

ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
26th Legislative Day  
Tuesday, March 19, 2024

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

Prayer by Honorable Anne P. Graham, North Yarmouth.

National Anthem by Gary Crocker, West Gardiner.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Medical Provider of the Day, Kimberly M. Caldwell, MPAS, PA-C, Auburn.

The Journal of Thursday, March 14, 2024 was read and approved.

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

**SENATE PAPERS**

Bill "An Act to Create the Lincoln Mill Facilities District" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 986) (L.D. 2270)

Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** suggested and ordered printed.

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

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

**Non-Concurrent Matter**

Bill "An Act to Extend and Expand the Loring Job Increment Financing Fund"

(S.P. 810) (L.D. 1981)

**PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-544)** in the House on March 13, 2024.

Came from the Senate with that Body having **INSISTED** on its former action whereby the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-544) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-557)** thereto in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland moved that the House **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

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

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

**ROLL CALL NO. 408**

**YEA** - Ankeles, Arford, Beck, Bell, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Dhalac, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hobbs, Jauch, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Landry, LaRochelle, Lee, Madigan, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Perry A, Perry J, Pringle, Riseman, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre,

Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Sinclair, Stover, Supica, Terry, White B, Williams, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

**NAY** - Albert, Andrews, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Collamore, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Mastraccio, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pluecker, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

**ABSENT** - Abdi, Adams, Boyle, Brennan, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Copeland, Costain, Dill, Galletta, Haggan, Lanigan, Lookner, Malon, Millett R, Newman, Rana, Rielly, Sampson, Skold, Walker, Warren.

Yes, 69; No, 59; Absent, 23; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

69 having voted in the affirmative and 59 voted in the negative, with 23 being absent, and accordingly the House voted to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

**Non-Concurrent Matter**

Bill "An Act to Transfer the Arch Hangar at the Former Loring Air Force Base to the Loring Air Museum"

(S.P. 823) (L.D. 1998)

Majority (10) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS READ** and **ACCEPTED** in the House on March 13, 2024.

Came from the Senate with that Body having **INSISTED** on its former action whereby the Minority (3) **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-561)** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

The House voted to **INSIST**.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

The Following Communication: (H.C. 450)

**STATE OF MAINE**

**ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

The Honorable Troy Jackson

President of the Senate

The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross

Speaker of the House

131st Legislature

State House

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

Please accept this letter as the report of the findings of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety from its review and evaluation of the Department of Public Safety pursuant to the State Government Evaluation Act, Title 3, Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35.

Pursuant to the Requirements of the Act, the committee notified the department by letter of its intent to review the department on May 2, 2023. The department submitted its evaluation report November 1, 2023 and presented the report to the committee on January 30, 2024. The committee held a work session on the report on March 5, 2024 to discuss the report.

The committee has reviewed the report and finds the Department of Public Safety is operating within its statutory authority and meets all criteria under the Act.

Sincerely,  
S/Senator Pinny Beebe-Center  
Senate Chair  
S/Representative Suzanne Salisbury  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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The Following Communication: (H.C. 451)

**STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC  
SAFETY**

The Honorable Troy Jackson  
President of the Senate  
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross  
Speaker of the House  
131st Legislature  
State House  
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:  
Please accept this letter as the report of the findings of the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety from its review and evaluation of the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Emergency Management Agency pursuant to the State Government Evaluation Act, Title 3, Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35. Pursuant to the Requirements of the Act, the committee notified the Maine Emergency Management Agency by letter of its intent to review the department on May 2, 2023. The department submitted its evaluation report November 1, 2023 and presented the report to the committee on January 30, 2024. The committee held a work session on March 5, 2024 to discuss the report. The committee has reviewed the report and finds the Maine Emergency Management Agency is operating within its statutory authority and meets all criteria under the Act.

Sincerely,  
S/Senator Pinny Beebe-Center  
Senate Chair  
S/Representative Suzanne Salisbury  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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The Following Communication: (H.C. 452)

**STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND  
FINANCIAL SERVICES**

March 14, 2024  
The Honorable Troy D. Jackson  
President of the Senate  
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross  
Speaker of the House  
131st Legislature  
State House  
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:  
Please accept this letter as the report of the Joint Standing Committee on Insurance and Financial Services from its review and evaluation of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation under the State Government Evaluation Act, Title 3

Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35. The committee finds that the Bureau of Consumer Credit Protection, Bureau of Financial Institutions, Bureau of Insurance, Office of Securities and Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation are operating within their statutory authority. The review of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation is done in conjunction with the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business and we defer to that committee with respect to any findings related to the portions of the Department under their jurisdiction and oversight.

As a result of our review, the committee has recommended that the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation develop legislation for consideration in the 132nd Legislature to provide authority to the staff of each licensing board to determine whether complaints that do not address violations of the board's laws or rules or are outside the board's jurisdiction may be resolved informally without presentation to the licensing board. The committee has also recommended that the Office of Professional and Occupational develop legislation for consideration in the 132nd Legislature, in consultation with the Board of Dental Practice and interested parties, to establish a separate Board of Dental Hygiene.

Sincerely,  
S/Sen. Donna A. Bailey  
Senate Chair  
S/Rep. Anne C. Perry  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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The Following Communication: (H.C. 453)

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

March 19, 2024  
Honorable Robert B. Hunt  
Clerk of the House  
2 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Please be advised that pursuant to her authority, Governor Janet T. Mills has nominated the following:  
on March 15, 2024

Ryan Bushey of Houlton, Benjamin Waxman of Westbrook and Abraham Furth of Old Town for appointment and Adria O. Horn of Pittston, Alec Rodman Rogers of Manchester and Vaughan Woodruff of Pittsfield for reappointment to the State Workforce Board.

Pursuant to Title 26 MRSA §2006, these appointments and reappointments are contingent on confirmation by the Maine Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing.

Kelly H. Bickmore of Cape Elizabeth for appointment to the Gambling Control Board.

Pursuant to Title 8, MRSA §1002, this appointment is contingent on confirmation by the Maine Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

The Honorable Maria A. Woodman of Monmouth and the Honorable Daniel J. Mitchell of Scarborough as Justices of the Maine Superior Court.

Pursuant to Article V, Part First, §8, of the Maine Constitution, these appointments are contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

The Honorable Michael Duddy, Jeffrey B. Wilson, Esq. and Theodore H. Irwin, Jr., Esq. as Judges of the Maine District Court.

Pursuant to Article V, Part First, §8, of the Maine Constitution, these nominations are contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

Cedar Breeze Worster of Harrison for appointment to the State Board of Education as a student member.

Pursuant to Title 20-A, MRSA §401, this appointment is contingent on confirmation by the Maine Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs. Barry T. Woods of Harpswell for appointment to the Mid-Coast Regional Redevelopment Authority.

Pursuant to Title 5, MRSA §13083-I, this appointment is contingent on confirmation by the Maine Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business.

Sincerely,  
S/Rachel Talbot Ross  
Speaker of the House

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

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The Following Communication: (S.C. 1007)

**MAINE SENATE  
131ST LEGISLATURE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

March 14, 2024  
Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross  
Speaker of the House  
2 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0002

Dear Speaker Talbot Ross:  
In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A. §158 and Joint Rule 506 of the 131st Maine Legislature, please be advised that the Senate today confirmed the following nominations:  
Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business:

- Jonathan Crasnick of Scarborough for appointment, to the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority,
- Carolyn Dorsey of Caribou for appointment, to the Loring Development Authority of Maine,
- Jeffrey M. Pangburn of Bangor for appointment, to the Loring Development Authority of Maine,
- Lee Umphrey of Bangor for reappointment, to the Loring Development Authority of Maine.

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

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

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

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**SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR**

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

**Recognizing:**

Wyman's of Maine, headquartered in Milbridge, on the occasion of the company's 150th Anniversary. Known for its wild blueberries, Wyman's of Maine was founded by Jasper Wyman and Son in Milbridge in 1874. Today, the company offers wild blueberries in many forms and other fruits from around the world in blends of frozen fruit. The brand has become the top selling brand of frozen fruit in retail grocery stores in the United States, and the 3-pound bag of wild blueberries is available in grocery store freezer aisles in all 50 states. Wyman's grows, processes and serves clients for more than 485 wild blueberry farmers and 41 partner farms globally. Fourth generation family-owned Wyman's has offices and farms throughout Midcoast and Downeast Maine and the Canadian Maritimes. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 861)

Presented by Representative STROUT of Harrington. Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington, Representative CARMICHAEL of Greenbush.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative STROUT of Harrington, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

**READ.**

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Harrington, Representative Strout.

Representative **STROUT**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I'm honored to welcome family members from Wyman's here today. It's quite an accomplishment to have a business that lasts 150 years and is still growing strong. If you were on the legislative tour, we stopped in to one of the Wyman's factories in Deblois and you got a tour of that, and then, when we went through the blueberry fields, we crossed over some of their fields, which they take pride in maintaining the roads and the fields. When I was 16, I was super-excited to be able to work at Wyman's blueberry factory and not have to head to the fields in the hot sun to rake blueberries. So, I have a lot of memories there, working with my grandmother, and learning different parts of the facility, and working in the USDA lab was my favorite. So, I thank the Wyman's family for continuing to invest in the Downeast area and I thank you guys for letting me recognize them today.

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

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**Recognizing:**

the Brownville Fire/EMS Department, recipient of a Spirit of America Foundation Award. The Spirit of America Foundation was established to encourage and promote volunteerism, and the foundation presents awards to honor local individuals, organizations or projects in appreciation of community service. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 895)

Presented by Representative PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft. Cosponsored by Senator GUERIN of Penobscot.

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

**READ.**

The SPEAKER: The Chair is pleased to recognize the Representative from Dover-Foxcroft, Representative Perkins.

Representative **PERKINS**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. As a former member of the Brownville Volunteer Fire Department, it was with great pride that I help celebrate the Spirit of America Award. Under the current leadership of Chief Shawn Mitchell, the Department has grown to 32 very active members. This is quite an accomplishment today, especially in a small town when many volunteer departments struggle to maintain even the minimum of crew members. The Brownville Volunteer Fire Department has also developed an emergency medical response program, with 13 EMS and EMR personnel, most of whom are in the process of upgrading their license levels in response to the pervasive shortage of EMS personnel in the State. In 2023 alone, the intrepid Brownville Volunteer Fire Department has responded to 203 fire service calls and 311 EMS calls, including 79 calls for mutual aid. The members of the Brownville Volunteer Fire Department are among the finest examples of the tradition of the fire service and exemplify the qualities of duty and courage. Their actions and dedication to their community bring credit to themselves, the town of Brownville and the fire service as a whole. Thank you.

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

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**Recognizing:**

Michael Tracy, of Oakland, who is retiring as Chief at the Oakland Police Department after 43 years of public service. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 896)

Presented by Representative NUTTING of Oakland.

Cosponsored by Senator LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative NUTTING of Oakland, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

**READ.**

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

Representative **NUTTING**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, and good morning, Men and Women of the House. It is a pleasure for me this morning to share with Members of this House some thoughts about the retirement of my friend, Mike Tracy.

Mike lived in Oakland briefly while very young, then his family moved first to Skowhegan and then to Ohio, where he graduated from high school. According to Mike, and this is a quote, on the day I graduated high school, I got into a car and drove to Oakland. I have been here ever since, close quote. He doesn't say that it was his car, but we have to assume for this morning's purposes that it was a car he was authorized to use. I'm not sure exactly why he hurried back to Maine and to Oakland, but I saw a lot of him in the pharmacy where I worked. But at the time, we employed a pretty, young UMO student named Laura. Laura soon became Mrs. Tracy in 1985. They bought a house in Oakland, they raised two children who have given them four grandchildren.

For more than four decades, beginning as a reserve officer in 1981 and rising through the ranks, Mike has helped shape law enforcement in Oakland and beyond. In his three years of service as a school resource officer, he proved the value of SROs to anyone who was skeptical. In addition to deterring violence and crime, the interaction between SROs and young people foster trust and respect for law enforcement and create relationships which last as the students become adults. The

Superintendent of Schools just last year increased the number of SROs in our system to three, and it all began with Mike. I think that his time spent as an SRO reinforced his desire to make his department model one of community policing when he became chief 22 years ago. Mike knew that interactions with police officers should occur often and under pleasant circumstances, not simply on what may be the worst day of one's life. Being seen and being active around town is a big part of creating a safe and successful community. He has forged a top-notch department of 11 officers in our small town of just 6,000 people, which he now leaves for our new chief, Rick Stubbart.

Mike retired on February 8th. He and Laura have recently returned from a trip to the Dominican Republic, probably a good thing that they're back here now, and now they look forward to camping, boating and many other outdoor activities. I know that he looks forward to spending more time with his grandchildren while Laura continues to work as the Director of Primary Care at MaineGeneral Hospital. I know that you will all join me in wishing Mike and his family all the future happiness that they deserve. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **CYRWAY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I just wanted to reiterate what Representative Nutting had said, but also that I worked with Chief Mike Tracy for many years and he was always a great community leader and also looked for the kids and we had some really good DARE officers and school resource officers that came out of the Oakland school and I can't say enough. I really appreciate the work he did. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

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The SPEAKER: The Chair is pleased to recognize the Representative from Harrington, Representative Strout, who wishes to address the House on the record.

Representative **STROUT**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Today is a very exciting day for me. I get to rise twice to introduce Downeast in the House.

So, I rise today for a couple of acknowledgements. One is a student at Narraguagus Junior/Senior High School; her name is Holly Tabbutt. She joined the bus ride down here to sing the National Anthem in the other Body, so, we're very proud of her for her ability to do that. And then, she joined the Narraguagus Junior/Senior Class C State Volleyball Champions. So, they were the first team to win the gold volleyball for our high school, meaning my high school, too, and the second gold ball that we have in the school. The first was achieved by the 2016 basketball girls' team. The coach was Heather Thompson for that and the coach for volleyball is Holly Strout, who is her sister. So, they have quite a coaching history in our district.

So, I wanted to welcome them and acknowledge Holly for all of her hard work and dedication to working with the kids in our district to get them interested in volleyball and all of the investment and time that she puts in to teach them not only the skills of volleyball, but how to be a community member and worry about academics as well. One of the prides that the teams have over the years is their Volley for the Cure. So, they put together baskets and they host a game and since it started in 2016, they've raised over \$40,000 to help locals dealing with cancer for treatments and things in need. So, we're very proud of Holly as the coach and the team.

And then, just a little bit about some of the players. Alexa Johnson is the manager, but in addition to that, she also ran cross-country and she was very good in cross-country and took first place at the DAC race and was the 2023 DAC All Star and the DAC Cross-Country Runner of the Year. Emma Fraser is a senior; she's recognized as a Class C All-Academic and DAC All-Academic. Kaitlyn Lee is a senior with recognition as a Class C All-Academic and DAC All-Academic and she received the Coach's Award and won and was a DAC All-Star. Lucy Berry is a senior who received awards for the Class C All-Academic and the DAC All-Academic, and she was also just selected as a Scholastic Art and Writing awards where she won both a Gold Key award for her portfolio, *Lucy's Portfolio*, which contained six pieces that now advances her on to the national finals. Emma Parker is a junior who won the 2023 Key Player Award; she had 104 unreturned serves, which was second for both Class C and the State and the DAC All-Star. Neveah Schoppee was a 2023 Key Player and a PVC All-Star Second Team. Allison Fraser is the American Volleyball Coaches' Association National Player of the Week; she was a PVC All-Star First Team, Class C All-State First Team and DAC All-Star. And Autumn Peterson is the PVC Scholar-Athlete, 2023 Most Valuable Player, American Volleyball Coaches' Association Best and Brightest Award Third Team, DAC All-Star, DAC Player of the Year, PVC All-Star First Team, PVC Player of the Year, All-State Class C First Team and Class C Player of the Year. Oh, yeah, and she just happens to also be the 2023 Salutatorian.

So, this is just a quick glimpse into the pride that we have in Downeast Maine. I am ecstatic that they're here and thank you for letting me share their accomplishments with all of you today.

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The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from North Yarmouth, Representative Graham, who wishes to address the House on the record.

Representative **GRAHAM**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Colleagues and Friends of the House. I stand to congratulate the Gray-New Gloucester Class A State Champions. They are up in the Gallery and were honored in the Senate. The last Championship for the Gray-New Gloucester basketball team was 1975. When I think about it, that was when I was a sophomore in high school in Bangor, so, it was a while ago.

So, Madam Speaker, there's something special in the water, I think, in Gray. Not only do we have an amazing State Champion basketball team, but also, as has been recognized in the past, the Gray-New Gloucester Little League, who are not only State Champions but went to the Little League World Series. How awesome is that? It just amazes me.

I'm not going to individually call out each one of the team members because they're an amazing team together. I think that's what their success was all about, working together. But I would like to give a shout-out to another team that we often don't recognize. Those are the moms and dads, the grandparents, the aunts and uncles, the neighbors who stood behind the kids and said, go for it, you can do this. I remember those days taking my boys to practices in the wee hours in the morning or driving all over the place to get them to where they needed to be. But these are the people who stood behind what they were called, Little Dribblers; actually, it was the girls that had Little Dribblers, but that's where it all began. It's about community, it's about town, it's about supporting a team. I want to say congratulations to this team. They have worked so hard and they so deserve our praise and thanks for a great year and a great Championship. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from New Gloucester, Representative Arata, who wishes to address the House on the record.

Representative **ARATA**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I am so proud of these young men from Gray-New Gloucester High School; the community that I'm privileged to call home; and I'm overjoyed to congratulate them here today. Now, I noticed that before each game, the team huddles under the hoop for a quiet moment, and with obvious high regard for each other and in their common goal of achieving a positive outcome for their team. So, now, I say to you, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, that as we work toward our common goal of a positive outcome for the State of Maine, that maybe we could learn a thing or two from the Gray-New Gloucester Boys Class A Basketball Championship Team. Thank you.

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**REPORTS OF COMMITTEE**

**Refer to the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services Pursuant to Public Law**

Report of the **Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services** on Bill "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force to Evaluate the Impact of Facility Fees on Patients to Improve Facility Fee Transparency and Notification and to Prohibit Facility Fees for Certain Services"

(S.P. 987) (L.D. 2271)

Reporting that it be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** pursuant to Public Law 2023, chapter 410, section 2.

Came from the Senate with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**.

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

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

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**Divided Reports**

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-824)** on Bill "An Act to Provide Safe, Short-term Housing to Individuals Recently Released from Correctional Facilities"

(H.P. 969) (L.D. 1514)

Signed:

Senator:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook

HASENFUS of Readfield

LAJOIE of Lewiston

LOOKNER of Portland

MATHIESON of Kittery

MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

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

Signed:

Senator:

HARRINGTON of York

Representatives:

ARDELL of Monticello

NEWMAN of Belgrade

NUTTING of Oakland

PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

**READ.**

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

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

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

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

**ROLL CALL NO. 409**

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Dhalac, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hobbs, Jauch, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Landry, LaRoche, Lee, Lookner, Madigan, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Pringle, Rana, Riseman, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Sinclair, Stover, Supica, Terry, White B, Williams, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Andrews, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Bradstreet, Campbell, Collamore, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Galletta, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Boyle, Brennan, Carlow, Carmichael, Copeland, Costain, Dill, Haggan, Lanigan, Malon, Millett R, Newman, Rielly, Sampson, Skold, Warren.

Yes, 75; No, 60; Absent, 16; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 60 voted in the negative, with 16 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-824)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-824)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-823)** on Bill "An Act to Create an Advocacy and Complaint Process for Health Care Providers Within the Bureau of Insurance"

(H.P. 953) (L.D. 1498)

Signed:

Senators:

BAILEY of York

RENY of Lincoln

Representatives:

PERRY of Calais

ARFORD of Brunswick

CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham

CYRWAY of Albion

MASTRACCIO of Sanford

MATHIESON of Kittery

NUTTING of Oakland

PRINGLE of Windham

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

Signed:

Senator:

BRAKEY of Androscoggin

Representatives:

MORRIS of Turner

SWALLOW of Houlton

**READ.**

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-823)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-823)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-822)** on Bill "An Act to Improve the Licensing Procedure for Certain Social Workers by Removing the Examination Requirement"

(H.P. 1273) (L.D. 1990)

Signed:

Senator:

BAILEY of York

Representatives:

PERRY of Calais

ARFORD of Brunswick

CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham

MASTRACCIO of Sanford

MATHIESON of Kittery

PRINGLE of Windham

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

Signed:

Representatives:

CYRWAY of Albion  
MORRIS of Turner  
NUTTING of Oakland  
SWALLOW of Houlton

**READ.**

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

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

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

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

**ROLL CALL NO. 410**

**YEA** - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Beck, Bell, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Dhalac, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hobbs, Jauch, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Landry, LaRochelle, Lee, Lookner, Madigan, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Pringle, Rana, Riseman, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Sinclair, Stover, Supica, Terry, White B, Williams, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

**NAY** - Adams, Albert, Andrews, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Campbell, Collamore, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Galletta, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

**ABSENT** - Boyle, Brennan, Carlow, Carmichael, Copeland, Costain, Dill, Haggan, Lanigan, Malon, Millett R, Newman, Rielly, Sampson, Skold, Warren.

Yes, 74; No, 61; Absent, 16; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 61 voted in the negative, with 16 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-822)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-822)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-831)** on Bill "An Act to Reduce Rental Housing Costs by Eliminating Additional Fees at or Prior to the Commencement of Tenancy"

(H.P. 945) (L.D. 1490)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland  
BAILEY of York

Representatives:

MOONEN of Portland  
KUHN of Falmouth  
LEE of Auburn  
MORIARTY of Cumberland  
SHEEHAN of Biddeford

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

Signed:

Senator:

BRAKEY of Androscoggin

Representatives:

ANDREWS of Paris  
HAGGAN of Hampden  
HENDERSON of Rumford  
POIRIER of Skowhegan

**READ.**

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Exempt Seasonal Volunteer Ski Patrollers and Seasonal Volunteer Ski Ambassadors and Hosts at Ski Areas from the Minimum Wage Laws"

(H.P. 1373) (L.D. 2149)

Signed:

Senator:

TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:

ROEDER of Bangor  
BRADSTREET of Vassalboro  
DRINKWATER of Milford  
GEIGER of Rockland  
GERE of Kennebunkport  
MALON of Biddeford  
RUSSELL of Verona Island  
SKOLD of Portland  
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-829)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

POULIOT of Kennebec

**READ.**

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-830)** on Bill "An Act to Amend the State's Data Governance Program Regarding Proprietary Data"

(H.P. 1252) (L.D. 1948)

Signed:

Senators:

NANGLE of Cumberland  
BALDACCI of Penobscot  
LYFORD of Penobscot

Representatives:

STOVER of Boothbay  
ABDI of Lewiston  
COPELAND of Saco  
DHALAC of South Portland  
GREENWOOD of Wales  
POMERLEAU of Standish  
RISEMAN of Harrison  
SINCLAIR of Bath

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

Signed:

Representatives:

ADAMS of Lebanon  
UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

**READ.**

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-830)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-830)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-832)** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Content of Notices Provided with Respect to Tax Liens on Certain Property"

(H.P. 1310) (L.D. 2048)

Signed:

Senators:

GROHOSKI of Hancock  
CHIPMAN of Cumberland  
LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

PERRY of Bangor  
CARMICHAEL of Greenbush  
CROCKETT of Portland  
HASENFUS of Readfield  
LAVIGNE of Berwick  
MATLACK of St. George  
QUINT of Hodgdon  
RANA of Bangor  
RUDNICKI of Fairfield

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

Signed:

Representative:

LIBBY of Auburn

**READ.**

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-832)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-832)** and sent for concurrence.

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## CONSENT CALENDAR

### First Day

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

(H.P. 193) (L.D. 295) Bill "An Act Regarding Plastic Pollution" Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-825)**

(H.P. 1164) (L.D. 1832) Bill "An Act to Require Reimbursement of Fees for Treatment Rendered by Public and Private Ambulance Services" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-826)**

(H.P. 1350) (L.D. 2126) Bill "An Act Relating to Delegation of Nursing Activities and Tasks to Unlicensed Assistive Personnel by Registered Professional Nurses" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-827)**

(H.P. 1359) (L.D. 2135) Resolve, to Investigate and Address Municipal Solid Waste Disposal Services Issues (EMERGENCY) Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-828)**

(H.P. 1414) (L.D. 2207) Bill "An Act to Establish Municipal Cost Components for Unorganized Territory Services to Be Rendered in Fiscal Year 2024-25" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-833)**

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

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

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

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**ENACTORS**

**Emergency Measure**

An Act to Fund Rural Patrol Services in Androscoggin County

(S.P. 902) (L.D. 2109)  
(C. "A" S-564)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 113 voted in favor of the same and 2 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

**Emergency Measure**

Resolve, to Require the Department of Health and Human Services to Report on Children's Residential Treatment Services and Implementation of the Department's Strategic Priorities for Children's Behavioral Health Services

(H.P. 268) (L.D. 435)  
(C. "A" H-816)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 118 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Resolve was **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

**Emergency Measure**

Resolve, to Establish a Task Force to Study Sharing the Costs of Training First Responders Among Governmental Entities

(H.P. 905) (L.D. 1409)  
(C. "A" H-814)

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

**Emergency Measure**

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 26: Producer Margins, a Major Substantive Rule of the Maine Milk Commission

(H.P. 1402) (L.D. 2188)  
(C. "A" H-810)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 117 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Resolve was **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

**Emergency Measure**

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 80: Reduction of Toxics in Packaging, a Late-filed Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Environmental Protection

(H.P. 1428) (L.D. 2227)

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

**Emergency Mandate**

An Act Regarding the Reporting of Adult Name Changes by the Probate Courts to the State Bureau of Identification

(S.P. 305) (L.D. 747)  
(C. "A" S-559)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. In accordance with the provisions of Section 21 of Article IX of the Constitution, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 116 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

**Acts**

An Act to Protect a Patient's Access to Affordable Health Care with Timely Access to Health Care Prices

(H.P. 1119) (L.D. 1740)  
(C. "A" H-819)

An Act to Enact the Safe Cosmetics Act

(H.P. 1224) (L.D. 1908)  
(H. "A" H-818 to C. "A" H-781)

An Act to Make Changes to the State's Marine Resources Laws

(S.P. 859) (L.D. 2031)  
(C. "A" S-558)

An Act to Amend Maine's Aquaculture Leasing Laws

(H.P. 1327) (L.D. 2065)  
(C. "A" H-815)

An Act to Exempt from Excise Tax Vehicles of Active Duty Service Members Deployed Out-of-state

(H.P. 1335) (L.D. 2076)  
(C. "A" H-812)

An Act to Strengthen the Historic Property Rehabilitation Tax Credit

(S.P. 899) (L.D. 2106)  
(C. "A" S-567)

An Act to Clarify the Eligibility of an Off-track Betting Facility to Receive Funding

(H.P. 1348) (L.D. 2124)  
(C. "A" H-813)

An Act to Support Extended Learning Opportunities

(H.P. 1355) (L.D. 2131)

An Act to Allow Equitable Compensation of Certain Board Members

(H.P. 1376) (L.D. 2152)  
(C. "A" H-808)

An Act to Make Corrections and Updates to the Laws Affecting Children and Families

(H.P. 1378) (L.D. 2154)

An Act to Authorize the Provision of Emergency Medical Treatment for Certain Dogs

(H.P. 1380) (L.D. 2156)  
(C. "A" H-820)

An Act to Improve Access to Affordable Wireless Communications by Allowing the Public Utilities Commission to Designate Eligible Telecommunications Carriers

(S.P. 932) (L.D. 2193)  
(C. "A" S-562)

An Act Establishing a State Calendar for the State of Maine

(H.P. 1425) (L.D. 2222)

An Act to Require Telephone Solicitors to Use the Reassigned Numbers Database

(H.P. 1433) (L.D. 2234)

An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles' Motor Vehicle Dealer Display Area and Licensing Requirements Working Group

(S.P. 966) (L.D. 2244)

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

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**Resolves**

Resolve, Directing the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and the Department of Marine Resources to Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to Address Aquatic Invasive Species

(S.P. 418) (L.D. 1049)  
(C. "A" S-563)

Resolve, to Review and Evaluate Film Production Incentives

(S.P. 444) (L.D. 1075)  
(C. "A" S-569)

Resolve, to Study Opportunities and Provide Guidance for School Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency Programs

(S.P. 638) (L.D. 1606)  
(C. "A" S-570)

Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Improve Tenant-Landlord Relationships and Maximize the Use of Housing Vouchers

(H.P. 1099) (L.D. 1710)  
(C. "A" H-821)

Resolve, to Direct the Department of Health and Human Services to Explore the Feasibility of an Ambulance Service Assessment Fee

(S.P. 696) (L.D. 1751)  
(C. "A" S-573)

Resolve, Directing an Analysis of and Report on the Maine New Markets Capital Investment Program

(S.P. 808) (L.D. 1974)  
(C. "A" S-568)

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 9: Rules Governing Administrative Civil Money Penalties for Labor Law Violations, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards

(H.P. 1398) (L.D. 2184)  
(S. "A" S-572)

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 41: Special Restrictions on Pesticide Use, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Board of Pesticides Control

(H.P. 1403) (L.D. 2189)  
(C. "A" H-776; H. "A" H-785)

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

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An Act to Adopt an Interstate Compact to Elect the President of the United States by National Popular Vote

(H.P. 1023) (L.D. 1578)  
(C. "A" H-792)

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

On motion of Representative TERRY of Gorham, was **SET ASIDE**.

Representative TERRY of Gorham moved that the Bill be **TABLED** until later in today's session pending **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **TABLE** the Bill until later in today's session pending **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

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

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is to Table the Bill until later in today's session. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

**ROLL CALL NO. 411**

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Beck, Bell, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Dhalac, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hobbs, Jauch, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Landry, LaRochelle, Lee, Lookner, Madigan, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Pringle, Rana, Riseman, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Sinclair, Stover, Supica, Terry, White B, Williams, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Andrews, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Campbell, Collamore, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Galletta, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Mastraccio, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Boyle, Brennan, Carlow, Carmichael, Costain, Dill, Haggan, Malon, Millett R, Newman, Rielly, Sampson, Skold, Warren.

Yes, 74; No, 63; Absent, 14; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 63 voted in the negative, with 14 being absent, and accordingly the Bill was **TABLED** pending **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED** and later today assigned.

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An Act to Establish the Office of Tribal-State Affairs  
(H.P. 1166) (L.D. 1834)  
(C. "A" H-809)

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

On motion of Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, was **SET ASIDE**.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

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

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

**ROLL CALL NO. 412**

YEA - Abdi, Andrews, Ankeles, Arford, Beck, Bell, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Dhalac, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hobbs, Jauch, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Landry, LaRochelle, Lee, Lookner, Madigan, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Pringle, Rana, Riseman, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Sinclair, Stover, Supica, Terry, White B, Williams, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Collamore, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Galletta, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Boyle, Brennan, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Costain, Dill, Haggan, Malon, Millett R, Newman, Rielly, Sampson, Skold, Warren.

Yes, 76; No, 60; Absent, 15; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

76 having voted in the affirmative and 60 voted in the negative, with 15 being absent, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

An Act Regarding Disclosure of Flood Risk by Sellers of Real Estate

(S.P. 863) (L.D. 2035)  
(C. "A" S-566)

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

On motion of Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, was **SET ASIDE**.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

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

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

**ROLL CALL NO. 413**

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Beck, Bell, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Dhalac, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham,

Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hobbs, Jauch, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Landry, LaRochelle, Lavigne, Lee, Lookner, Madigan, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Pringle, Rana, Riseman, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Sinclair, Stover, Supica, Terry, White B, Williams, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Andrews, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Collamore, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Galletta, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lanigan, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Boyle, Brennan, Campbell, Carlow, Carmichael, Copeland, Costain, Dill, Haggan, Malon, Millett R, Newman, Rielly, Sampson, Skold, Warren.

Yes, 75; No, 60; Absent, 16; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 60 voted in the negative, with 16 being absent, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

The following matter, in the consideration of which the House was engaged at the time of adjournment Thursday, March 14, 2024, had preference in the Orders of the Day and continued with such preference until disposed of as provided by House Rule 502.

HOUSE REPORT - **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-799)** - Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Optometrists" (H.P. 1258) (L.D. 1956)

TABLED - March 5, 2024 (Till Later Today) by Representative PERRY of Calais.

PENDING - **ACCEPTANCE OF COMMITTEE REPORT**.

Subsequently, the Unanimous Committee Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-799)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Representative PERRY of Calais **PRESENTED House Amendment "A" (H-836)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

Under further suspension of the rules, the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-799) and House Amendment "A" (H-836)** and sent for concurrence.

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

HOUSE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (7) **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-831)** - Minority (5) **Ought Not to Pass** - Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act to Reduce Rental Housing Costs by Eliminating Additional Fees at or Prior to the Commencement of Tenancy" (H.P. 945) (L.D. 1490)

Which was **TABLED** by Representative MOONEN of Portland pending **ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT**.

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

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

Representative **POIRIER**: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker, and I'll keep this super brief because it comes down to basic economics. If you're telling a business; landlords, in this scenario; what they can and cannot charge and they end up losing their time, which equates to money, they're going to charge it on the backend, in the product; which in this case is housing cost. So, when you're talking about rents and trying to say that a landlord can no longer charge an application fee, for instance, they're still going to go through those steps to make sure the person checks out and they want to have them in what is their property, their investment. Now, these landlords are just going to tack it on to the rental cost, which we see ever rising. It isn't going to help with the housing crisis, so, in the long run, this bill is going to be bad. It's going to be bad for the people trying to find housing and it's definitely bad to mandate what landlords can and cannot do with their own business. So, I'd urge you to vote with me and vote against the pending motion, please.

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

Representative **ARATA**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House; so, this bill came about because of a very abusive landlord, in my opinion, in South Portland. That landlord charged fees that would never occur to me to do the things that that landlord did. And I think that that issue could've been solved with private litigation. However, now we have this bill that will have some unintended consequences. For example, you have to disclose prior to tenancy any utility service costs. Well, I don't know from month to month what my utility will cost. And this is counter to our desire to have people conserve energy, for example. So, I guess my point is that this is going to have some unintended consequences, it's going to harm both tenants and landlords and that this bill is not needed, and so, I ask you to please vote in opposition to this motion. Thank you.

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

Representative **KESSLER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I want to start this off by saying that this won't be so brief. But I wanted to start off with a simple definition of rent seeking. Rent seeking is a concept in economics that states that when an individual or an entity seeks to increase their own wealth without creating any benefits or wealth to the society. Rent-seeking activities aim to obtain financial gains and benefits through the manipulation of the distribution of economic resources. In Redbank Village and Liberty Commons in South Portland, this is exactly what's going on. When out-of-state private equity firms snatch up multi-family properties, jack the rents 30%, 50%, or more on people who have been living in these communities for generations; working-class people who cannot afford these rent increases.

But at the same time, as these properties change hands, the lease agreements become more and more complex. And in the case of Redbank Village and Liberty Commons, we have sixty-some-odd page lease agreements. And I think that we all know that when we have a 60-page lease agreement and you're just looking for a place to live as soon as possible at the best price, you're probably not going to read those 60 pages and you're just going to sign on the dotted line. But little do a lot of these tenants realize that buried in the pages of these lease agreements are many, many fees. And I can just list just a couple of these fees to you right now. First, we have the pet deposit fee of \$500, then the pet rent of \$60 per month; a certified amenities fee for \$65 a month, which was actually just raised to \$75; a pest management fee of \$16; a new utility account fee of \$40; a monthly utility admin fee of \$7; plus mandated apartment insurance of \$16 per month and a trash and sewer fee of \$4. All of these additional fees that were hidden in these pages totaled over \$700 a month. And when you are looking for an apartment and you see this listed on the web as one price, you find out when you're signing on that dotted line that it's far more than you thought. And usually, they don't realize this until they are already in that lease agreement. Oh, I forgot to mention, if you don't cut your grass within four inches, they will charge you a \$150 fee.

I want to thank the CEO of JRK Property Holdings in Los Angeles, California, for inspiring this bill. It is this company, and companies like it, that are forcing many people out of their communities and further causing gentrification in our communities as well. I also want to thank Dan Bernier of the Central Maine Apartment Owners Association for working with me on this bill, because it didn't start off like this but it turned into a bill that was all about creating transparency. It's a small step forward but the goal here is these fees are going to be charged, but be up front and be honest. This bill requires that those fees are placed up front. And we all deserve that level of transparency. Thank you very much, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. This is just another example of free association, of housing providers being maligned. This won't do anything to help our housing crisis in Maine and it's another example of trying to fix this crisis on the backs of mom-and-pop landlords. I have a building in Portland that the law there says I can't even keep up with inflation; I can have 70% of inflation if I want to raise the rent. If taxes go up in Portland, I can't raise the rent. It's putting landlords in a really tough position and I know they're not, you know, the most sympathetic right now, but I just would urge my colleagues that a lot of landlords in Maine are mom-and-pop landlords that own a few buildings that they decided to invest in these buildings instead of the S&P, instead of Wall Street, they invested in Main Street, and now they're being punished for it with laws like rent control and stuff like this today. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Buxton, Representative Blier.

Representative **BLIER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Here we are again creating laws for one bad actor that changes a whole industry. The company out of Los Angeles comes to Maine, creates a problem for the residencies in South Portland, and I get it. What are we doing? We're changing an industry throughout the whole State.

Madam Speaker, we have a housing crisis. If we make it more difficult for people to be landlords, why would people want to be landlords? They're the ones that are creating the housing. Now, I know that this is just one actor that's created a problem and we're trying to solve this actor. This could've been dealt with on a one-to-one basis with that particular landlord. You don't want to charge pet fees? Great. Guess what? I'm an animal lover. All you animal lovers out there, it's just become even harder for you to get a rental. I feel as though that landlords have such a bad taste in their mouth for the people here in this Legislature. Landlords are not the State of Maine's enemy. We're the people that are trying to create the housing. Let's stop regulating them to death and allowing them to do what they want to do, which is create housing for the people of Maine, and that's where we're at today. Follow my light. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, I used to own buildings that we rented out. I used to run a property management company. I no longer do both because of policies like this. Because policies like this keep passing and keep making it harder on landlords to be the good landlords that they are. It's really kind of frustrating that one bad actor from Los Angeles, not even from Maine, is making this even more difficult.

This is what I see happening should this pass, Madam Speaker. Number one, animals will no longer be allowed in apartments. We didn't allow animals in our apartments because we didn't want to have to charge that fee and also the fee that we would have charged, should we had allowed animals in there, never covered; we had one animal in our apartments and \$500 wouldn't even have come close to covering the damage that dog did; the doors we had to replace, the wallpaper we had to replace, the carpet that was filled with urine that had to be ripped out and replaced.

Madam Speaker, the next thing that's going to happen, utilities will no longer be included in rent. Because I can't tell you how much it would cost for my heat from month to month in the property that we actually split the cost of the heat with the tenant because we wanted them to have affordable housing, an affordable place to be. I would stop doing that and the heat would be on them. Number two, because I can't control what my town decides to charge for water and sewer, I would then make water and sewer on the renter, no longer on me. So, it's all up to them, Madam Speaker, because I can't predict what the towns are going to do. I can't predict what their taxes will be, I can't predict any of that. I've got people right now in my communities who are trying to fight to figure out what they're going to pay when they own a home and they can't decide. I can't even imagine what this is going to do for the landlords.

So, Madam Speaker, I ask that we please not punish the really good landlords and property management organizations we have in this State for something that some buffoon company in Los Angeles did to hurt people of this State. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **MOONEN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Colleagues of the House, our Committee spent a lot of time on this bill, both last year and then when we carried it over to this year. I'm a little confused by some of the comments. Pet fees would still be allowed here as a mandatory recurring fee, we're just requiring you to disclose it up front rather than burying it in a 60-page lease.

I've heard frustration that this is the result of one bad actor. That is true, that is the source of this frustration. But I want to reiterate what the Representative from South Portland said, which is that we heard testimony from other landlords all across the State of Maine who agreed that the activities of that landlord were reprehensible. In fact, the Representative from New Gloucester just said the same thing a few moments ago. She also suggested that we should solve that by litigation. My question is how; how do you sue someone when their answer is well, nothing we're doing is illegal. So, let's make it illegal. If we've got all these other landlords who say this is terrible, none of us would ever do that, why don't we take action to make sure that the one that is doing it can no longer do it? And then, once it's illegal, if they keep doing it, then we can sue them and actually win.

So, finally, I just want to say we did have the collaboration of representatives of landlords on this amendment. It was a long process, lots of meetings in the off session, multiple work sessions on mic. I also want to echo my thanks to Dan Bernier for his collaboration on this. I think we landed in a really good place and I think we should take action to stop landlords who are doing really reprehensible things. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **ARATA**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I guess I need to clarify my point, and that is that if a fee is not very clearly listed in a lease, then under contract law, you may have litigation regarding that lease. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from South Portland, Representative Kessler.

Representative **KESSLER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for letting me rise a second time. In closing, just in feedback to the comments that I've heard in this debate, nothing is going to prevent a landlord from charging fees if they wish to do so. But what it is going to make it harder to do is be dishonest, to bury things. And it will actually be very easy for landlords if they just put it in the rent, that's perfectly acceptable, too, and when you put it in the rent, you are giving that tenant an up-front, accurate cost of what their housing costs will be. So, thank you again for the opportunity to speak.

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

Representative **POIRIER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. And I want to thank the Good Representative that spoke last, because he just clarified my point. Add it to the rent. That's what it's doing. Any of those fees, anything, people are just going to add it to the rent. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Sanford, Representative Lanigan.

Representative **LANIGAN**: Permission to pose a question through the Chair?

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **LANIGAN**: Not knowing this, when you're charging, say we have six one-bedroom units, if they are to build these costs in, is it fair to charge different rents for different units or is that; I don't know if that's fair. If it's a one-bedroom unit that's 900 square feet, now are all the units in that area going to go up in rent? That's my question.

The SPEAKER: The Member has posed a question to anyone who wishes to answer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Chelsea, Representative Lemelin.

Representative **LEMELIN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I will be brief. The answer here is not legislation that may hurt other landlords. That's not the answer here. The solution to this is actually pretty darn easy. Don't rent from these people. So, when you get a 60-page lease, walk away. If you think there's hidden fees, walk away. So, there's a choice to every single person and that is very, very simple. Walk away and then rent from the good landlords; you know who they are, they just rose and spoke against this bill. So, all these people have to do is move; and moving from South Portland may not be that bad of an idea; so, Madam Speaker, there's an easy solution.

Why are we passing legislation that's going to hurt small owners of properties in any way, shape, or form? They're saying it will, let's take their word for it. Why are we going to hurt the small people because somebody huge from California comes in? They have a right to come here but we don't have to rent from them. And as far as the housing problem, if we don't rent from these people, guess what, the rent's coming down and the fees are gone because they've got to rent these apartments. So, just don't rent from them. Simple solution. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Arundel, Representative Parry.

Representative **PARRY**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Every day in this building, we complain about the housing situation. We complain about unaffordable housing. And also, every day, we pass legislation in this building that drives the cost up more. Sooner or later, we're going to have to figure out that we can't continually pass regulations, pass different bills that continually drive the price up and then complain we don't have any affordable housing in Maine. The two don't equal, and we need to change what we're doing in this building, in this room. If you want affordable housing, you can't keep piling on costs.

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

**ROLL CALL NO. 414**

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Beck, Bell, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Dhalac, Dodge, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hobbs, Jauch, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Landry, LaRochelle, Lee, Lookner, Madigan, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Moriarty, Murphy, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Pringle, Rana, Riseman, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Sinclair, Stover, Supica, Terry, White B, Williams, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Andrews, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Campbell, Carlow, Collamore, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Galletta, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Morris, Ness, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Boyle, Brennan, Carmichael, Costain, Dill, Doudera, Haggan, Malon, Millett R, Newman, Rielly, Sampson, Skold, Warren.

Yes, 74; No, 63; Absent, 14; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 63 voted in the negative, with 14 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-831)** was **READ** by the Clerk.

Representative **KESSLER** of South Portland **PRESENTED House Amendment "A" (H-838)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (H-831)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from South Portland, Representative Kessler.

Representative **KESSLER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. The fun continues.

This House Amendment deals with mobile home parks. And there was an issue that was happening recently in Old Orchard Beach where there is the sale of a park and increases in fees. I thank the Representative from Old Orchard Beach for making us aware of this issue. What this amendment does is it gives mobile home park residents the same protections from legislation that we passed last session around notices of rent increases, as well as eliminating application fees. So, it was an oversight from last session and we want to afford these folks those same protections. Thank you very much.

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

Representative **HENDERSON**: Madam Speaker, may I pose a question through the Chair?

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **HENDERSON**: I'd like to know when this amendment was made publicly available.

The SPEAKER: The Member has posed a question through the Chair to any Member who wishes to answer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Vassalboro, Representative Bradstreet.

Representative **BRADSTREET**: Yes, thank you, Madam Speaker. I wish somebody would answer that previous question. What this does; it's a brand-new amendment, including a brand-new group of landlords who have no notice about this, didn't expect that it would happen. I'd also like to point out that every time we increase the price on something, the long-term consequences are going to be higher rents. In the Housing Committee, we have worked and worked to try to provide affordable housing for people. Bills like this are a detriment to those efforts. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from South Portland, Representative Kessler.

Representative **KESSLER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. To answer the question about when this amendment became available, House Amendments do not become available to the public until they are filed with the Clerk's Office.

Representative **POIRIER** of Skowhegan **REQUESTED** a roll call on **ADOPTION of House Amendment "A" (H-838) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-831)**.

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 Portland, Representative Moonen.

Representative **MOONEN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, Colleagues of the House, I rise in support of this amendment.

The amendment, as the Representative from South Portland said, adds in mobile homes and mobile home parks to the legislation that was passed last year dealing with application fees and notice on rent increases. I realize not everyone on the Judiciary Committee and not everyone in this Body supported that legislation that was passed last year, but for those of us who did, we thought we were passing something that applied to all landlords. And so, it has come to our attention that there was one set that we missed because it was in a different place in Statute. I view this as a technical fix because it was our intention all along that the requirements around rent increases and application fees would apply to all landlords, and that's what this does. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

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

Representative **HENDERSON**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. May I pose another question through the Chair?

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **HENDERSON**: Now given the information that House Amendments are not made public until they're filed with the Clerk's Office, do we have a date and time when this amendment was filed with the Clerk's Office?

The SPEAKER: The Member has posed a question to the Chair for any Member who wishes to answer.

Representative LANIGAN of Sanford moved that the Bill be **TABLED** until later in today's session pending **ADOPTION of House Amendment "A" (H-838) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-831)**.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on his motion to **TABLE** the Bill until later in today's session pending **ADOPTION of House Amendment "A" (H-838) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-831)**.

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

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: The Member asked for a Table. I didn't hear the Member ask for a Roll Call.

The SPEAKER: The Member did, indeed, ask for a Roll Call.

Subsequently, Representative LANIGAN of Sanford **WITHDREW** his **REQUEST** for a roll call.

Representative TERRY of Gorham **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **TABLE** the Bill until later in today's session pending **ADOPTION of House Amendment "A" (H-838) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-831)**.

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 Table the Bill until later in today's session pending Adoption of House Amendment "A" (H-838) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-831). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

**ROLL CALL NO. 415**

YEA - Adams, Albert, Andrews, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Campbell, Carlow, Collamore, Cray, Cyrway, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Galletta, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Hall, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lanigan, LaRochelle, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Moriarty, Morris, Ness, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perry A, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, Wood, Woodsome, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Beck, Bell, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Davis, Dhalac, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Henderson, Hepler, Hobbs, Jauch, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Landry, Lee, Lookner, Madigan, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Perry J, Pluecker, Pringle, Rana, Riseman, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Sinclair, Stover, Supica, Terry, White B, Williams, Worth, Zager, Zeigler.

ABSENT - Boyle, Brennan, Carmichael, Costain, Dill, Dunphy, Haggan, Malon, Millett R, Newman, Perkins, Rielly, Russell, Sampson, Skold, Warren.

Yes, 63; No, 72; Absent, 16; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

63 having voted in the affirmative and 72 voted in the negative, with 16 being absent, and accordingly the motion to **TABLE** the Bill until later in today's session pending **ADOPTION of House Amendment "A" (H-838) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-831) FAILED**.

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

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Now, being made aware of this amendment, I do need to rise and speak. In rural areas; I just think it's very important with how this bill came forward with issues from someone in South Portland that people truly recognize how this will affect the rural areas. We do not have large landlord tenants from out of State coming and purchasing properties there. These are local people that may have a duplex or that may have an extra house that they are renting out. They will be affected by this and many; and I mean many; of the mobile home parks in the area that have no forewarning that this amendment is coming in their direction. Once again, I just have to speak up for the rural communities. This is an extremely bad bill, it's dangerous, and it will be extremely harmful to my communities. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: A roll call having been previously ordered, the pending question before the House is Adoption of House Amendment "A" (H-838) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-831). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

**ROLL CALL NO. 416**

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Beck, Bell, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Dhalac, Dodge, Doudera, Eaton, Fay, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hobbs, Jauch, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Landry, LaRochelle, Lee, Lookner, Madigan, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Perry A, Perry J, Pluecker, Pringle, Rana, Riseman, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Russell, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Shagoury, Shaw, Sheehan, Sinclair, Stover, Supica, Terry, White B, Williams, Worth, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Andrews, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer, Bradstreet, Campbell, Carlow, Collamore, Cray, Cyrway, Davis, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredericks, Galletta, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Guerrette, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Millett H, Moriarty, Morris, Ness, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Polewarczyk, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Theriault, Thorne, Underwood, Walker, White J, Wood, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Boyle, Brennan, Carmichael, Costain, Dill, Haggan, Malon, Millett R, Newman, Rielly, Sampson, Skold, Warren.

Yes, 74; No, 64; Absent, 13; Vacant, 0; Excused, 0.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 64 voted in the negative, with 13 being absent, and accordingly **House Amendment "A" (H-838) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-831)** was **ADOPTED**.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-831) as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-838)** 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" (H-831) as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-838)** thereto and sent for concurrence.

**ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH.**

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

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

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I've been sitting here today listening and after an experience I had yesterday, I just had to rise and talk about the lack of respect for us, for the public, for our State that has been going on this session. It's been incredible; with the amount of concept drafts that are coming forward with no language until the day of the public hearing and the public doesn't know what's going on; from amendments that are showing up at the last minute, expecting us to vote on them; from the public having to sit and wait for us for hours on end for Committees that are not starting on time.

We are here as the servants of the people and, to me, the lack of respect that's been going on in this building this session has been just unforgivable. And I needed to make sure that we talk about that and that people understand; it's not about you, it's about the people we're here to serve, and that's not happening right now and the lack of respect is just unforgiveable. Even the decorum in this Body, because I learned when I came on here six years ago, you do not walk behind a Member when they're speaking. It's happening both sides, I'm not saying it's; but the lack of respect that's going on, you need to stop and think among yourselves what you're actually doing and how it's affecting and how it looks not just for yourself but for other people. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair will remind Members to not question the motives of other Members or impugn their character.

The Chair reminded all Members that it was inappropriate to question the motives of other Members of the House.

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

Representative **KESSLER**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'm rising to address the comments from the Representative from Fairfield. I agree with her, in that transparency in our actions and what we do in this Body is paramount. And, for example, when you introduce a Floor Amendment, it has to go through a certain process with the Revisor's Office, then having

it make its way to the Clerk's Office, which then finally gets published online for the public to see.

We've seen in the news recently around criticisms around amendments in Committees, people not being able to see the contents of those things until the very last minute, and I agree that we need to have a process that is more transparent for the public, for the Members. And for those who are going to be returning in the 132nd, I encourage us to make some tweaks and get that done. So, thank you very much.

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On motion of Representative GERE of Kennebunkport, the House adjourned at 12:40 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, March 20, 2024, in honor and lasting tribute to Elizabeth Fitzgerald of Kennebunkport.