels

S.P. 532, L.D. 1647 - An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Provide Funds for Infrastructure Projects across the State and To Direct the Department of Environmental Protection To Establish a State Infrastructure Adaptation Fund and Predevelopment Assistance Program

S.P. 553, L.D. 1698 - An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue To Create a Public-Private Partnership To Create Biomass Energy Facilities in Aroostook County and To Connect Aroostook County to ISO New England

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

H.P. 350, L.D. 476 - An Act To Provide Licensed Assisted Living and Nursing Facilities Levels of Care for Incarcerated Persons

H.P. 508, L.D. 696 - An Act To Prohibit Solitary Confinement in Maine's Corrections System

H.P. 561, L.D. 756 - An Act Regarding Criminal Services for Juveniles

H.P. 832, L.D. 1154 - An Act To Improve the Safety of Prisoners and Jail Staff by Limiting Work Hours of Jail Employees

H.P. 853, L.D. 1175 - An Act To Prohibit Excessive Telephone, Video and Commissary Charges in Maine Jails and Prisons

H.P. 963, L.D. 1307 - An Act To Restrict the Sale, Purchase and Use of Fireworks in the State

S.P. 430, L.D. 1348 - An Act To Limit the Decibel Level of Fireworks Near Working Farms

H.P. 1062, L.D. 1446 - An Act To Aid Municipalities in the Issuance of Concealed Handgun Permits

H.P. 1063, L.D. 1447 - An Act To Require Training in Racial Issues, Racial Justice and Social Issues at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy and To Establish Additional Requirements for Law Enforcement Officers and Candidates

H.P. 1094, L.D. 1479 - An Act To Make Certain Traffic Infractions Secondary Offenses

H.P. 1114, L.D. 1504 - An Act To Enhance Use of Critical Incident Stress Management Teams for Firefighters

H.P. 1157, L.D. 1552 - An Act To Provide Reentry Services to Persons Reentering the Community after Incarceration

H.P. 1193, L.D. 1604 - 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. 1225, L.D. 1654 - An Act To Stabilize State Funding for County Corrections

H.P. 1276, L.D. 1721 - An Act Regarding Dignity for Women in Correctional Facilities

Education and Cultural Affairs

H.P. 129, L.D. 176 - An Act To Facilitate a Grade 9 to 16 School Project

S.P. 121, L.D. 270 - An Act To Amend the Regional Adjustment Index To Ensure School Districts Do Not Receive Less than the State Average for Teacher Salaries

S.P. 267, L.D. 680 - Resolve, To Reestablish the Task Force To Study the Creation of a Comprehensive Career and Technical Education System

S.P. 392, L.D. 1206 - An Act Regarding the Terms of Office of the Director of the Maine State Museum Commission, the State Librarian and the Director of the Maine Arts Commission

S.P. 393, L.D. 1207 - An Act To Maintain the Current Level of Education Funding

H.P. 1023, L.D. 1389 - An Act To Improve Maritime Education in Maine

H.P. 1216, L.D. 1632 - An Act To Update the Laws Regarding the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf

S.P. 572, L.D. 1727 - An Act Concerning Sexual Misconduct on College Campuses

Energy, Utilities and Technology

H.P. 48, L.D. 82 - Resolve, To Provide for Participation of the State in the Planning and Negotiations for the Atlantic Loop Energy Project

H.P. 123, L.D. 170 - An Act Pertaining to Transmission Lines Not Needed for Reliability or Local Generation

H.P. 222, L.D. 318 - An Act To Provide More Options to Maine Electric Service Customers and Support Maine's Climate Goals

S.P. 143, L.D. 337 - An Act Regarding Energy, Utilities and Technology

S.P. 248, L.D. 634 - An Act To Cap the Value of Contracts for Renewable Resources and Distributed Generation Resources

S.P. 270, L.D. 682 - An Act To Ensure the Viability of the Northern Maine Electric Transmission Grid

H.P. 509, L.D. 697 - An Act To Enhance the Energy Security of Maine Residents

H.P. 608, L.D. 840 - An Act To Prevent Power Line Electrocutions

H.P. 764, L.D. 1026 - An Act To Update the Regulation of Public Utility Monopolies

S.P. 348, L.D. 1079 - Resolve, To Review the Effects of the Deregulation of Maine Utilities

S.P. 368, L.D. 1107 - An Act To Create Needed Broadband Infrastructure in Rural Maine through the Establishment of a Satellite-based Broadband Grant Program

H.P. 880, L.D. 1202 - An Act To Establish a Wood-fired Combined Heat and Power Program

S.P. 432, L.D. 1350 - An Act To Expand Maine's Clean

Energy Economy

S.P. 459, L.D. 1409 - An Act Regarding High-impact Electric Transmission Lines

H.P. 1119, L.D. 1511 - An Act To Finance Distribution Investments at the Lowest Cost to Customers and To Encourage Utility Performance

S.P. 456, L.D. 1579 - An Act To Transition State and Local Motor Vehicle Fleets to 100 Percent Zero-emission Vehicles

H.P. 1176, L.D. 1587 - An Act To Remove the Municipal Ordinance Exemption for the Development of Nonessential Transmission Lines

H.P. 1218, L.D. 1634 - An Act To Create the Maine Generation Authority

Environment and Natural Resources

H.P. 180, L.D. 259 - An Act To Improve Solid Waste Management

S.P. 263, L.D. 676 - An Act To Reclassify Part of the Androscoggin River to Class B

H.P. 634, L.D. 866 - An Act Concerning Advanced Refrigeration Technology

H.P. 1045, L.D. 1429 - An Act To Implement the Most Time-sensitive Recommendations of the Maine Climate Council

H.P. 1136, L.D. 1532 - An Act To Protect Maine's Air Quality by Strengthening Requirements for Air Emissions Licensing

H.P. 1205, L.D. 1616 - An Act To Ensure That Municipalities and Multimunicipal Regions of Every Size and Capacity Have Guidance on Climate Adaptation and Resilience Strategies for Policy, Implementation and Investment Decision Support

S.P. 523, L.D. 1639 - An Act To Protect the Health and Welfare of Maine Communities and Reduce Harmful Solid Waste

Health and Human Services

H.P. 241, L.D. 343 - An Act To Set Aside Funds from Federal Block Grants for Certain Communities

S.P. 158, L.D. 372 - An Act To Provide Maine Children Access to Affordable Health Care

H.P. 277, L.D. 393 - An Act To Amend the Laws Regarding Health and Human Services

S.P. 220, L.D. 533 - An Act To Expand the Statewide Voluntary Early Childhood Consultation Program

S.P. 246, L.D. 632 - An Act To Facilitate the Conversion of Children's Private Nonmedical Institutions to Qualified Residential Treatment Programs as Required by Federal Law

H.P. 529, L.D. 718 - An Act To Improve the Health of Maine Residents by Closing Coverage Gaps in the MaineCare Program and the Children's Health Insurance Program

H.P. 635, L.D. 867 - An Act To Prohibit Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccinations for 5 Years To Allow for Safety Testing and Investigations into Reproductive Harm

H.P. 788, L.D. 1059 - An Act To Provide Substance Use Disorder Treatment to Adolescents

H.P. 795, L.D. 1080 - Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services To Update the Rights of Recipients of Mental Health Services

H.P. 1044, L.D. 1428 - An Act To Increase the Availability of Nasal Naloxone in Community Settings

H.P. 1127, L.D. 1523 - An Act To Establish the Trust for a Healthy Maine

H.P. 1171, L.D. 1574 - An Act To Ensure Support for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism with High Behavioral Need

S.P. 496, L.D. 1582 - An Act To Enact the Maine Psilocybin Services Act

H.P. 1197, L.D. 1608 - An Act To Expand the MaineCare Program To Cover All Citizens of the State

H.P. 1258, L.D. 1693 - An Act To Advance Health Equity, Improve the Well-being of All Maine People and Create a Health Trust

H.P. 1264, L.D. 1701 - An Act To Establish a Managed Care Program for MaineCare Services

H.P. 1277, L.D. 1722 - An Act To Ensure Access to All Paths to Recovery for Persons Affected by Opioids Using Money Obtained through Litigation against Opioid Manufacturers

S.P. 574, L.D. 1729 - Resolve, To Assess the Feasibility of the Production of Insulin in Maine

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

H.P. 317, L.D. 441 - An Act To Expand Adult Dental Health Insurance Coverage

S.P. 186, L.D. 482 - An Act Regarding Pet Insurance

H.P. 492, L.D. 665 - An Act To Promote Better Dental Care for Cancer Survivors

S.P. 57, L.D. 794 - An Act To Maintain Maine's System of Therapeutic Foster Care for Children through the Creation of a Nonprofit Risk Indemnification Trust

H.P. 741, L.D. 1003 - An Act To Improve Outcomes for Persons with Limb Loss

H.P. 874, L.D. 1196 - An Act Regarding Targets for Health Plan Investments in Primary Care and Behavioral Health

S.P. 417, L.D. 1266 - An Act To Improve the Value of Dental Insurance

S.P. 428, L.D. 1331 - An Act To Make Individual and Small Group Health Insurance More Affordable in Certain High-premium Counties

S.P. 443, L.D. 1357 - An Act To Require Private Insurance Coverage for Postpartum Care

H.P. 1079, L.D. 1463 - An Act To Make Health Care Coverage More Affordable for Working Families and Small Businesses

H.P. 1144, L.D. 1539 - An Act To Provide Access to Fertility Care

S.P. 518, L.D. 1628 - An Act To Exempt Nonprofit Agricultural Membership Organizations from Insurance Requirements

S.P. 520, L.D. 1636 - An Act To Reduce Prescription Drug Costs by Using International Pricing

S.P. 558, L.D. 1706 - An Act To Require Appropriate Coverage of and Cost-sharing for Generic Drugs and Biosimilars

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

H.P. 82, L.D. 116 - An Act To Allow the Commissioner of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife To Authorize the Hunting of Antlerless Deer without a Permit in Certain Areas

H.P. 278, L.D. 394 - An Act To Protect Maine's Loons and Other Wildlife in the Issuance of a Permit To Hold a Regatta, Race or Boat or Water-ski Exhibition

H.P. 462, L.D. 626 - An Act To Clarify Temporary Mooring Privileges for Moorings on Inland Waters

H.P. 1234, L.D. 1663 - An Act To Improve Boating Safety on Maine Waters

Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business

S.P. 161, L.D. 812 - An Act To Provide Student Loan Debt Relief

H.P. 648, L.D. 892 - An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Governor's Economic Recovery Committee

H.P. 669, L.D. 913 - An Act To Enact the Maine Data Collection Protection Act

H.P. 675, L.D. 919 - An Act To Advance Maine's Economic Growth by Investing in Innovative, Next-generation Technology and Research

H.P. 846, L.D. 1168 - An Act To License Operators of Personnel Hoists

S.P. 547, L.D. 1691 - An Act To Require Licensing for Certain Mechanical Trades

H.P. 1259, L.D. 1694 - An Act To Create the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority

Judiciary

H.P. 163, L.D. 233 - An Act To Provide Electronic Access to Confidential Juror Information

H.P. 242, L.D. 344 - RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Explicitly Prohibit Discrimination Based on the Sex of an Individual

H.P. 354, L.D. 480 - An Act To Establish a Presumption of Entitlement to Counsel for a Person Who Is the Subject of an Adult Guardianship, Conservatorship or Other Protective Arrangement Proceeding

H.P. 428, L.D. 585 - An Act To Restore to the Penobscot Nation and Passamaquoddy Tribe the Authority To Exercise Jurisdiction under the Federal Tribal Law and Order Act of 2010

S.P. 237, L.D. 598 - An Act To Prohibit Discrimination in Employment and School Based on Hair Texture or Hairstyle

S.P. 156, L.D. 811 - An Act To Protect the Reproductive Rights and Freedoms of Maine People

H.P. 629, L.D. 861 - Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Contract for Assessments for Involuntary Hospitalizations

H.P. 659, L.D. 903 - An Act To Enact the Uniform Foreign-country Money Judgments Recognition Act

H.P. 662, L.D. 906 - An Act To Provide Passamaquoddy Tribal Members Access to Clean Drinking Water

H.P. 728, L.D. 982 - An Act To Protect against Discrimination by Public Entities

S.P. 336, L.D. 1068 - An Act To Restrict Access to Weapons Pursuant to Court Order in Cases of Harassment

H.P. 893, L.D. 1218 - Resolve, To Require the Attorney General To Provide an Update on Maine's Implementation of the Federal Law Called "Savanna's Act"

H.P. 966, L.D. 1310 - An Act Regarding Criminal Records

H.P. 1133, L.D. 1529 - RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Create a Right to Privacy

H.P. 1165, L.D. 1568 - An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act

S.P. 492, L.D. 1581 - An Act To Require Telecommunications Companies To Divulge Location Information to Law Enforcement When Necessary To Respond to a 9-1-1 Call or Locate a Person in Danger

H.P. 1210, L.D. 1626 - An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act

H.P. 1236, L.D. 1665 - An Act To Amend AN ACT to Implement the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Concerning Land Acquisition and Criminal Jurisdiction

S.P. 551, L.D. 1696 - An Act To Clarify and Recodify Maine's Protection from Abuse Statutes

S.P. 573, L.D. 1728 - An Act To Provide Assistance to Law Enforcement Officers To Allow Them To Protect the Residents of the State

Labor and Housing

H.P. 130, L.D. 177 - An Act To Improve Labor Laws for Workers in Maine

H.P. 160, L.D. 225 - An Act Regarding the Treatment of Vacation Time upon the Cessation of Employment

H.P. 336, L.D. 460 - An Act To Amend Certain Employment Laws To Help Front-line and Other Workers

H.P. 339, L.D. 463 - An Act To Better House Maine Residents

H.P. 340, L.D. 464 - An Act To Change Certain Labor Laws

H.P. 344, L.D. 468 - An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Labor and Housing

H.P. 393, L.D. 548 - An Act Regarding Penalties for Early Retirement for Certain Members of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System

H.P. 400, L.D. 555 - An Act To Expand the Rights of Public Sector Employees

H.P. 443, L.D. 607 - An Act To Restore Overtime Protections for Maine Workers

H.P. 580, L.D. 775 - An Act To Include within the Definitions of "Public Employee" and "Judicial Employee" Those Who Have Been Employed for Less Than 6 Months

H.P. 599, L.D. 831 - An Act To Aid Workforce Development

H.P. 654, L.D. 898 - An Act To Provide Incentives to Unemployed Workers To Become Part of the Caregiver Workforce

H.P. 663, L.D. 907 - An Act Concerning State Pension Funds and Climate Change

S.P. 408, L.D. 1240 - Resolve, To Review Barriers to Regional Solutions for Housing Choices

H.P. 1244, L.D. 1673 - An Act To Create a Comprehensive Permit Process for the Construction of Affordable Housing

S.P. 568, L.D. 1724 - An Act To Create a Logging Dispute Resolution Board and To Require Proof of Ownership Documents To Be Available within 14 Days of Request

Marine Resources

H.P. 275, L.D. 391 - An Act To Amend the Laws Regarding Marine Resources

State and Local Government

S.P. 167, L.D. 379 - An Act To Establish the Maine State Cemetery Commission

H.P. 267, L.D. 383 - An Act Concerning Small Wireless Facilities in Maine

H.P. 292, L.D. 408 - An Act To Amend the Laws Regulating the Operation of the Legislature

H.P. 627, L.D. 859 - An Act To Allow Municipalities To Use Ranked-choice Voting in Municipal Elections

H.P. 651, L.D. 895 - An Act To Make Necessary Changes to State Law

H.P. 865, L.D. 1187 - RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Amending the Pardon Powers of the Governor

H.P. 1121, L.D. 1513 - An Act To Require the Maintenance of a Discontinued Public Road That Provides the Sole Access to One or More Residences

H.P. 1199, L.D. 1610 - An Act To Promote Equity in Policy Making by Enhancing the State's Ability To Collect, Analyze and Apply Data

H.P. 1229, L.D. 1658 - An Act To Increase Campaign Finance Transparency and Accountability in Municipal Elections

Taxation

H.P. 46, L.D. 80 - An Act To Provide Critical Communications for Family Farms, Businesses and Residences by Strategic Public Investment in High-speed Internet and Broadband Infrastructure

H.P. 192, L.D. 276 - An Act To Improve and Update Maine's Tax Laws

S.P. 134, L.D. 308 - An Act To Promote Research and Development in the State by Increasing and Marketing the Research Expense Tax Credit

H.P. 276, L.D. 392 - An Act To Amend the Tax Laws

H.P. 308, L.D. 428 - An Act To Prevent Tax Haven Abuse

S.P. 190, L.D. 484 - An Act To Change Maine's Tax Laws

S.P. 70, L.D. 798 - An Act To Improve the Educational Opportunity Tax Credit

S.P. 335, L.D. 1067 - An Act To Institute a State Tax Amnesty Program To Increase General Revenue Collections

H.P. 807, L.D. 1129 - An Act Relating to the Valuation of Retail Sales Facilities

H.P. 834, L.D. 1156 - An Act To Reduce Errors in Employment Tax Increment Financing Benefits

H.P. 873, L.D. 1195 - An Act To Increase Funding to Qualifying Municipalities by Sharing Adult Use Marijuana Sales and Excise Tax Revenue

H.P. 950, L.D. 1289 - An Act To Cut Property Taxes for Maine Residential Homeowners

H.P. 985, L.D. 1334 - An Act To Promote Economic Development through Increased Film Incentives

H.P. 988, L.D. 1337 - An Act To Increase Affordable Housing and Reduce Property Taxes through an Impact Fee on Vacant Residences

S.P. 455, L.D. 1406 - An Act To Encourage Relocation to Rural Maine

H.P. 1039, L.D. 1423 - An Act To Prevent and Reduce Tobacco Use by Ensuring Adequate Funding for Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Programs and by Raising the Tax on Tobacco Products and To Provide Funding To Reduce Disparities in Health Outcomes Based on Certain Factors

H.P. 1249, L.D. 1678 - An Act To Support Child Care Providers and School Readiness through Tax Credits

S.P. 545, L.D. 1689 - An Act To Ensure Equity in the Clean Energy Economy by Providing a Limited Tax Exemption for Certain Clean Energy Infrastructure Projects

H.P. 1267, L.D. 1704 - An Act To Change the Exclusion Amount under the Estate Tax and Provide Additional Funding for the Housing Opportunities for Maine Fund

H.P. 1283, L.D. 1732 - An Act To Amend the Sales Tax Exemption for Nonprofit Housing Development Organizations

Transportation

H.P. 294, L.D. 410 - An Act To Provide Funding for the Reconstruction of Route 161 from Fort Kent to Caribou

S.P. 61, L.D. 796 - An Act To Restrict Sales of Catalytic Converters Removed from Motor Vehicles

H.P. 655, L.D. 899 - An Act To Protect Privacy and Security at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles

Veterans and Legal Affairs

H.P. 305, L.D. 421 - An Act To Increase the Number of Plants a Medical Marijuana Caregiver May Cultivate

H.P. 327, L.D. 451 - An Act To Remove the Party Designation from Return Envelopes for Absentee Ballots for the General Election

H.P. 455, L.D. 619 - An Act To Allow Christine Pratt To Be Buried at the Southern Maine Veterans Cemetery

S.P. 444, L.D. 1358 - An Act To Provide for the Direct Shipment of Spirits to Consumers

S.P. 528, L.D. 1643 - An Act To Correct Errors, Inconsistencies and Conflicts in and To Revise the State's Liquor Laws

S.P. 571, L.D. 1726 - An Act To Increase Transparency in Political Communications

; and be it further

ORDERED, that all matters on the Special Appropriations Table not finally disposed of be held over on the Special Appropriations Table to any special or regular session of the 130th Legislature; and be it further

ORDERED, that all matters on the Special Study Table tabled by the Legislative Council be held over on the Special Study Table to any special or regular session of the 130th Legislature; and be it further

ORDERED, that all matters on the Special Highway Table not finally disposed of be held over on the Special Highway Table to any special or regular session of the 130th Legislature; and be it further

ORDERED, that the following specified matters, which are tabled in the Senate or the House of Representatives, be held over to any special or regular session of the 130th Legislature:

S.P. 196, L.D. 489 - RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Establish a Right to a Healthy Environment

H.P. 419, L.D. 574 - An Act To Clarify the Maine Food Sovereignty Act

H.P. 711, L.D. 965 - An Act Concerning Nondisclosure Agreements in Employment

H.P. 1155, L.D. 1550 - An Act To End the Sale of Flavored Tobacco Products

H.P. 1223, L.D. 1652 - An Act To Build a Child Care System by Recruiting and Retaining Maine's Early Childhood Educators Workforce

READ and **PASSED**.

Sent for concurrence.

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

ENACTORS

Acts

An Act To Fund Collective Bargaining Agreements with Executive Branch Employees

(H.P. 1299) (L.D. 1735)

(H. "A" H-744; H. "B" H-749)

Reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed, **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (S.C. 722)

STATE OF MAINE

130TH LEGISLATURE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

July 19, 2021

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

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Please be advised the Senate today insisted to its previous action whereby it Finally Passed "RESOLUTION, Proposing an

Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Regarding Early Voting" (H.P. 423) (L.D. 580) in non-concurrence.
Best Regards,
S/Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

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

The Speaker appointed Representative DUNPHY of Old Town on the part of the House to inform the Senate that the House had transacted all business before it and was ready to adjourn without day.

Subsequently, Representative DUNPHY reported that she had delivered the message with which she was charged.

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 594)

JOINT RESOLUTION, EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE LEGISLATURE REGARDING THE USE OF PUBLIC LAND LEASED BY THE STATE

WHEREAS, in order to protect state park land, public lots and other real estate held by the State for conservation or recreation purposes, in November 1993 Maine voters amended the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 23 to affirm that "State park land, public lots or other real estate held by the State for conservation or recreation purposes and designated by legislation implementing this section may not be reduced or its uses substantially altered except on the vote of 2/3 of all the members elected to each House", thereby requiring a vote of 2/3 of all the members elected to each House of the Legislature to approve any substantial alteration in the use of the state park land, public lots or other real estate held by the State for conversation or recreation purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Parks and Lands in December 2014 leased to Central Maine Power Company, or "CMP", a right-of-way that is a 300-foot-wide, approximately one-mile-long transmission corridor across public reserved lands in West Forks Plantation and in Johnson Mountain Township; and

WHEREAS, the clearing and placement of large transmission towers and lines on a 300-foot-wide right of way bisecting constitutionally protected and unique public reserved lands for an approximately one-mile-long strip of land is a substantially different use of these public lands; and

WHEREAS, in contravention of the Constitution of Maine and the implementing statue, the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 12, section 598-A, the Legislature was not afforded an opportunity to review or approve the lease to CMP of the above-mentioned public reserved lands in West Forks Plantation and in Johnson Mountain Township, which will substantially alter designated public reserved lands; and

WHEREAS, in February 2020 the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry unanimously supported L.D. 1893, as amended, in order to adopt findings that the public lands lease for the so-called New England Clean Energy Connect project constituted a substantial alteration requiring legislative approval and thus violated the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 23; and

WHEREAS, following the adjournment of the 129th Legislature, the Bureau of Parks and Lands began renegotiating the above-mentioned lease and an amended and restated lease was signed on June 23, 2020; and

WHEREAS, on March 29, 2021, the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, on a vote of 21-1, sent a letter to the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands stating that the amended and restated lease between the Bureau of Parks and Lands to the Legislature, and again memorialized the committee's findings that any lease of public lots or other real estate designated under the Maine Revised Statues, Title 12, section 598-A to CMP described in Public Utilities Commission Docket No. 2017-00232 constitutes a substantial alteration of the uses of such real estate under the Constitution of Maine Article IX, Section 23 and accordingly requires the approval of the amended and restated lease by a vote of 2/3 of all the members elected to each House of the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, on May 18, 2021, the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservations and Forestry, on a 12-1 vote, sent an additional letter to the Commissioner of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands, further emphasizing the committee's finding that the above-mentioned lease and amended and restated lease constitute a substantial alteration and that the Constitution of Maine, the highest source of law on the matter, unambiguously requires that a substantial alteration of public lands requires legislative approval; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirtieth Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, on behalf of the people we represent, express our sense in accordance with the Constitution of Maine, that the lease provided to CMP to cross the public reserved lands in West Forks Plantation and in a 2/3 vote of all the members elected to each House of the Legislature.

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

READ.

Representative DILLINGHAM of Oxford **REQUESTED** a roll call on to **ADOPTION**.

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

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

Representative **FOSTER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I stand opposed to the pending resolution and would like to speak to that. First of all, this is a last-minute, obviously, wouldn't say last hour but last-minute Resolution that comes before us just before adjournment. There's not been much time to look at this, it hasn't gone before any legislative committee or had any chance for legislative consideration other than at this time. It appears to be an opportunity to interject into an ongoing court case and I would like to address a few items that are in the Resolution with that in mind. First of all, the intent of Article IX, Section 23 of the Constitution must be determined from the language of the Constitution itself and the enabling legislation enacted by the Legislature in 1993, interpreting the Constitution is the role of the courts based on the plain language of the amendment and the definitions enacted by the Legislature in the enabling legislation. It is not appropriate nor is it the role of the Legislature today to attempt to define the intent of the Constitution. Unless the enabling legislation is amended,

nothing that the Legislature can do now can change the intent of the Constitution and the applicable Statute.

Mr. Speaker, at the time of the adoption of the constitutional amendment and the enabling legislation, the Legislature empowered the Executive Branch through the Bureau of Parks and Lands to make a determination of whether any particular transaction involving Maine Public Reserve lands constituted a substantial alteration of use. It is therefore the responsibility of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to make that determination as it has done for the lease of the NECEC, as known as NECEC project. Since 1993, the Bureau of Parks and Lands has consistently reported all of the leases and other transactions it has entered with respect to Maine Public Reserve lands to the Legislature and the Legislature has never required the Bureau of Parks and Lands to provide notice of such transactions prior to the transaction being finalized. The Bureau of Parks and Lands, under both the former and current administrations, has acted consistent with this longstanding practice and the applicable law regarding this matter. I would like to at this time quote Jim Britt, a spokesperson for the Maine Bureau of Parks and Lands, when he stated and I quote; in 2014, the Bureau of Parks and Lands under the previous administration determined that under the law it did not need legislative approval to negotiate the lease because it believed it did not meet the substantial alteration threshold, in part because the land already has an existing transmission line running through it. The Attorney General's office at that time, that's not in quotes, has said that if the lease does not constitute a substantial alteration of the use of lands, the agency does not need to seek legislative approval, unquote. Mr. Speaker, we all know that this is a contentious issue. I believe that this last-minute gesture to put the Legislature in the position of weighing in on a current court case is inappropriate and I would ask that folks would follow my light and oppose this Resolution. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **BICKFORD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I concur with my good friend, the Representative from Dexter, in his comments and I want to say that it's bad for government to try to change the lease change and contract when everything was executed in good faith. This is aimed at the corridor but it also strikes the heart of good government. If you meet all the government requirements, you follow the roles of a permit, obtain legal agreement, it is bad government when politicians come along and decide to undermine the existing lease and contracts all legally obtained. Why would anyone do business with a State that contracts can be torn up by this Body at any time for any reason? This Joint Resolution has no basis in law, the Constitution, or commonsense. The administration inherited an undervalued lease that did not sufficiently compensate the State of Maine as in this joint resolution. The Attorney General's office was informed of the renegotiations during the process and reviewed the amended lease before it was finalized to ensure that it met all legal requirements and standards. It is standard practice for the Bureau of Parks and Lands to negotiate and renegotiate leases to ensure that the State is receiving the best value and that it has the legal authority to do so when there is not a substantial alteration to the use of the land.

Mr. Speaker, this project will bring 1200 megawatts of power into the New England grid. Where does the power go when it comes to the New England grid? The first place it comes is Maine. If you look at supply prices throughout New England, Maine has the lowest supply price always than other states in this area. Hydro power is 100% renewable; solar isn't, wind isn't, you have to replace those. Solar, after 20 years what are you going to do with the cadmium and lead? Are you going to put them in a landfill? You can't reuse them. That's bad for the environment. What is this project going to do for Maine? It's going to take 3-3.6 million tons, metric tons of CO2 out of our atmosphere. That's the equivalent of taking 700,000 cars out of the State.

Representative **TEPLER**: Point of Order.

The SPEAKER: The Member will defer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Topsham, Representative Tepler and inquires as to her Point of Order.

Representative **TEPLER**: Thank you. Germaneness, please, Mr. Speaker.

On **POINT OF ORDER,** Representative TEPLER of Topsham asked the Chair if the remarks of Representative BICKFORD of Auburn were germane to the pending question.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would remind Members to speak to the Joint Resolution before us.

The Chair reminded all Representatives to stay as close as possible to the pending question.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **BICKFORD**: Mr. Speaker, this Joint Resolution is questioning the constitutionality of how this corridor was put in; is that correct? That's a question for you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Joint Resolution before us is expressing the sense of the Legislature regarding the use of public land leased by the State. There are a number of whereas and a lot of details, The Member may proceed.

Representative **BICKFORD**: Transmission lines have been traversed in this State for decades; a century, actually. It's prima facie evidence of the historic use of the land. It affirms the current use of the land, the law was followed, the permits were granted. And I will say the first permit was from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in 2018. We're talking constitutionality. It received the MPUC permit in 2019. It was endorsed by the Army Corps of Engineers in 2020. Maine Department of Environmental Protection permit in 2020. The U.S. Department of Energy presidential permit in 2021. Do you think they might know something about the Constitution? I would guess they might. Because we're legislators doesn't mean we're experts on the Constitution. Mr. Speaker, two administrations, one Democrat and one Republican, have conducted legal analysis and concluded that legislative approval is not required because of the substantial alteration threshold is not being met. In 2014, the Bureau of Parks and Lands determined that under the law it did not need legislative approval to negotiate the lease because it believed it did not meet substantial alteration. To meet substantial alteration means you have to do something different, very different than putting in transmission lines. We have transmission lines being put in all the time all over the State. That doesn't come before the Legislature. Mr. Speaker, I'm going to conclude with a question to anyone that can answer. I want to know when the last time a legislative Body voted on whether or not a public utility could put a transmission line up anywhere in the State of Maine. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Auburn, Representative Bickford has posed a question to any Member who may care to respond. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bowdoinham, Representative Berry.

Representative **BERRY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise simply to answer the question and to State that to my knowledge that has never before happened. I believe it has never before happened that not one but two administrations have chosen to skirt the Constitution and to avoid the required two-thirds vote of all Members elected to each house of the Legislature for such a purpose. Thank you.

At this point, a message came from the Senate borne by Senator DAUGHTRY of Cumberland of that Body, informing the House that the Senate had transacted all business before it and was ready to adjourn without day.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Weld, Representative Skolfield.

Representative **SKOLFIELD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I spent a good portion of my lifetime working for the Bureau of Parks and Lands and I hate to disagree with my very good friends and colleagues on this side of the aisle, but it seems to me that the corridor across the public lands is a definite and substantive change from what it was when those lands were acquired. Our Constitution so correctly requires this Body to be involved in anything of that magnitude. I recall being on the committee that the oversight committee for that agency and they have brought to us several times over the last several years things that they wanted to do, swap portions of land to give rights of way across certain portions of land, whether it be a driveway to a cottage on a lake or whether it be a parking lot for a church in a nearby town from here. Those were pretty minor little things. And it seems to me that if the bureau felt it necessary to bring this Body and have this Body be involved in those very minor transactions and changes of use on those other lands, why isn't it logical that they would've felt the need to do the same for this? I'm not necessarily opposed to the corridor. I think the corridor, I agree with the Good Representative from Auburn, Representative Bickford, that it has a lot of attributes. It is a lot of good things that will come from the corridor and I've never voiced opposition to the corridor. My concern is with the process that was involved in this lease. We are an equal branch of government. If the bureau were afraid that we might not agree with them, then I guess that's the way they would've gone, they would've done this without our consent. I asked the bureau director back I believe it was in February of 2020 if the lease agreement that was done under the previous administration were done under his watch would he have done it differently, would he have involved the Legislature. He was new then, he didn't have all the answers, but he felt that he would have done it differently. A short period later, six, eight weeks later, they renegotiated the lease. I don't believe that his answer the first time I asked the question was accurate. I just say if we believe that we are part of the process then we should vote for this Resolution. If you believe that the bureau has the right to make the decision on their own without a two-thirds vote of this Body, then you will vote against it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Cumberland, Representative Moriarty.

Representative **MORIARTY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a comment and then would present a question to the Chair. My comment is that in our legal system, fundamental due process requires notice and an opportunity to be heard. So, my question is whether the joint rules set forth a procedure by which, or which must be followed by the Legislature before a determination of reduction or substantial alteration may be made.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would answer in the negative. Does the Member wish to proceed?

Representative **MORIARTY**: Well, I would comment further, Mr. Speaker, if the rules are silent on the topic, I guess I can't ignore my immediate reaction of surprise and unfairness to interested parties, whether they be in the right or in the wrong, by the presentation of these allegations at this stage, particularly if there's no notice and opportunity to be heard.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Penobscot, Representative Hutchins.

Representative **HUTCHINS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. It seems to me that over several years there has been quite an opportunity to look at this issue and determine that the process that was made was correct. What's before us now is what was hurried and done without committee hearings or much notification at all. So, I think this issue is probably what's at fault, not what actually has happened over the last number of years in this process as the Good Representative, Representative Bickford, talked about all of the different steps that were taken correctly or if they weren't taken correctly, it would've been said at the time, I believe. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Saco, Representative O'Neil.

Representative **O'NEIL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this Resolution has to do with protecting public lands. I thank the Good Representative from Weld for his summary of the process in the ACF committee and I agree with everything that he laid out in terms of history. This is the opposite of a last-minute measure. The ACF committee has spent hours discussing this and taking action on this issue. It comes out of consensus, bipartisan work that's been taking place in the ACF committee for the past couple years. Last session in 2020 we unanimously voted out a measure to this effect but were cut short by COVID. We continued to work on it this year. Our committee has sent two letters to the Bureau of Public Lands to this effect, they look similar and this is the next step that we had been discussing. There's a special provision in Maine's Constitution that was passed by voters in 1993. We added that provision to protect public lands and it was passed by 73% of voters. I think it got more than anything else on the ballot that year, including the transportation bond. We added this language to our Constitution so that Maine people would have oversight of how public lands are used. I urge you to stick with the ACF committee's history of bipartisan votes on this public land issue. Thank you.

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

Representative **BICKFORD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One final point. If since 1993 there have been absolutely no public lands used by any utility to substantially change or put poles up, which is what I'm being told is a substantial change, then that's precedent. If the Legislature has not voted any time since 1993 on any public lands that have had power lines or any other utility poles put up that substantially change, which one pole would substantially change, then I'm going to argue that we have set precedent already. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **GRAMLICH**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. On June 29th this year, I had the opportunity to go to West Forks Plantation in Johnson

Mountain Township. I saw firsthand what is happening up in northwestern Maine, land that is being clear cut, a swath of land that is supposed to be 54 feet across is 82 feet, the land is completely clear cut and it is compromising and jeopardizing our public land. It is our responsibility to protect our public lands and I will be in support of this Joint Resolution to protect our public lands. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Representative DILLINGHAM of Oxford moved that the Joint Resolution and all accompanying papers be **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

Representative DUNPHY of Old Town **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** the Joint Resolution and all accompanying papers.

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 442

YEA - Alley, Arata, Austin, Bernard, Bickford, Blier, Caiazzo, Carmichael, Cloutier, Connor, Costain, Cuddy, Dillingham, Dolloff, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Foster, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hanley, Hasenfus, Hutchins, Javner, Lemelin, Libby, Lyford, MartinR, MasonR, MillettH, Moriarty, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, Ordway, Perkins, PerryJ, Pickett, Pierce, Quint, Roche, Rudnicki, Stanley, Stearns, Stetkis, Terry, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth.

NAY - Arford, Bell, Berry, Blume, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Cardone, Copeland, Corey, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Dodge, Dunphy, Evans, Fay, FecteauR, Geiger, Gere, Gramlich, Grohoski, Hall, Harnett, Head, Hepler, Hymanson, Kessler, Kryzak, Landry, Lookner, Lyman, Madigan, Mathieson, Matlack, McCrea, McCreight, Melaragno, Meyer, MillettR, Morales, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Pebworth, PerryA, Pluecker, Poirier, Reckitt, Rielly, Roberts, Sachs, Salisbury, Sheehan, Skolfield, Stover, Supica, Sylvester, Talbot Ross, Tepler, Tucker, WarrenC, WhiteB, Williams, Zager, Zeigler.

ABSENT - Andrews, Babbidge, Bailey, Bradstreet, Carlow, Cebra, Collamore, Collings, Doore, Doudera, Evangelos, Faulkingham, Grignon, Harrington, Johansen, Kinney, MartinJ, MartinT, McDonald, O'Connor, Parry, Paulhus, Prescott, Riseman, Roeder, Sampson, Sharpe, Theriault, Tuttle, WarrenS, WhiteD, Wood.

Yes, 52; No, 66; Absent, 32; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

52 having voted in the affirmative and 66 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 32 being absent, and accordingly the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** the Joint Resolution and all accompanying papers **FAILED**.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Cumberland, Representative Moriarty.

Representative **MORIARTY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Coincidentally, within the past hour and a half or two hours, my good friend, the Representative from Old Orchard Beach and I had a discussion about her having traveled to the North Country recently and I learned a lot. And I believe everything that I was told. There are perhaps some adverse consequences to having been a lawyer for over 40 years, one of which is that you pick up some baggage but on a more serious side, you acquire respect for the law and for basic fundamental procedures. I understand our responsibility, I understand our duty under the Constitution. I understand that there probably is substantial factual evidence supporting the proposed Resolution. But, speaking only for myself, the complete lack of process, fact-finding and assessment prevents me from voting for a Resolution about which there has been really no formal inquiry. I regret that, but that's the conclusion that I've reached for myself.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bowdoinham, Representative Berry.

Representative **BERRY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, permission to pose a question through the Chair?

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **BERRY**: Thank you. Just to anyone who may wish to offer a little reminder of the fact-finding done by the ACF committee, I thought it might be helpful to the Representative from Cumberland, if anyone who participated in that fact-finding by the committee might remind us the extent to which they've discussed this matter. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Bowdoinham, Representative Berry has posed a question to any Member who may care to respond. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Saco, Representative O'Neil.

Representative **O'NEIL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I could, you know, pull out documents and go through the years of work that we did discussing this. Something that I want to clarify that I think answers the question right away is just that this is not a fact-finding and that's not what this vehicle does and I think that's the quick answer.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 443

YEA - Alley, Arford, Bell, Berry, Blume, Brennan, Brooks, Cardone, Copeland, Corey, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Dodge, Evans, Fay, FecteauR, Geiger, Gere, Gramlich, Grohoski, Harnett, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hymanson, Kessler, Kryzak, Landry, Libby, Lookner, Lyman, Madigan, Mathieson, Matlack, McCrea, McCreight, Melaragno, Meyer, MillettR, Morales, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Pebworth, PerryA, Pluecker, Poirier, Reckitt, Rielly, Roberts, Sachs, Salisbury, Sheehan, Skolfield, Stover, Supica, Sylvester, Talbot Ross, Tepler, Tucker, Tuell, WarrenC, WhiteB, Williams, Zager, Zeigler.

NAY - Arata, Austin, Bernard, Bickford, Blier, Bryant, Caiazzo, Carmichael, Cloutier, Connor, Costain, Cuddy, Dillingham, Dolloff, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Foster, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Hanley, Head, Hutchins, Javner, Lemelin, Lyford, MartinR, MasonR, MillettH, Moriarty, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, Ordway, Perkins, PerryJ, Pickett, Pierce, Quint, Roche, Rudnicki, Stanley, Stearns, Stetkis, Terry, Thorne, Underwood, Wadsworth.

ABSENT - Andrews, Babbidge, Bailey, Bradstreet, Carlow, Cebra, Collamore, Collings, Doore, Doudera, Evangelos, Faulkingham, Grignon, Harrington, Johansen, Kinney, MartinJ, MartinT, McDonald, O'Connor, Parry, Paulhus, Prescott, Riseman, Roeder, Sampson, Sharpe, Theriault, Tuttle, WarrenS, WhiteD, Wood.

Yes, 66; No, 52; Absent, 32; Vacant, 1; Excused, 0.

66 having voted in the affirmative and 52 voted in the negative, 1 vacancy with 32 being absent, and accordingly the Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED** in concurrence.

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

The Speaker appointed the following members on the part of the House to wait upon her Excellency, Governor JANET T. MILLS, and inform her that the House was ready to adjourn without day:

Representative PIERCE of Falmouth
Representative MARTIN of Eagle Lake
Representative HYMANSON of York
Representative FAY of Raymond
Representative CARDONE of Bangor
Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston
Representative MILLETT of Waterford
Representative ARATA of New Gloucester
Representative COREY of Windham
Representative DUCHARME of Madison

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (S.C. 723)

STATE OF MAINE
130TH LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

July 19, 2021
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt:
Senate Paper 262, Legislative Document 675, "An Act To Protect Maine Consumers from Unsupported Price Increases on Prescription Medicines," having been returned by the Governor, together with objections to the same, pursuant to Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, after reconsideration, the Senate proceeded to vote on the question: "Shall this Bill become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?"
20 voted in favor and 14 against, and accordingly it was the vote of the Senate that the Bill not become a law and the veto was sustained.
Best Regards,
S/Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The Following Communication: (S.C. 724)

STATE OF MAINE
130TH LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

July 19, 2021
Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt:
Senate Paper 380, Legislative Document 1117, "An Act To Prevent Excessive Prices for Prescription Drugs," having been returned by the Governor, together with objections to the same, pursuant to Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, after reconsideration, the Senate proceeded to vote on the question: "Shall this Bill become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?"
20 voted in favor and 14 against, and accordingly it was the vote of the Senate that the Bill not become a law and the veto was sustained.
Best Regards,
S/Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

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

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

Representative **DILLINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. At this time, I would like to offer some words of praise for you. I am happy to finally be adjourning. I think everyone is happy that that's going to be happening. I'm sure our staff and nonpartisan both and partisan staff are very happy to get us out of this building and they can now take vacations. But you and I, we do not always agree, I think as the Good Representative from Naples pointed out in his very eloquent speech earlier, that many of us in this chamber do not agree. But it has been a pleasure to work with you. You are always fair, you are always open, your staff is always open to me and my staff, you are honest and faithful in your negotiations, you keep your word and that means a lot. I truly look forward to the next half of our session and I hope that we can keep that going forward. It's also been a pleasure to work with my counterparts in the other corner, have the opportunity to have certainly a good conversation with the Representative from Portland. I truly appreciated that. I look forward to have further conversations. And the opportunity I've had to have conversations and work with and even against, Members on your side of the aisle, it's been a pleasure. Going forward I hope that we can continue that and have the sense of decorum that we've been able to reestablish in this chamber. So, I appreciate it. Thank you very much.

Subsequently, the Committee reported that they had delivered the message with which they were changed.

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

Governor **MILLS**: Thank you. Thank you for all you've done these past few months under some of the most difficult circumstances any Legislature has had to deal with and you've succeeded. You've done so much for the people of Maine.

A mere 16 months ago, I came and spoke to you and said goodbye for the time being, March of 2020 and we didn't know when we would meet again. We didn't know how long this pandemic would last. But together we have fought back one of the most dangerous threats to our people known in recent decades, maybe over a 100 years. And together the Maine people showed courage and compassion and perseverance and patience and we have beat this thing back and isn't it good to be in the same room together again? Shaking hands? Giving hugs? Talking like normal human beings again, I think, for the most part. And thank you for all you've done these past few months. You've got a lot to take credit for and the Maine people will never forget that you enacted a budget that provides for the first time in history 55% State funding for education and revenue sharing back at 5% full bore, revenue sharing fully funding

revenue sharing for the first time in years and property tax relief and what else did the people ask you when you were campaigning last year and to all of us? Broadband. What did we find out during the pandemic? We have a great need for broadband. And what did you accomplish? The Maine Connectivity Authority and money for broadband. And you have wisely spent and although there have been many amendments and challenges in the American Rescue Plan bill, that bill will go a long ways to restoring the lives and livelihoods of Maine people, businesses small and large, working families, children and giving people the right to stay here, the opportunity to make their way here in Maine and to have connectivity, have a good education, to be able to be trained up for their job that they need, the job that they want, have a career that pays well and allows them to stay here in the State of Maine and raise a family here. You deserve credit for that; every one of you, all the work that you did. So, I thank you, on behalf of the 1.3 million people in the State of Maine whom you represent and I represent, thank you. Good night. Have a good rest of the summer.

The SPEAKER: I won't be nearly as eloquent as my counterpart on the side of the aisle, the Representative from Oxford, Representative Dillingham and certainly not Chief Executive Janet T. Mills, but I just want to say a brief thanks to all of you. No Legislature has ever faced the challenges that this one faced in order to complete an insurmountable task of not only doing our regular business but also responding in earnest to a pandemic and the challenges it presented to all of our constituents across the State. We had to do this work in different ways, the public had to engage the legislative process in new ways and we found a way to make it all work. It was not always easy, I think certainly we would've liked to do things differently at times and we certainly missed seeing each other and meeting each other, those of you who are new for the first time in person, but somehow we found our way from the YouTube committee rooms to the very large civic center with horrible lighting to this building and the historical nature and the significance of being back at the State House to complete our work together, eventually, with the requirements we had to put in place to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 being removed and here we are with the work finally behind us and the opportunity now to enjoy what I hope for all of you will be a fruitful, wonderful time with your families and friends over the course of this summer, catching a quick reprieve before we come back and we do it all over again. With that, the Chair is pleased to recognize the Representative from Brunswick, Representative Tucker.

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

On motion of Representative TUCKER of Brunswick, the House adjourned without day at 8:29 p.m. Monday, July 19, 2021.