

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS

LR 2716

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PLANNING

Sponsor: Representative Ankeles of Brunswick

An Act Regarding the Former Brunswick Naval Air Station and the Brunswick Naval Air Station Job Increment Financing Fund

Jackson	Yes			Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No			Vitelli	Yes
Cloutier	No			Daughtry	Yes
Faulkingham	Absent			Stewart	No
Arata	Yes			Keim	No
	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	4	5	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would amend the laws regarding the Brunswick Naval Air Station Job Increment Financing Fund and the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority, including those laws regarding remote workers, program duration, job caps, roads and tax allocations.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

Daniel J. Ankeles

7 Beech Drive

Brunswick, ME 04011

Daniel.Ankeles@legislature.maine.gov

Cell Phone: (207) 756-3793

November 9, 2023

President Troy Jackson, Chair
Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross, Chair
Legislative Council
C/O Office of the Revisor of Statutes
7 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson, Speaker Talbot Ross and members of Legislative Council:

It is my intention to appeal the Legislative Council's rejection of **LR 2716, An Act Regarding the Former Brunswick Naval Air Station and the Brunswick Naval Air Station Job Increment Financing Fund.**

I look forward to speaking with Legislative Council on Nov. 16 to discuss this necessary proposal and its urgent nature. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Ankeles".

Dan Ankeles
State Representative

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

LR 2918

EDUCATIONAL OPTIONS

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Sponsor: Representative Bagshaw of Windham

An Act to Remove the Enrollment Cap on Maine's Virtual Charter Schools

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	Yes	Keim	Yes

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	3	6	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would remove the enrollment cap on virtual charter schools.

Potential JR 217: LD 1741 Representative Bagshaw, B



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1440
TTY: (207) 287-4469

Barbara Bagshaw

20 Plummer Road
Windham, ME 04062
Cell: (207) 310-0051

Barbara.Bagshaw@legislature.maine.gov

November 13, 2023

Troy D. Jackson, Chair
Legislative Council
Maine State Legislature
115 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Chairperson Jackson,

I would like to take the opportunity to appeal the decision on my bill, **LR 2918 “An Act to Remove the Enrollment Cap on Maine’s virtual Charter Schools”**. Families need options to ensure the best education for their children. With more schools going virtual and with different student learning styles, I want families to have more choices. If people can’t afford private school or to homeschool, charter schools might be the best option.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Barbara Bagshaw'.

Barbara Bagshaw
State Representative

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

LR 2730

MEDICAID

DENTAL CARE

Sponsor: Senator Baldacci of Penobscot

An Act to Provide Dental Managed Care

Jackson	No			Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No			Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No			Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent			Stewart	No
Arata	No			Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	0	9	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would require the implementation of a statewide Medicaid prepaid dental health program for children and adults with a choice of at least 2 licensed dental managed care providers.

Potential JR 217:

LD 1334 Representative Millett, S

131st Legislature
Senate of
Maine
Senate District 9

Senator Joe Baldacci
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
Office (207) 287-1515

November 13, 2023

Senate President Troy Jackson
Chair, Legislative Council
Maine State House
Augusta, ME 04333

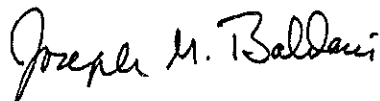
Dear Senate President Troy Jackson:

I appeal the Legislative Council's decision to reject the **LR 2730, An Act to Provide Dental Managed Care**.

I look forward to discussing this important issue with you on November 16 at Legislative Council. The need for dental managed care has been discussed with Democrat and Republican legislators alike. There is an urgent need for this legislation to address the dental health crisis in Maine. The Office of MaineCare Services, Data Analytics – Dental Measures found that dental access in the current MaineCare adult dental benefit is low. This data shows individuals are not utilizing dental care at the rate anticipated. Since July 2022, adults have been receiving preventive services at a rate of only \$1,000 to \$1,500 per month. A dental managed care program would expand access to dental care across Maine.

Thank you for your consideration of LR 2730, An Act to Provide Dental Managed Care.

Best,



Senator Joe Baldacci

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES
DELIVERY

LR 2845

Sponsor: Senator Bennett of Oxford

An Act to Ensure the Financial Stability of Behavioral Health Service and Housing Providers

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	Yes	Keim	Yes

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	3	6	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would require the Department of Health and Human Services to pay administrative expenses and interest charged on lines of credit or loans accessed by behavioral health service providers and housing assistance providers when a delay in department contracts or payments necessitates the provider accessing the line of credit or loan.

Richard A. Bennett
Senator, District 18



3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

November 12, 2023

Senate President Troy Jackson
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson,

I write to appeal the Legislative Council's decision rejecting my second session bill request, LR 2845, "An Act to Ensure the Financial Stability of Behavioral Health Service and Housing Providers."

I did not submit this legislation last year because the matter was only brought to my attention this September. The situation is dire for these providers. This is a true financial emergency that will soon affect services to the neediest Mainers.

The Maine Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) has been terribly slow with finalizing contracts with and making payments to behavioral health agencies and the Bridging Rental Assistance Program (BRAP) and Shelter Plus Care providers. DHHS needs to keep providing the service and relies on these agencies to do so. In the case of the BRAP, the provider has to pay landlords the rent for supportive housing out of their own line of credit, creating cash flow challenges that threaten their solvency.

This bill will not impose a penalty on DHHS. It simply requires DHHS to pay the interest on the line of credit so that DHHS does not continue to transfer these costs to the agencies. Some agencies are reporting interest payments in excess of \$500,000.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard A. Bennett".

Richard A. Bennett
Senator

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

LR 2927

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPT
 ADMINISTRATION

Sponsor: Senator Bennett of Oxford

An Act to Ensure Compliance by the Department of Health and Human Services with Federal Rules and Regulations

Jackson	Yes	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	Yes	Keim	Yes

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	4	5	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would specify that any program in the State receiving federal financial assistance may not have any policies, rules or regulations that violate any federal law or act, Maine law or the United States Constitution.

Richard A. Bennett
Senator, District 18



3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

November 12, 2023

Senate President Troy Jackson
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson,

I write to appeal the Legislative Council's decision rejecting my second session bill request, LR 2927, "An Act to Ensure Compliance by the Department of Health and Human Services with Federal Rules and Regulations."

Under the federal Developmentally Disabled Assistance and Bill of Rights Act, developmentally disabled (DD) persons have rights to appropriate medical care, in the setting *least restrictive to their personal liberty*. Federal law determines Waiver 21 members have the right to receive their fully funded Home and Community Based support services *in their own home*. The Department of Health and Human Services is making this all but impossible for these DD individuals.

In order to receive federal funding, MaineCare must comply with federal regulations and/or laws. Federal law supersedes any state regulation that may be contradictory. Maine DHHS has incorrectly determined that state MaineCare regulations can supersede the DD Act, allowing DHHS employees to suspend, deprive, terminate, or reduce federally protected rights, even when the federal financial assistance for the member covers all the costs of their medically necessary 1915(c) HCB services. Our federal funding is at risk because Maine is not complying with federal laws and are depriving DD persons of their rights.

I have a constituent who just wants the HCB support services he is guaranteed in his own home. Maine DHHS will not provide him these services, which he needs, unless he moves into a group home. After suffering physical and sexual abuse by men in his past, he does not want to live in a group home. DD individuals are forced into group homes despite federal law requiring the least setting least restrictive to personal liberty.

This bill is an emergency because my constituent, and certainly countless others in your districts, are suffering now. They need our help. Their rights are being violated. We should not be taking money dedicated to this incredibly vulnerable population and spending it elsewhere.

I ask that you reconsider your decision and let this legislation move forward. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard A. Bennett".

Richard A. Bennett
Senator

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session

Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

LR 2628

CANNABIS

ADULT USE AND MEDICAL CANNABIS

Sponsor: Representative Boyer, Jr. of Poland

An Act to Remove the Universal Symbol Requirement for Edible Cannabis Products

Jackson	Yes	Talbot Ross	Yes
Terry	No	Vitelli	Yes
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	3	6	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would remove the requirement for edible cannabis products to be marked with a universal symbol.



David Boyer
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Tel: (207) 287-4444

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04433-0002
(207) 287-1440
MAINE RELAY 711

Senate President Jackson,

I am requesting an appeal of my
Bill LR 2628: An Act to Remove the Universal
Symbol Requirement for Edible Cannabis Products.

Thank you,

Rep. David Boyer

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session

Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

LR 2860

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

DELIVERY

Sponsor: Senator Brenner of Cumberland

Resolve, to Ensure Timely Access to Medication Management Across the State

Jackson	Yes	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	Yes
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	Yes
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	3	6	0	1	Out

Comment

This resolve would prohibit the Department of Health and Human Services from implementing any negative rate changes for any provider or category of providers of medication management for behavioral health services until the department convenes a stakeholder group of medication management providers, consumers, family members, physicians and advocates to determine current use and problem areas. The department would be required to present data to the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services documenting current use of medication management services, wait lists and predictions for unmet needs over the next 5 years.

131st Legislature
Senate of
Maine
Senate District 30

Senator Stacy Brenner
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
(207) 287-1515
Stacy.Brenner@legislature.maine.gov

President Troy D. Jackson
Chair of the Legislative Council
Maine State House
115 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0115

November 9, 2023

Dear President Jackson,

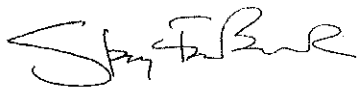
I am writing to you because I would like to appeal the Legislative Council's decision regarding **LR 2860, Resolve, to Ensure Timely Access to Medication Management Across the State**. If accepted, this bill would improve access to medication management, a necessary behavioral health service, by directing the Department of Health and Human Services to reevaluate rates for providers that will go into effect in 2025.

The Department of Health and Human Services will decrease rates for psychiatric nurse practitioners by 15 percent and increase rates for prescribing psychiatrists by the same amount in 2025. The issue is that nurse practitioners make up the majority of providers for medication management. We are currently seeing a four to six month wait time to access medication management services. Decreasing the rate for nurse practitioners will only worsen this crisis.

The recent violence in Lewiston has highlighted the necessity for access to behavioral health services, and medication management is an important part of these services. It is foundational for many people living with severe and persistent mental health issues in our communities. With these new rates set to take effect in 2025, we have to act now. This bill would ensure that we address this issue before it gets worse.

LR 2860 would ensure that we are protecting and improving access to this essential health care service. This bill is one step forward in addressing the behavioral health crisis.

Sincerely,



Stacy Brenner
State Senator, District 30

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session

Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

TRANSPORTATION

LR 2954

MOTOR VEHICLES

NUMBER PLATES

Sponsor: Representative Carlow of Buxton

An Act Authorizing the Secretary of State to Issue Commemorative License Plates in Honor of America's Semiquincentennial

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	Yes
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	1	8	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would authorize the Secretary of State to issue commemorative license plates in honor of America's semiquincentennial.

NATHAN M. CARLOW
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1440
(207) 287-1440 (FAX)



Maine State Legislature
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

November 9, 2023

The Honorable Troy Jackson
Chairman of the Legislative Council
115 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0115

Dear President Jackson:

In reference to the Legislative Council's rejection of my pre-cloture legislative request numbered 2954, entitled *An Act Authorizing the Secretary of State to Issue Commemorative License Plates in Honor of America's Semiquincentennial*, I hereby provide notice of my appeal from the Council's decision.

In July of this year, the State of Maine joined 37 other states in establishing a commission to celebrate America's semiquincentennial. As you may recall, this legislation passed unanimously in both chambers, which underscores the Legislature's opinion that this historic American milestone is of great importance to our sense of national pride and unity.

This legislation seeks to provide the statutory authorization for the Secretary of State to issue commemorative plates comparable to the plates issued for Maine's bicentennial. Similar action has been taken by at least three other states including Michigan, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina. My objective in introducing this legislation is to allow the Secretary of State sufficient time to prepare for this once in a lifetime investment in Maine people, and I believe failing to act now will effectively let this historic opportunity moment pass us by.

I believe these conditions constitute sufficient urgency meriting consideration by the full Legislature, and I'd be pleased to connect with you further to answer any outstanding questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nathan Carlow".

Nathan M. Carlow
State Representative

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session

Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

JUDICIARY

LR 2832

CRIMES

STALKING

Sponsor: Senator Carney of Cumberland

An Act to Support Maine's Public Safety Response to Domestic Violence and Stalking

Jackson	Yes	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	Yes
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	Yes
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	4	5	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would amend the laws of this State to account for the new standard set out in the case of *Counterman v. Colorado*, 600 U.S. 66 (2023). It would amend relevant sections of the Maine Criminal Code and the protection from abuse laws to provide that when a violation of the abuse laws or the crime of terrorizing, stalking or harassment by telephone relies on the content of the actor's speech, the actor must have consciously disregarded the risk that the actor's speech would place a reasonable person in fear of bodily injury.

President Troy D. Jackson
Chair of the Legislative Council
Maine State Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

November 13, 2023

Dear President Jackson,

I am writing to you because I would like to appeal the Legislative Council's decision regarding LR 2832, "An Act to Support Maine's Public Safety Response to Domestic Violence and Stalking."

This bill is a true emergency proposal that requires action this legislative session. The June 27, 2023 U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Counterman* impairs enforcement of Maine's terrorizing, domestic violence terrorizing, stalking, domestic violence stalking and harassment statutes. *Counterman* has caused some District Attorneys to either dismiss or not charge certain crimes and caused uncertainty for (1) victims of terrorizing, stalking and harassment in Maine; (2) defendants charged with these crimes; and (3) prosecutors, defense counsel and our courts.

LR 2832 proposes clear amendments to bring Maine law into conformity with this new constitutional standard and allow us to maintain a constitutionally sound criminal and civil justice response to domestic violence. I have closely reviewed the Judiciary Committee's carryover bills, and we do not have another vehicle that could address this urgent need.

In sum, LR 2832 would build on the progress the Legislature has made and further promote safety and security for Mainers seeking protection from further victimization in areas regarding domestic violence, stalking, and harassment.

Best regards,



Anne Carney
State Senator

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

LR 2908

VICTIMS OF CRIME

DEDICATED FUND

Sponsor: Senator Carney of Cumberland

An Act to Provide Funding for Essential Services for Victims of Crimes

Jackson	Yes	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	Yes
Cloutier	Yes	Daughtry	Yes
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	No	Kelm	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	4	5	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would provide funding for essential services for victims of crimes across the State.

President Troy D. Jackson
Chair of the Legislative Council
Maine State Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

November 13, 2023

Dear President Jackson,

I am writing to you because I would like to appeal the Legislative Council's decision regarding LR 2908, "An Act to Provide Funding for Essential Service for Victims of Crimes."

This bill is a true emergency that would help Maine avoid devastating cuts to core victim services that are projected for FFY 2025 (October 1, 2024 – September 30, 2025) because of a federal funding issue. Maine will have a gap of approximately \$5M - \$6M.

This will result in significant program reductions and layoffs for VOCA-funded agencies that support almost 50,000 services for survivors in every corner of our state, from Legal Services for the Elderly, Elder Abuse Institute of Maine, Sex Trafficking Survivors' Fund, Maine's Domestic Violence Resource Centers, Maine Children's Advocacy Centers, Pine Tree Legal Assistance, the AG's Office, DA's Offices and Maine's Sexual Assault Support Centers.

The Judiciary Committee does not have a carryover bill that could serve as a vehicle to address this urgent need.

In sum, LR 2908 would secure crucial services for victims of a high variety of crimes as well as the employees required to provide these services.

Best regards,



Anne Carney
State Senator

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

LABOR AND HOUSING

LR 2956

LABOR RELATIONS

LABOR ORGANIZATIONS

Sponsor: Senator Carney of Cumberland

An Act to Enhance Employer and Employee Harmony on Certain State-assisted Projects

Jackson	Yes	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	1	8	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would require a party that enters into a contract supported in whole or in part by aid granted by the State or a municipality for constructing, altering, repairing, furnishing or equipping a building, a public works project or an energy project to enter into an employer-employee harmony agreement under which the employer agrees to be neutral during a union organizing campaign and other union activities.

President Troy D. Jackson
Chair of the Legislative Council
Maine State Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

November 13, 2023

Dear President Jackson,

I am writing to you because I would like to appeal the Legislative Council's decision regarding LR 2956, "An Act to Enhance Employer and Employee Harmony on Certain State-assisted Projects."

This bill is a limited, yet critical and logical, extension of LD 1756, "An Act to Protect Employee Freedom of Speech," passed by both chambers and signed by the Governor in July of 2023.

This bill would create continuity in state policy regarding employee free speech and employer-employee harmony. With new industries — and new federal funding — flowing into Maine every day, this bill is necessary to avoid confusion among the business community. It would set mutual expectations at the outset; rather than delay this effort and then attempt to correct already-established protocols.

In sum, LR 2956 is a necessary extension protecting employee freedom of speech during Maine's steady growth and development.

Best regards,



Anne Carney
State Senator

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

JUDICIARY

LR 2959

NATIVE AMERICANS

RELATIONS WITH STATE

Sponsor: Senator Carney of Cumberland

An Act to Advance Equality for Wabanaki Nations

Jackson	Yes			Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No			Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No			Daughtry	Yes
Faulkingham	Absent			Stewart	No
Arata	No			Keim	No
	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	2	7	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would ensure that federally recognized Wabanaki tribes have access to federal beneficial laws on an equal basis with all other federally recognized tribes in other states.

Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2774 Representative Andrews, J
 Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2809 Representative Faulkingham, B
 Potential JR 217: LD 2004 Speaker Talbot Ross, R

President Troy D. Jackson
Chair of the Legislative Council
Maine State Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

November 13, 2023

Dear President Jackson,

I am writing to you because I would like to appeal the Legislative Council's decision regarding LR 2959, "An Act to Advance Equality for Wabanaki Nations."

This Act is urgently needed to address longstanding inequities of the Wabanaki Nations. For over forty years, Wabanaki tribal nations have been locked out of attracting federal investment in Maine that the other 570 federally-recognized tribes have access to. As a result, the Wabanaki tribes have the lowest health, economic, and educational outcomes compared to other federally recognized tribes. This persistent inequity of such extreme discrepancies will continue to be an emergency until rectified. We should not sideline this legislation for another year.

Finally, this legislation differs from the legislation considered in the first session. There have been changes that will hopefully garner additional legislative support.

In sum, LR 2959 would address an ongoing emergency and help rectify the inequities facing the Wabanaki tribes. These changes solidify our support and planned actions for repairing the relationship between the State and the Wabanaki Nations.

Best regards,



Anne Carney
State Senator

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

LABOR AND HOUSING

LR 2921

HOUSING

ASSISTANCE

Sponsor: Senator Chipman of Cumberland

An Act to Address Maine's Affordable Housing Crisis

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	0	9	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would provide \$50,000,000 in one-time funds for fiscal year 2024-25 to create more units of affordable housing in the State to be administered by the Maine State Housing Authority. This bill would also require 500 additional rental assistance vouchers to be issued by the Maine State Housing Authority. This bill would also allow more smaller units of housing to be built by not allowing the minimum size requirement for housing units to be higher than the state minimum.

131st Legislature
Senate of
Maine
Senate District 28

Senator Ben Chipman
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
(207) 287-1515
Ben.Chipman@legislature.maine.gov
Transportation Committee, Chair
Taxation Committee, Member

President Troy Jackson
Chair of the Legislative Council
Maine State House
115 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0115

November 13, 2023

Dear President Jackson,

I am writing to request a reconsideration of the Legislative Council's decision on **LR 2921, "An Act to Address Maine's Affordable Housing Crisis."** Legislative committees have a lot of work ahead, and the second regular session is short. Being considerate of this, I am only appealing two bills that are emergencies and have not been introduced by any other Legislator.

This bill would require the issuance of 500 rental assistance vouchers by the Maine State Housing Authority for fiscal year 2024-25. This bill would also not allow the minimum size requirement for housing units to be higher than the state minimum, which we know has resulted in the loss of new affordable housing units over the last year. I do not believe either of these ideas have been introduced by any other Legislator.

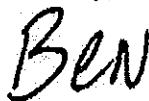
Maine's housing crisis is rapidly escalating, leaving many citizens in precarious living conditions and exacerbating socioeconomic disparities. The one-time funding and additional vouchers proposed in LR 2921 represent a significant step toward mitigating this crisis. Moreover, the bill's provision to standardize the minimum size requirement for housing units will catalyze the development of more compact, affordable housing options.

The urgency of this bill cannot be overstated. Every day without action sees more Mainers facing housing insecurity, an issue that reverberates through our economy and communities statewide.

LR 2921 is truly an emergency measure, and I hope you will allow it to go forward.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you would like to discuss this bill or have any questions. I appreciate your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Ben Chipman
State Senator, District 28

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

JUDICIARY

LR 2958

COURTS

OTHER

Sponsor: Senator Chipman of Cumberland

An Act to Address Mental Health, Substance Use Disorder and Homelessness

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	0	9	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would establish a Community Assistance, Recovery and Empowerment Court in the State. The court would connect persons struggling with untreated mental illness or substance use challenges with a care plan, which may include clinically prescribed individualized interventions with supportive services, medication and a housing plan, and would include participation by an attorney from the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services and a supporter to help persons make self-directed care decisions.

131st Legislature
Senate of
Maine
Senate District 28

Senator Ben Chipman
3 State House Station
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(207) 287-1515
Ben.Chipman@legislature.maine.gov
Transportation Committee, Chair
Taxation Committee, Member

President Troy Jackson
Chair of the Legislative Council
Maine State House
115 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0115

November 13, 2023

Dear President Jackson,

I am writing to appeal the Legislative Council's decision regarding **LR 2958, "An Act to Address Mental Health, Substance Use Disorder, and Homelessness."** The second regular session is short, and I know our committees have a lot of work to do. Being mindful of this and the work ahead of us, I am only appealing two bills that are clear emergencies and have not been introduced by any other Legislator.

LR 2958 would implement a new approach to address mental health, Substance Use Disorder, and homelessness that has never been used in Maine, has not been proposed by another legislator, and would not duplicate anything already being done in our state. This new model was implemented in another state earlier this year, and it is working.

In my conversations with constituents and colleagues across the state, it is abundantly clear that mental health and addiction and how much it contributes to homelessness is a serious, statewide emergency.

The intersection of mental health challenges, SUD, and homelessness is a complex crisis that affects all Mainers, regardless of geography. Despite all of our hard work, the situation is worsening; homelessness has increased, and mental health and Substance Use Disorder are affecting more and more Mainers. This bill proposes a new, much-needed holistic approach by integrating supportive services, medication, housing, and legal assistance in a way that has never been done before.

The objective of LR 2958 is clear and urgent: it represents a compassionate, comprehensive solution to one of our state's most pressing issues.

I really hope you can allow LR 2958 to go forward. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this proposal or have any questions. I appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,



Ben Chipman
State Senator, District 28

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

LR 2947

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

STUDENT FINANCIAL AID

Sponsor: Representative Collamore of Pittsfield

An Act to Allow Equitable Access to College Tuition Funds by Reallocating Funds from the Free Community College Program to the Maine State Grant Program

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	Yes	Keim	Yes

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	3	6	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would combine the free community college program and the Maine State Grant Program to enable students to attend community colleges or the University of Maine System. The bill would also allow students to attend part-time.

Closely Related Carryover Req: LD 512 Senator Tipping, M

To: President Jackson, Chair of Legislative Council

From: Representative Amanda Collamore, HD 68

Date: 11/13/2023

Re: LR 2947 An Act to Allow Equitable Access to College Tuition Funds by Reallocating Funds from the Free Community College Program to the Maine State Grant Program

President Jackson,

I am writing to respectfully appeal the Council's decision to reject the acceptance of LR 2947 for processing during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature. The purpose of this bill is to ensure Maine citizens have the ability to access college tuition funds whether they are a full-time student, a part-time student, or a student enrolled in a certificate program in any of Maine's institutes of higher education. The current tuition waiver program only supports students that are full-time students, enrolled in a degree program, at one of Maine's Community Colleges. It does not help them cover fees, books, or the tools for their degree program. Maine, as with the rest of the Nation, is facing a workforce shortage crisis in many fields. This includes all of our trades (i.e. plumbing, electrical, HVAC, and auto mechanics, just to name a few). Trade certificate programs allow students to work and pursue their certification so they can begin the long process of becoming a licensed tradesperson in our state and they should be able to access the tuition benefits as much as the youth entering college to pursue a degree in Liberal Studies.

Additionally, our State is in need of Engineers, Teachers, Doctors, and Registered Nurses. Maine's University System is set up to meet the needs of students wanting to enter these fields, and more, to benefit the demands of Maine's workforce. The current Community College tuition waiver does not benefit students taking the traditional path toward a Bachelor's Degree. I have heard from numerous families that students wishing to take one year at the community college to be used as transfer credits toward their Bachelor's Degree in the University system have been unable to complete this progress because of the very strict guidelines of the program.

Lastly, we are all very well aware of the rising cost of living in Maine and beyond. Traditional full-time student status is not a path many of our lowest income students can take. These students need to work in addition to pursuing their degree. Many students, like Early Childhood Educators, are working in classrooms and Centers during the weekday and taking online or hybrid courses part-time. Part-time students are not eligible to access the tuition waiver. With the workforce shortage and the increasing cost of living a hybrid, part-time schooling experience is becoming the norm for many students.

In conclusion, Maine has made an incredible step toward ensuring all students leaving high school have access to higher education, regardless of their ability to pay. By moving the funding into the already existing Maine State Grant Program, more students will be able to access the funds to help them cover the costs of going to college. This bill would fully fund the Maine State Grant Program to the tuition cost of the Community College System, ensuring the Community College tuition is still fully waived for a full-time student, but give flexibility for a student to enter another institute of higher education to pursue an education degree, or go to the Community College to receive a certificate in Plumbing. I ask you to please reconsider your decision and help more Mainer's access affordable college education.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,


Amanda N. Collamore

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS

LR 2949

LICENSING

ELECTRICIANS

Sponsor: Representative Collamore of Pittsfield

An Act to Utilize Career and Technical Education Centers in the Development of the Electrician Workforce

Jackson	No		Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No		Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No		Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent		Stewart	Yes
Arata	Yes		Keim	Yes

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	3	6	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would allow the use of career and technical education center course work for credits in electrician licensure.

To: President Jackson, Chair of Legislative Council

From: Representative Amanda Collamore, HD 68

Date: 11/13/2023

Re: LR 2949 An Act to Utilize Career and Technical Education Centers in the Development of the Electrician Workforce

President Jackson,

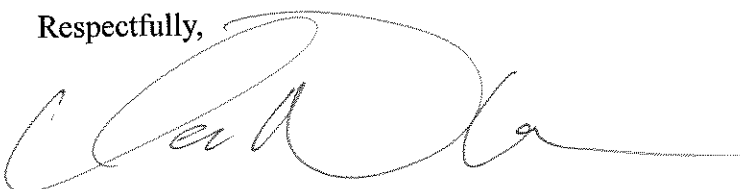
I am writing to respectfully appeal the Council's decision to reject the acceptance of LR 2949 for processing during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature. The purpose of this bill is to extend the work of the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business. In the last Special Session, the IDEA-B Committee worked a bill, L.D. 1713, to clarify the education and other licensure requirements for Electricians. L.D. 1713 was a bill that was agreed upon by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation, the Community College System, and the Unions. The Career and Technical Educational Centers (CTEs) were inadvertently left out of the formula. The IDEA-B Committee approved the bill, with the understanding that another bill would be submitted in the Second Regular Session to include the CTEs, as we did not have enough time to fully work that language into the existing bill at the end of the Special Session. The consensus being that we should pass the changes in statute for this round to help address one of the layers of the Licensed Electrician shortage in our State.

After the adjournment of the Special Session, I met with the Stakeholders from L.D. 1713 to discuss the changes in statute to include the CTEs. Currently, coursework from the CTEs are accepted in place of coursework at the Community College System, essentially cutting the student's schooling time in half. The classroom hours at the Community College System, with the newly passed law, have been solidified into statute as counting toward the hours needed to take a Journeyman's License test. This bill would ensure the continuity of the training received at the CTEs, going to the Community College System or to a be used at an Apprenticeship Program, by acknowledging the work of the CTE education in statute the way the Community College System does.

In closing, I ask you to please reconsider your decision and help us finish the good work of the IDEA-B Committee to help Maine have more access to Licensed Electricians by fixing this oversight.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amanda N. Collamore', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Amanda N. Collamore

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

LR 2634

SURFACE WATER

RIVERS

Sponsor: Representative Craven of Lewiston

An Act to Reclassify a Section of the Androscoggin River to Class B

Jackson	No		Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No		Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No		Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent		Stewart	No
Arata	No		Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	0	9	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would reclassify from Class C to Class B the lower section of the Androscoggin River from Gulf Island Dam to a line formed by the extension of the Bath-Brunswick boundary across Merrymeeting Bay in a northwesterly direction.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: Maine Relay 711

Margaret Craven

41 Russell Street
Lewiston, ME 04240
(207) 783-1897

Margaret.Craven@legislature.maine.gov

November 13, 2023

President Troy Jackson, Chair
Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross, Vice Chair
Legislative Council
C/O Office of the Revisor of Statutes
7 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson, Speaker Talbot Ross and members of Legislative Council:

Please accept this letter as notice of my intention to appeal the Legislative Council's rejection of LR 2634, An Act to Reclassify a Section of the Androscoggin River to Class B, for consideration during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

Water quality tests conducted by the Androscoggin River Watershed Council show that the river is ready for reclassification. There is urgency to this matter, as Brookfield Renewable has a licensing application due in the latter half of 2024 and consideration of a change in classification should occur sooner rather than later to avoid confusion next year. This licensing is for the next 40 years.

I look forward to addressing Legislative Council on Nov. 16 to discuss this necessary proposal and its urgent nature. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret Craven". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Margaret Craven
State Representative

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session

Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

LR 2609

ELECTRIC UTILITIES

TRANSMISSION LINES

Sponsor: Senator Curry of Waldo

An Act to Protect Property Owners by Preventing the Use of Eminent Domain to Build Transmission Lines Under the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	Yes
Terry	Yes	Vitelli	Yes
Cloutier	Yes	Daughtry	Yes
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	5	4	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would prohibit the use of eminent domain to take land needed for the high-impact transmission line under the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program as approved by the Legislature in Resolve 2023, chapter 66.

- Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2637 Representative Cyrway, S
- Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2719 Representative Cyrway, S
- Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2743 Representative Smith, K
- Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2783 Representative Foster, S
- Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2844 President Jackson, T
- Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2914 Senator Keim, L
- Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2915 Senator Keim, L
- Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2924 Representative Foster, S
- Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2953 Senator LaFountain, D



Glenn "Chip" Curry
Senator, District 11

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

President Troy Jackson
Chair of the Legislative Council
Maine State House
115 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0115

November 13, 2023

Dear President Jackson,

I write to appeal the Legislative Council's decision on LR 2609, "An Act to Protect Property Owners by Preventing the Use of Eminent Domain to Build Transmission Lines Under the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program."

This bill seeks to respect property owners' rights by prohibiting the use of eminent domain for constructing high-impact transmission lines under the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program.

The urgency for this bill comes from the direct concerns of Mainers, who feel blindsided by potential infringements on their properties. The recent project maps proposed by LS Power regarding the new power corridor have raised significant alarm among the affected residents, as it may impact homes, farmland and forests.

LR 2609 seeks to preserve Maine's renewable energy goals while respecting the property rights of local residents.

I urge the Council to reconsider LR 2609, which would reinforce Maine's leadership in balancing the necessity of environmental initiatives with the rights of its citizens.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chip Curry".

Chip Curry
State Senator, District 11
Representing the 26 rural, coastal, and island communities of Waldo County

*Chair, Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business Committee
Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee
State House (207) 287-1515 * Fax (207) 287-1585 * Toll Free 1-800-423-6900 * TTY 711
Chip.Curry@legislature.maine.gov * legislature.maine.gov/senate*

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS

LR 2858

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

PLANNING

Sponsor: Senator Curry of Waldo

An Act to Provide Additional Funds to Increase the Impact of the Maine Development Foundation

Jackson	Yes	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	Yes
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	Yes
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	4	5	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would provide additional funding of \$250,000 per year to the Maine Development Foundation to become part of current services in fiscal year 2026 and subsequent fiscal years. The bill would also change term limits for foundation directors from 5 years to 8 years and permit and encourage state agencies and the University of Maine System to actively collaborate with the foundation consistent with the foundation's statutory mission.



Glenn "Chip" Curry
Senator, District 11

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

President Troy Jackson
Chair of the Legislative Council
Maine State House
115 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0115

November 13, 2023

Dear President Jackson,

I write to appeal the Legislative Council's decision on LR 2858, "An Act to Provide Additional Funds to Increase I write to appeal the Legislative Council's decision on LR 2609, "An Act to Protect Property Owners by Preventing the Use of Eminent Domain to Build Transmission Lines Under the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program."

This bill seeks to respect property owners' rights by prohibiting the use of eminent domain for constructing high-impact transmission lines under the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program.

The urgency for this bill comes from the direct concerns of Mainers, who feel blindsided by potential infringements on their properties. The recent project maps proposed by LS Power regarding the new power corridor have raised significant alarm among the affected residents, as it may impact homes, farmland and forests.

LR 2609 seeks to preserve Maine's renewable energy goals while respecting the property rights of local residents.

I urge the Council to reconsider LR 2609, which would reinforce Maine's leadership in balancing the necessity of environmental initiatives with the rights of its citizens.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chip Curry".

Chip Curry
State Senator, District 11
Representing the 26 rural, coastal, and island communities of Waldo County

*Chair, Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business Committee
Inland Fisheries and Wildlife Committee
State House (207) 287-1515 * Fax (207) 287-1585 * Toll Free 1-800-423-6900 * TTY 711
Chip.Curry@legislature.maine.gov * legislature.maine.gov/senate*

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

LR 2637

ELECTRIC UTILITIES

TRANSMISSION LINES

Sponsor: Representative Cyrway of Albion

An Act Relating to Eminent Domain for Land for Electric Transmission Lines

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	Yes	Keim	Yes

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	3	6	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would alter eminent domain requirements for land to be used for certain high-impact electric transmission lines.

Closely Related Legislator Req:	LR 2609	Senator Curry, C
Closely Related Legislator Req:	LR 2719	Representative Cyrway, S
Closely Related Legislator Req:	LR 2743	Representative Smith, K
Closely Related Legislator Req:	LR 2783	Representative Foster, S
Closely Related Legislator Req:	LR 2844	President Jackson, T
Closely Related Legislator Req:	LR 2914	Senator Keim, L
Closely Related Legislator Req:	LR 2915	Senator Keim, L
Closely Related Legislator Req:	LR 2924	Representative Foster, S
Closely Related Legislator Req:	LR 2953	Senator LaFountain, D



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1440
TTY: (207) 287-4469

Scott Wynn Cyrway
463 Benton Road
Albion, ME 04910
Cell: (207) 485-1308
Scott.Cyrway@legislature.maine.gov

November 13, 2023

The Honorable Troy D. Jackson, Chair
Legislative Council
115 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0115

RE: L.R. 2637, "*An Act Relating to Eminent Domain for Land for Electric Transmission Lines*"

Dear President Jackson:

It is my desire to appeal the Legislative Council's decision whereby L.R. 2637 was not accepted for consideration during the Legislature's Second Regular Session. My rationale for appealing is that a vast majority of property owners in affected towns are opposed to having 150-ft. towers located nearby when/if the planned transmission line associated with the Aroostook Renewable Gateway is constructed.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to addressing Council members' related questions and/or concerns at the upcoming meeting when appeals are to be considered. In the meantime, if you wish to discuss this legislative request with me personally, I can be reached on my mobile phone at 485-1308.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Cyrway".

Scott Wynn Cyrway
State Representative

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

LR 2719

ELECTRIC UTILITIES

TRANSMISSION LINES

Sponsor: Representative Cyrway of Albion

An Act to Consider Alternative Transmission Technology for the Aroostook Renewable Gateway That Improves Socioeconomic Benefit Without Sacrificing Climate Change Initiatives

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	No	Keim	Yes

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	2	7	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would require the Public Utilities Commission to contract with an independent engineering firm to perform a feasibility study on buried high-voltage direct current transmission methods for the Aroostook Renewable Gateway project.

- Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2609 Senator Curry, C
- Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2637 Representative Cyrway, S
- Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2743 Representative Smith, K
- Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2783 Representative Foster, S
- Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2844 President Jackson, T
- Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2914 Senator Keim, L
- Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2915 Senator Keim, L
- Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2924 Representative Foster, S
- Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2953 Senator LaFountain, D



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Scott.Cyrway@legislature.maine.gov

November 13, 2023

The Honorable Troy D. Jackson, Chair
Legislative Council
115 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0115

RE: L.R. 2719, *"An Act to Consider Alternative Transmission Technology for the Aroostook Renewable Gateway That Improves Socioeconomic Benefit Without Sacrificing Climate Change Initiatives"*

Dear President Jackson:

It is my desire to appeal the Legislative Council's decision whereby L.R. 2719 was not accepted for consideration during the Legislature's Second Regular Session. This request, if passed and deemed cost effective, would reflect what other states have done for an alternative distribution system subsequent to conducting a feasibility study.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to addressing Council members' related questions and/or concerns at the upcoming meeting when appeals are to be considered. In the meantime, if you wish to discuss this legislative request with me personally, I can be reached on my mobile phone at 485-1308.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott Cyrway".

Scott Wynn Cyrway
State Representative

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session

Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

LR 2638

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

AGENCY STORES

Sponsor: Senator Daughtry of Cumberland

An Act to Update the Number of Agency Liquor Stores Allowed in a Municipality

Jackson	Yes	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	Yes
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	Yes
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	No	Kelm	Yes

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	5	4	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would allow 7 agency liquor stores in a municipality with a population over 10,000 but less than 20,001. It would also allow the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations to issue one additional agency liquor store license beyond those otherwise authorized in a municipality with a population of less than 15,000.

131st Legislature
Senate of
Maine
Senate District 23

Senator Mattie Daughtry
Assistant Senate Majority Leader
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
Office (207) 287-1515

November 13, 2023


President Troy Jackson
Chair of the Legislative Council
Maine State House
115 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0115

President Jackson,

I write to appeal the Legislative Council's decision regarding **LR 2638, An Act to Update the Number of Agency Liquor Stores Allowed in a Municipality**. This concept came from a constituent business in my and Representative Sach's district and we wanted to find a way for this request to be able to impact more Maine communities and businesses. This bill would improve how agency liquor licensing works to benefit Maine's smaller communities of under 15,000 people. Currently, there is a formula for licensing by population that allows a certain number of agency liquor licenses in increments of 10,000 people in a municipality.

LR 2638 is a very simple bill that I consider a fix. It would allow the bureau to issue an additional license in communities of under 15,000 which could help the tax base in those communities without a large lift from the Legislature. I see this as a simple solution that will benefit smaller communities in Maine and help them compete with larger cities.

Sincerely,



Mattie Daughtry

Assistant Senate Majority Leader, Senate District 23
Brunswick, Freeport, Harpswell, Pownal, Chebeague Island, and part of Yarmouth

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS

LR 2746

BUSINESS PRACTICES

TICKETS

Sponsor: Senator Daughtry of Cumberland

An Act to Protect Consumers by Requiring Vendors to Disclose All Fees Related to Purchasing a Concert Ticket

Jackson	No			Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No			Vitelli	Yes
Cloutier	No			Daughtry	Yes
Faulkingham	Absent			Stewart	No
Arata	No			Keim	No
	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	2	7	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill, which is based on Connecticut legislation, would protect consumers by requiring vendors to disclose all fees related to purchasing a concert ticket.

131st Legislature
Senate of
Maine
Senate District 23

Senator Mattie Daughtry
Assistant Senate Majority Leader
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
Office (207) 287-1515

November 13, 2023

President Troy Jackson
Chair of the Legislative Council
Maine State House
115 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0115

President Jackson,

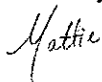
It must be exhausting always rooting for the anti-hero, but I will speak now on the Legislative Council's decision regarding **LR 2746, An Act to Protect Consumers by Requiring Vendors to Disclose All Fees Related to Purchasing a Concert Ticket**. If accepted, this bill would protect Maine consumers from hidden fees that make me a mad woman and make my tears ricochet. Indeed, my eyes are maroon, and I'm seeing red. Call it what you want, but now we've got bad blood. This isn't a love story, it's the great war. Are you ready for it?

For many Mainers from the very first night, when Taylor Swift announced The Eras Tour, it was a cruel summer, like death by a thousand cuts. Then it became a forever winter. Bejeweled concert-goers went from being enchanted by their favorite musical artist in a state of grace to being haunted by the treacherous hidden fees on their credit card statements. Is it karma? No, it's the mastermind ticket vendors, like Live Nation and Ticketmaster, who say, "Don't blame me." But I say, "Look what you made me do." There's no body, no crime, but now there *is* a bill. This situation is nothing new, it's not an epiphany. Still, can I ask you a question?

It should not take a mirrorball to navigate the labyrinth of hidden fees for concert ticket sales, right? If this was a movie, in my wildest dreams, the tickets would be cheap, giving us all happiness and peace. Instead, buying a concert ticket feels like a hoax – and it hits different. For a cowboy like me, and suburban legends everywhere, everything has changed: these hidden ticket fees are more than a glitch. Long story short, this bill is better than revenge.

Are we going to tell Mainers, "This is why we can't have nice things? You're on your own, kid? Tolerate it?" No. We can't give them sweet nothing. This is me trying. Tell me why we can't protect children like Betty, Dorothea, John, Marjorie, Stephen, and Ronan, who want to see Taylor Swift in concert. We can't make them settle for Tim McGraw.

Sincerely,



Mattie Daughtry

Assistant Senate Majority Leader, Senate District 23
Brunswick, Freeport, Harpswell, Pownal, Chebeague Island, and part of Yarmouth

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

LABOR AND HOUSING

LR 2752

HOUSING

STATE FUNDED

Sponsor: Senator Daughtry of Cumberland

An Act to Create Workforce Housing to Promote Economic Development in Maine

Jackson	Yes	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	Yes
Cloutier	Yes	Daughtry	Yes
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	4	5	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would create a loan fund administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development to create workforce housing for Maine employers who are having difficulty recruiting and retaining employees due to the lack of housing that is affordable to certain wage earners. The fund would provide 0% financing to community banks that underwrite the funds on behalf of the program.

131st Legislature
Senate of
Maine
Senate District 23

Senator Mattie Daughtry
Assistant Senate Majority Leader
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
Office (207) 287-1515

November 13, 2023

President Troy Jackson
Chair of the Legislative Council
Maine State House
115 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0115

President Jackson,

I would like to appeal the Legislative Council's decision regarding **LR 2752, An Act to Create Workforce Housing to Promote Economic Development in Maine**. If accepted, this bill would have the potential to create workforce housing for Maine wage-earners who cannot afford the rising costs of purchasing or renting a home.

For workers who earn \$17 to \$25 per hour, housing is unaffordable. A small statewide inventory, high buyer demand, and rising interest rates are making home ownership impossible for these workers. In Cumberland County, the median price of a home sold was \$550,000. Statewide, it was \$380,000 – an increase of 7.04%. According to a recent Maine Housing report, we need to build 84,000 new homes over the next seven years for the people who already live here and the people who move here. In fact, we need another 22,000 homes to support the roughly 24,000 workers that the state needs to fill the number of currently open positions.

LR 2752 would create a Loan Fund administered by the Department of Economic and Community Development to create workforce housing and meet this urgent need. Such a Loan would alleviate the lack of housing and the workforce shortages that impact Maine's economy. It is critical that we address the lack of housing so that Maine can attract and retain workers now – and into the future.

Sincerely,



Mattie Daughtry
Assistant Senate Majority Leader, Senate District 23
Brunswick, Freeport, Harpswell, Pownal, Chebeague Island, and part of Yarmouth

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

LR 2724

ANIMALS

PETS

Sponsor: Representative Doudera of Camden

An Act to Address the Rise in Rabies Rates by Appointing Certified Rabies Vaccine Administrators

Jackson	No			Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No			Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No			Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent			Stewart	No
Arata	No			Keim	No
	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	0	9	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would create volunteer certified rabies vaccine administrators who would address the problem of rising rabies rates in Maine.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1400
TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

Vicki Doudera
18 Trim Street
Camden, ME 04843
(207) 542-1990

Victoria.Doudera@legislature.maine.gov

November 13, 2023

President Troy Jackson, Chair
Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross, Vice Chair
Legislative Council
C/O Office of the Revisor of Statutes
7 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson, Speaker Talbot Ross and members of Legislative Council:

Please accept this letter as notice of my intention to appeal the Legislative Council's rejection of LR 2724, An Act to Address the Rise in Rabies Rates by Appointing Certified Rabies Vaccine Administrators, for consideration during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

Rabies is a virus that is deadly to humans and it is on the rise in Maine. In June of this year, the Maine Centers for Disease Control (CDC) issued a health advisory, warning of elevated animal rabies activity in the state, saying "in the first five months of 2023, 30 animals tested positive for rabies in Maine compared to 11 animals in the first five months of 2022."

While rabies is virtually 100% fatal, it is also entirely preventable, and regular pet vaccinations are key. But here in Maine, the Animal Welfare Advisory Council cannot find veterinarians to perform rabies vaccines, particularly in Washington and Aroostook Counties. Most clinics are not taking new patients and the rare times a clinic is held, more than 100 people at a time attend. In addition, there are cases where shelters find a missing pet but cannot release them to an owner until they are vaccinated for rabies. This means that a growing number of pets in our state are not up-to-date on rabies vaccination as recommended by the Maine CDC – a dangerous situation.

This bill creates a Certified Vaccinator Role, a volunteer certified by the State Veterinarian to administer rabies vaccines when a veterinarian is unavailable. The bill addresses a public health crisis: if a person does not receive the appropriate medical care after a potential rabies exposure, the virus can cause disease in the brain, ultimately resulting in death.

I look forward to addressing the Legislative Council on Nov. 16 to discuss this necessary proposal and its urgent nature. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Representative Vicki Doudera

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

LABOR AND HOUSING

LR 2644

COMPENSATION

MINIMUM WAGE

Sponsor: Representative Drinkwater of Milford

An Act to Pay Agricultural Workers the State Minimum Wage

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	Yes	Keim	Yes

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	3	6	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would require the state minimum wage to be paid to agricultural workers.

Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2891 Speaker Talbot Ross, R

Potential JR 217: LD 398 Speaker Talbot Ross, R



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1440
TTY: (207) 287-4469

Gary A. Drinkwater

38 Emerald Drive
Milford, ME 04461
Home Phone: (207) 356-8198
Gary.Drinkwater@legislature.maine.gov

November 9, 2023

Troy D. Jackson, Chair
Legislative Council
Maine State Legislature
115 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Chairperson Jackson,

I would like to take the opportunity to appeal the decision on my bill **LR 2644 An Act to Pay Agricultural Workers the State Minimum Wage.**

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Drinkwater'.

Gary Drinkwater
State Representative

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

LR 2715

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION DEPT

POWERS

Sponsor: Representative Dunphy of Embden

An Act to Authorize the Department of Environmental Protection to Issue Stop-work Orders

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	0	9	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would authorize the Department of Environmental Protection to issue a stop-work order when an activity is performed in violation of state law, rules or a license and the activity is creating a substantial adverse effect on a protected natural resource.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
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TTY: (207) 287-4469

Larry C. Dunphy
209 Kennebec River Road
Emden, ME 04958
Mobile: (207) 399-4963
Larry.Dunphy@legislature.maine.gov

November 13, 2023

The Honorable Troy D. Jackson, Chair
Legislative Council
115 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0115

RE: L.R. 2715, "**An Act to Authorize the Department of Environmental Protection to Issue Stop-work Orders**"

Dear President Jackson:

It is my desire to appeal the Legislative Council's decision whereby L.R. 2715 was not accepted for consideration during the Legislature's Second Regular Session.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to addressing Council members' related questions and/or concerns at the upcoming meeting when appeals are to be considered. In the meantime, if you wish to discuss this legislative request with me personally, I can be reached on my mobile phone at 399-4963.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Larry C. Dunphy".

Larry C. Dunphy
State Representative

District 72 Anson, Athens, Bingham, Caratunk, Central Somerset, Emden, Harmony, Moscow, Ripley, Rockwood Strip T1, Rockwood Strip T2, Solon, Tomhegan and Pleasant Ridge Plantation, plus the unorganized territories of Northeast Somerset, Seboomook Lake, Big Six Township, Dole Brook Township, Elm Stream Township, Indian Stream Township, Long Pond Township, Moxie Gore Township, Parlin Pond Township, Pittston Academy Grant Township, Sandbar Tract Township, Sandy Bay Township, Sapling Township, Taunton & Raynham Academy Grant Township, Concord Township, Lexington Township, Rockwood Strip and Seboomook Township

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER
TREATMENT

LR 2656

Sponsor: Representative Fredericks of Sanford

Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention to Reestablish a One-to-one Syringe Exchange Requirement

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	Yes	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	2	7	0	1	Out

Comment

This resolve would direct the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention to amend its rules governing syringe services to require a one-to-one syringe exchange of one used syringe for each new syringe provided to a consumer.

To: President Jackson & Leg Council Members

11/10/2023

RE: L.R. 2656

From: House Representative 143

I wish to appeal the rejection of LR 2656 Resolve, Directing the Department of Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention to Reestablish a One-to-One Syringe Exchange Requirement

Rationale: We have a public health emergency given that dirty needles are not collected and are discarded in public areas. It exposes us all to sharps and risk of viral spread. It was Maine CDC's past practice to collect needles.

Respectfully,

House Representative 143 Ann Fredericks

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session

Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

LR 2889

SPECIAL EDUCATION

FUNDING

Sponsor: Representative Gattine of Westbrook

An Act to Fund the Delivery of Educational Services to Children with Special Needs as Required by State and Federal Law in Special Purpose Private Schools

Jackson	Yes	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	2	7	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would require the State Controller to transfer \$15,000,000 from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund to the Department of Education, Child Development Services program, Other Special Revenue Funds account to fund the delivery of educational services to children with special needs.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1400
TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

Drew Gattine

529 Stroudwater Street
Westbrook, ME 04092
Home: (207) 409-3477

Drew.Gattine@legislature.maine.gov

November 13, 2023

President Troy Jackson, Chair
Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross, Vice Chair
Legislative Council
C/O Office of the Revisor of Statutes
7 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson, Speaker Talbot Ross and members of Legislative Council:

Please accept this letter as notice of my intention to appeal the Legislative Council's rejection of **LR 2889**, *An Act to Fund the Delivery of Educational Services to Children with Special Needs as Required by State and Federal Law in Special Purpose Private Schools*, for consideration during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

This bill is necessary and urgent in order to ensure that children with disabilities have access to educational services that they need and are legally entitled to. The biennial budget provided one year of interim funding (2023-24 school year) for providers of preschool services to children with disabilities. The budget language also directed Child Development Services (CDS) to develop a permanent rate to be in place at the beginning of the 2024-25 school year. Based on conversations with CDS it is unclear whether this permanent rate will be developed during the legislative session or when the legislature is considering any supplemental appropriations. This bill is necessary to ensure that the legislature has the opportunity to fund an additional year of interim services and/or to fund the services when the permanent rate is established. Failure to provide funding for these services in 2024-25 will result in children not having access to these services.

I look forward to addressing Legislative Council on Nov. 16 to discuss this necessary proposal and its urgent nature. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Representative Drew Gattine

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

LR 2890

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT
ADMINISTRATION

Sponsor: Representative Gattine of Westbrook

An Act to Address Chronic Understaffing of State Positions

Jackson	Yes			Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No			Vitelli	Yes
Cloutier	No			Daughtry	Yes
Faulkingham	Absent			Stewart	No
Arata	No			Keim	No
	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	3	6	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would propose measures to address understaffing of state positions through job vacancy reports, work with bargaining agents, improvements to the hiring process, changes in compensation and outside evaluation of recruitment and retention issues.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400
TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

Drew Gattine

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Drew.Gattine@legislature.maine.gov

November 13, 2023

President Troy Jackson, Chair
Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross, Vice Chair
Legislative Council
C/O Office of the Revisor of Statutes
7 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson, Speaker Talbot Ross and members of Legislative Council:

Please accept this letter as notice of my intention to appeal the Legislative Council's rejection of **LR 2890**, *An Act to Address Chronic Understaffing of State Positions*, for consideration during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

Currently, one of six state positions are vacant. While employees are fighting to close the pay gap at the bargaining table, this legislation will be critical to ensuring we can fully address staffing shortages at every level of state government on an on-going basis. Short staffing is harming not only state employees, but all Mainers – in some cases, it may impact the care for the most vulnerable, the safety of the public & workers, and the ability of families to put food on their tables.

I look forward to addressing Legislative Council on Nov. 16 to discuss this necessary proposal and its urgent nature. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Drew Gattine'.

Representative Drew Gattine

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

LABOR AND HOUSING

LR 2938

HOUSING

ASSISTANCE

Sponsor: Representative Golek of Harpswell

An Act to Improve the Housing Voucher System

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	Yes
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	Yes
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	Yes	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	3	6	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would require the Maine State Housing Authority to collect the data necessary to request a waiver of the fair market rents set by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development so that the Maine State Housing Authority or a local housing authority may enter into contracts with landlords at the highest rent allowed.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

Cheryl A. Golek

9 Vicarage Lane

Harpwell, ME 04079

Phone: (207) 535-9857

Cheryl.golek@legislature.maine.gov

November 13, 2023

President Troy Jackson, Chair
Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross, Vice Chair
Legislative Council
C/O Office of the Revisor of Statutes
7 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson, Speaker Talbot Ross and members of Legislative Council:

Please accept this letter as notice of my intention to appeal the Legislative Council's rejection of LR 2938, *An Act to Improve the Housing Voucher System* for consideration during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

Section 8 housing is a life-saving program, and Maine is in the middle of a housing crisis with around 20,000 people on the voucher waitlist. We are rolling over about 500 vouchers daily because landlords do not believe the vouchers pay enough. This bill would collect information about how to improve this process and see if the state can pay more in rentals.

I look forward to addressing Legislative Council on Nov. 16 to discuss this necessary proposal and its urgent nature. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cheryl A. Golek".

Cheryl Golek

State Representative

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

LR 2711

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

CHILDREN

Sponsor: Representative Graham of North Yarmouth

An Act to Create and Support a Youth Crisis Receiving Center

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	No	Keim	Yes

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	1	8	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would direct the Department of Health and Human Services to create a crisis receiving center for youth experiencing behavioral crises.



Anne Graham

97 Farms Edge Road

North Yarmouth, ME 04097

Phone: 207- 370-4414

Anne.Graham@legislature.maine.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: Maine Relay 711

November 13, 2023

President Troy Jackson, Chair
Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross, Chair
Legislative Council
C/O Office of the Revisor of Statutes
7 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson, Speaker Talbot Ross and members of Legislative Council:

It is my intention to appeal the Legislative Council's rejection of **LR 2711, An Act to Create and Support a Youth Crisis Receiving Center**.

I look forward to speaking with Legislative Council on Nov. 16 to discuss this necessary proposal and its urgent nature. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne Graham".

Anne Graham
State Representative

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session

Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

LR 2911

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

SOCIAL SERVICES

Sponsor: Representative Graham of North Yarmouth

An Act to Strengthen Maine's Child Welfare System

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	0	9	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would require the Department of Health and Human Services, through an external strategic consultant, to undertake a process to support child welfare reform. The process would include all agency leadership and staff in gathering information, analyzing system problems and identifying opportunities for change.

Closely Related Carryover Req:	LD 1788	Senator Baldacci, J
Closely Related Carryover Req:	LD 779	Senator Timberlake, J
Closely Related Carryover Req:	LD 878	Senator Keim, L
Potential JR 217:	LD 915	Representative Shagoury, D
Potential JR 217:	LD 151	Senator Stewart, T
Potential JR 217:	LD 715	Senator Nangle, T



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: Maine Relay 711

Anne Graham

97 Farms Edge Road

North Yarmouth, ME 04097

Phone: 207- 370-4414

Anne.Graham@legislature.maine.gov

November 13, 2023

President Troy Jackson, Chair
Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross, Chair
Legislative Council
C/O Office of the Revisor of Statutes
7 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson, Speaker Talbot Ross and members of Legislative Council:

It is my intention to appeal the Legislative Council's rejection of **LR 2911, An Act to Strengthen Maine's Child Welfare System.**

I look forward to speaking with Legislative Council on Nov. 16 to discuss this necessary proposal and its urgent nature. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne Graham".

Anne Graham
State Representative

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

JUDICIARY

LR 2936

JUVENILE OFFENDERS
EVALUATION

Sponsor: Representative Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach

An Act to Enhance the Effectiveness of Juvenile Diversion Programs

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	Yes
Terry	Yes	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	Yes	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	3	6	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would clarify the procedure for obtaining a needs assessment through juvenile diversion prior to proceeding with a delinquency petition by making available to juveniles who encounter law enforcement the Juvenile Justice Needs Assessment. The assessment would help ensure that each juvenile who is facing arrest or court involvement is provided with the most appropriate services at the appropriate time.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: Maine Relay 711

Lori K. Gramlich

154 Temple Ave.

Old Orchard Beach, ME 04064

Phone: (207) 232-1067

lori.gramlich@legislature.maine.gov

President Troy Jackson, Chair
Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross, Vice Chair
Legislative Council
C/O Office of the Revisor of Statutes
7 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson, Speaker Talbot Ross and members of Legislative Council:

Please accept this letter as notice of my intention to appeal the Legislative Council's rejection of **LR 2936, An Act to Enhance the Effectiveness of Juvenile Diversion Programs**, for consideration during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

LR 2936 is a prevention-based bill that would clarify the procedure for obtaining a needs assessment through juvenile diversion prior to proceeding with a delinquency petition. This bill would help to ensure that youth facing arrest or court involvement are adequately assessed to ensure that the services that they receive are appropriate. We know that once youth become involved in the criminal justice system, the trajectory for their life choices becomes forever altered. Conversely, if youth are provided with prevention-based assessments to ensure that their mental health needs are being addressed, they have a much better chance of avoiding future involvement with the criminal justice system and instead achieving stable, fulfilling lives.

I look forward to addressing Legislative Council on Nov. 16 to discuss this necessary proposal and its urgent nature. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lori K. Gramlich".

Lori K. Gramlich
State Representative

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

LR 2955

LEGISLATURE

PROCEDURES

Sponsor: Representative Greenwood of Wales

An Act to Establish the Process for the Selection of Delegates for a Convention Called Under Article V of the United States Constitution

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	Yes	Keim	Yes

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	3	6	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would clarify the process for selecting delegates for a convention proposing amendments to the United States Constitution and clarify restrictions on delegate actions.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1440
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Randall A. Greenwood

38 Witherell Road
Wales, ME 04280
Residence: (207) 754-6604
Randall.Greenwood@legislature.maine.gov

11/13/2023

President Jackson,

I would like to take the opportunity to appeal the decision on LR 2955, "An Act to Establish the Process for the Selection of Delegates for a Convention Called Under Article V of the United States Constitution."

The rationale for my appeal is that the US Congress is considering legislation that may call for an Article V. Also, the 131st Maine Legislature has legislation making an application. This proposal would attempt to lay out the process for selecting Delegates from Maine.

I would also like to cite Rule 215: Actions Relating to the United States Constitution. All memorials, resolutions, applications and petitions that relate to the Legislature's functions under the United States Constitution, Article V are in order for introduction without approval from the Legislative Council.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Randall Greenwood".

Randy Greenwood
State Representative

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS
COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
MARITIME ACADEMY

LR 2800

Sponsor: Senator Grohoski of Hancock

An Act to Equalize Funding for the Maine Maritime Academy

Jackson	Yes			Talbot Ross	Yes
Terry	No			Vitelli	Yes
Cloutier	No			Daughtry	Yes
Faulkingham	Absent			Stewart	No
Arata	No			Keim	No
	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	4	5	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would create funding parity among public higher education systems in this State by increasing the state share of operational funding to the Maine Maritime Academy, bringing it into alignment with public higher education systems in the State and with other states' maritime academies.

131st Legislature
Senate of
Maine
Senate District 7

Senator Nicole Grohoski
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
Office (207) 287-1515

President Troy D. Jackson
Chair of the Legislative Council
Maine State Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

November 13, 2023

Dear President Jackson,

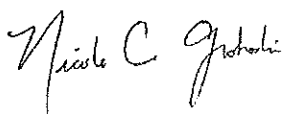
I am writing to you because I would like to appeal the Legislative Council's decision regarding **LR 2800, "An Act to Equalize Funding for the Maine Maritime Academy."** If accepted, this bill would provide funding parity to Maine Maritime Academy (MMA), which is chronically under-resourced relative to Maine's two other systems of public higher education.

I consider this bill an emergency because Maine Maritime Academy currently receives less than 25% of its operational budget from the State, while peer public universities and colleges with +/-50% enrollment receive half of their operational resources from state appropriations. This inequity is increasingly difficult for MMA to grapple with in an era of high inflation and change in the higher education world, forcing the Academy to maintain the highest tuition of any public higher education institution in Maine.

In preparation for this upcoming session, I have met with Maine Maritime Academy and other legislative stakeholders who see the importance of MMA's role in Maine's workforce and economy.

In sum, LR 2800 would build on the progress the Legislature has made to build Maine's workforce and strengthen our systems of public higher education. It is critical to Hancock County and the state as a whole that we create funding parity for Maine Maritime Academy.

Thank you,



Nicole Grohoski
State Senator

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

LABOR AND HOUSING

LR 2851

STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM

FIREFIGHTERS

Sponsor: Senator Grohoski of Hancock

An Act to Improve Retention of State Employees Who Are Firefighters

Jackson	Yes			Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No			Vitelli	Yes
Cloutier	No			Daughtry	Yes
Faulkingham	Absent			Stewart	No
Arata	No			Keim	No
	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	3	6	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would remove the age requirement in the retirement plan for full-time state employees who work as firefighters. The current retirement plan requires 25 years of service and states that an employee must be a minimum of 55 years of age in order to be eligible.

131st Legislature
***Senate of
Maine***
Senate District 7

Senator Nicole Grohoski
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
Office (207) 287-1515

President Troy D. Jackson
Chair of the Legislative Council
Maine State Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

November 13, 2023

Dear President Jackson,

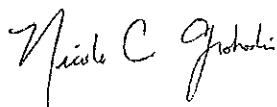
I am writing to you because I would like to appeal the Legislative Council's decision regarding LR 2851, "**An Act to Improve Retention of State Employees who are Firefighters.**" If accepted, this bill would remove the age requirement in the retirement plan for full-time state employees who work as firefighters. This is a small subset of state employees, specifically the firefighters at the Bangor International Airport (BIA). The current retirement plan requires 25 years of service and states that an employee must be a minimum of 55 years of age in order to be eligible.

I consider this bill an emergency because BIA is struggling to recruit and retain firefighters because their retirement options are not competitive. This puts the airport at risk, which in turn affects our constituents in Central, Eastern, and Northern Maine who use the airport. Additionally, these firefighters work a very dangerous job and are exposed to chemicals which may shorten their lives. 25 years of service, regardless of the firefighter's age, is an appropriate amount of risk-taking to reward early retirement.

I have spoken with Rep. Amy Roeder, House Chair of the Labor and Housing Committee, whose bill LR 2869 (An Act to Strengthen Firefighters' Collective Bargaining Rights) was approved for introduction. She has confirmed that she is not intending to include the content of my bill request in that bill. She supports the introduction of this bill, LR 2851 for consideration in the second session in her committee.

LR 2851 would bring the retirement requirements of these state-employed firefighters in line with other state employees who work in similarly high-risk and physically demanding jobs.

Thank you,



Nicole Grohoski
State Senator

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

LR 2863

ELECTRIC UTILITIES

RATES

Sponsor: Senator Grohoski of Hancock

An Act Regarding Fair Service for All Electricity Supply Customers

Jackson	Yes	Talbot Ross	Yes
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	No	Keim	Yes

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	4	5	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would ensure that competitive electricity provider customers are notified of the standard offer price and have the right to switch to standard offer service without a penalty. The bill would also address rapid switching between providers by customers.

131st Legislature
Senate of
Maine
Senate District 7

Senator Nicole Grohoski

3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
Office (207) 287-1515

President Troy D. Jackson
Chair of the Legislative Council
Maine State Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

November 13, 2023

Dear President Jackson,

I am writing to you because I would like to appeal the Legislative Council's decision regarding LR 2863, "**Act Regarding Fair Service for All Electricity Supply Customers.**" If accepted, this bill would build on our efforts in the EUT Committee to ensure that residential customers who opt out of the standard offer and select a competitive electricity supplier (CEP) have the information they need to make informed choices about their cost of service and the ability to act on that information in a timely fashion.

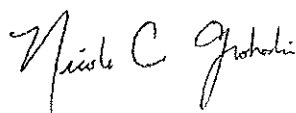
Specifically, it would: 1) require the CEP to provide the customer with both the renewal rate and the standard offer rate at the time of a contract renewal, 2) require customer consent for all contract renewals, 3) require customers' bills to include the standard offer rate for comparison purposes, and 4) require rapid switching between providers, rather than the current multi-billing cycle delay.

I consider this bill an emergency because energy and electricity costs are top of mind for so many of our constituents who are struggling to make ends meet. Many of them are looking to lower their bills, but lack the information and consumer protection needed to select the lowest available supply rate. Additionally, it is important that consumers are able to opt back into the standard offer or switch to another provider—without delay—in order to optimize the economic benefit of competition.

The Office of the Public Advocate shared the idea and draft language for this legislation with me, since I work closely with competitive electricity suppliers to promote competition in order to reduce people's electricity bills. I think this approach strikes a good balance between consumer protection and choice. I have also consulted with one CEP about this bill and included its ideas for how to improve it. I plan to talk to others before the bill is drafted, should the Legislative Council grant the appeal.

LR 2863 would promote competition while also ensuring that consumers of CEPs have adequate protection, in order to lower electricity bills for more Mainers.

Thank you,



Nicole Grohoski, State Senator

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

LR 2865

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

SOLAR ENERGY

Sponsor: Senator Grohoski of Hancock

An Act to Ensure That Community Solar Subscriptions Benefit Low-income Customers

Jackson	Yes			Talbot Ross	Yes
Terry	No			Vitelli	Yes
Cloutier	No			Daughtry	Yes
Faulkingham	Absent			Stewart	No
Arata	No			Keim	No
	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	4	5	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would require that when a community solar subscriber cancels a subscription, the subscription must be filled by a customer in the Maine State Housing Authority's low-income assistance program.

131st Legislature
Senate of
Maine
Senate District 7

Senator Nicole Grohoski
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
Office (207) 287-1515

President Troy D. Jackson
Chair of the Legislative Council
Maine State Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

November 13, 2023

Dear President Jackson,

I am writing to you because I would like to appeal the Legislative Council's decision regarding **LR 2865, "An Act to Ensure that Community Solar Subscriptions Benefit Low-Income Customers."** If accepted, this bill would ensure that more low-income residential electricity ratepayers would receive the savings benefits of community solar. One touted benefit of community solar is that it allows lower income folks who rent their homes or who cannot afford the up-front costs of solar to participate in the clean energy marketplace. However in reality, very few Low Income Assistance Program (LIAP) customers are subscribed to community solar.

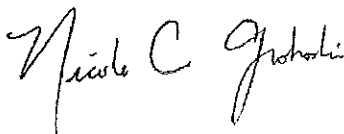
This bill would require that when a community solar subscriber cancels a subscription, the subscription must be filled by a customer in the Maine State Housing Authority's LIAP. This accomplishes three goals: 1) lowers electricity bills for LIAP ratepayers, 2) spreads limited LIAP dollars farther, and 3) keeps the community solar developer whole.

I consider this bill an emergency because electricity costs are high and we need to help those who can least afford them. Community solar has increased electricity rates for all ratepayers while financially benefitting subscribers only. This bill aims to ensure that the savings benefit for subscribers reaches more ratepayers who are struggling to pay their bills.

I developed this bill concept with Janine Migden-Ostrander, a Fellow at Pace University Law School's Energy and Climate Center and former public advocate of Ohio. I have talked with Maine's Office of the Public Advocate who is interested in the benefits of this legislation and have started outreach to local community solar developers.

LR 2865 would bring rate relief to low-income Mainers while better delivering on the promise of community solar.

Thank you,



Nicole Grohoski, State Senator

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

LR 2867

CONTAINERS - RETURNABLE

FOOD CONTAINERS

Sponsor: Senator Grohoski of Hancock

An Act to Allow the Reuse of Food Containers by More than One Customer

Jackson	Yes	Talbot Ross	Yes
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	No	Keim	Yes

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	4	5	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would allow a vendor that provides food items to a customer in a container to accept that container back and reuse it for other customers, after following the proper sanitation process for the container's material.

131st Legislature
Senate of
Maine
Senate District 7

Senator Nicole Grohoski
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
Office (207) 287-1515

President Troy D. Jackson
Chair of the Legislative Council
Maine State Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

November 13, 2023

Dear President Jackson,

I am writing to you because I would like to appeal the Legislative Council's decision regarding **LR 2867, "An Act to Allow the Reuse of Food Containers by More than One Customer."** If accepted, this bill would help an innovative small business in my district, as well as other inspiring food entrepreneurs, to succeed without overbearing regulation regarding reusable food containers.

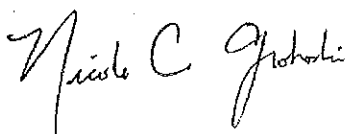
This bill would allow a vendor that provides food items to a customer in a container to accept that container back and reuse it for other customers, after following the proper sanitation process for the container's material.

I have reviewed DACF and DHHS regulations with my constituent, Kate Pilotte of Farm and Fish, which makes meal kits using Maine food and minimal packaging. There are specific instances in which what Kate is trying to do would be allowed, but just not in her circumstance, since she is not an "eating establishment." In my view, she is experiencing an unnecessary bureaucratic roadblock that isn't protecting anyone. Bear in mind that customers opting to receive food items in reused and sanitized containers are choosing to purchase their food in a reused container.

I consider this bill an emergency because this overregulation is hampering Farm and Fish's ability to thrive. This small business, which is supporting other small businesses—local food producers and harvesters—could be out of business if we wait to take this up in 2025. Reusable containers, rather than single-use items, would help Farm and Fish make their bottom-line more competitive.

In sum, LR 2867 would help this small business and potentially others who have hit this roadblock succeed in a state that wants to promote small business and our local food systems.

Thank you,



Nicole Grohoski, State Senator

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

LR 2882

STATE GOVERNMENT

PURCHASES

Sponsor: Senator Grohoski of Hancock

An Act to Ensure Determinations Made by the State Are Free from Unethical, Unsafe or Illegal Interference by Artificial Intelligence

Jackson	Yes				Talbot Ross	Yes
Terry	No				Vitelli	Yes
Cloutier	No				Daughtry	Yes
Faulkingham	Absent				Stewart	Yes
Arata	No				Keim	No
	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent		
Total:	5	4	0	1	Out	

Comment

This bill would prohibit the State and any agency of the State from funding or using software employing any advanced systems of artificial intelligence such as Chat Generative Pre-trained Transformer, or ChatGPT, in a decision-making process unless the software conforms to ethical, legal and safety standards that ensure that the software can provide explicable, transparent decision-making that guarantees that the State controls the behavior of the software in ways that enable the State to fully comply with its legal requirements and guarantees all citizens affected by the software accessible and affordable ways to understand, review and appeal decisions made by the system. The bill would also require the State to establish and fund an ongoing commission to investigate ways in which it may, in collaboration with governments of other states, municipalities and countries and other organizations, promote access to ethical, safe and affordable forms of advanced artificial intelligence, for itself and its citizens, to allow them to effectively fulfill their governmental and civic obligations; guarantee their rights under the law; and advance their economic, cultural and ecological well-being while evading the threat of advanced artificial intelligence systems.

131st Legislature
Senate of Maine
Senate District 7

Senator Nicole Grohoski
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
Office (207) 287-1515

President Troy D. Jackson
Chair of the Legislative Council
Maine State Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

November 13, 2023

Dear President Jackson,

I am writing to you because I would like to appeal the Legislative Council's decision regarding LR 2882, "**An Act to Ensure Determinations Made by the State Are Free from Unethical, Unsafe, or Illegal Interference by Artificial Intelligence.**" This bill would allow the Legislature to have a critical conversation at a pivotal moment in time about a technology that has the power to transform our society.

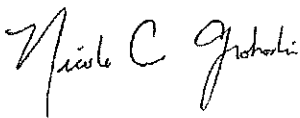
This bill would ensure that the State would only be permitted to fund or use Artificial Intelligence (AI) in a decision-making process, if the software conforms to ethical, legal and safety standards that guarantee all citizens affected by the software have access to affordable ways to understand, review, and appeal decisions made by the system. This restriction does not affect non-governmental use of AI. Furthermore, it would establish a state commission to investigate ways to promote access to ethical, safe, and affordable forms of advanced artificial intelligence in all sectors of our economy.

I consider this bill an emergency because we are currently at a moment of rapid innovative competition. However, as products win progressively more market share and acquire dominant positions, there is the danger that institutional purchases and market pressures will result in "technological lock-ins." It will be very difficult to correct underlying ethical, legal, or safety problems built into systems that have been adopted and equally difficult to opt out of them. The time to address these issues is right now, while it is still possible to choose paths and commit to technology systems that will lead to more ethical, legal and safe AI use by our state government and available to our citizens. Basically, the cat is not out of the bag yet, but it definitely will be by 2025.

Gray Cox, professor of Philosophy, Peace Studies, & Language Learning at the College of the Atlantic, brought this issue and proposed legislation to my attention. He has been collaborating with a number of Mainers with expertise in AI development, use, and regulation, including Amanda Stent, Director of the Davis Institute for AI at Colby College; Alison Beyea, Executive Director of Goldfarb Center for Public Affairs and former ACLU director; and Rhonda Tate, STEM Specialist at the Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance. We are continuing to research other state and federal actions in this policy area, which are rapidly evolving.

LR 2882 would ensure that the State does not lag behind a rapidly developing technology, thus exposing our constituents to risks of AI that can be avoided as we benefit from its many positive attributes. Furthermore, government has an obligation to ensure that it does not inadvertently curtail the legal rights of the citizenry.

Thank you,



Nicole Grohoski
State Senator

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

TAXATION

LR 2926

SALES AND USE TAX

EXEMPT PURCHASERS

Sponsor: Senator Guerin of Penobscot

An Act to Allow Nonprofit Organizations with Multiple Purposes to Receive Maine Tax Benefits

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	Yes	Keim	Yes

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	3	6	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would allow nonprofit organizations with multiple purposes to receive Maine tax benefits similar to those received by single-purpose nonprofit organizations.

Stacey K. Guerin
Senator, District 4



3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

November 13, 2023

Senate President Troy Jackson
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson,

I write to appeal the Legislative Council's decision rejecting my second session bill request, LR 2926, "An Act to Allow Nonprofit Organizations with Multiple Purposes to Receive Maine Tax Benefits."

An example of one of these nonprofit organizations with multiple purposes is the Doodle Den Foundation in Medford, which started in July. It is a 501(c)(3) organization, certified by the Internal Revenue Service. They help people in rehabilitation after serious injury or illness by going into hospitals so they don't have to be alone. Doodle Den has also started a breeding program for service animals. The non-profit receives certain tax benefits from the IRS but doesn't in Maine because Maine's laws are very specific. This company doesn't fit into any one category because it does so many things.

I did not submit this legislation last year because the matter was brought to my attention this October. The situation these non-profit organizations are in is unfair and keeps them from reaching their full potential. This is a true financial emergency for these organizations that will prohibit them from keeping their doors open altogether, or at least negatively impact their ability to operate at full power.

The Maine Revenue Services told the organization leaders that there would need to be a bill that allows non-profits that have multiple purposes to receive the same benefits/exemptions as those with one purpose.

Thank you for your reconsideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stacey Guerin".

Stacey Guerin
State Senator

*Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business Committee
State House (207) 287-1505 * Fax (207) 287-1527 * Toll Free 1-800-423-
6900 * TTY 711*

*Stacey.Guerin@legislature.maine.gov * legislature.maine.gov/senate*

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

LR 2840

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

BOARD

Sponsor: Senator Harrington of York

An Act to Fill All Vacant Seats on the Emergency Medical Services' Board

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	Yes
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	Yes	Keim	Yes

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	4	5	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would require that all vacancies on the Emergency Medical Services' Board be filled in order to provide representation on the board to residents in all regions of the State.



Matthew A. Harrington
Senator, District 33

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

November 12, 2023

Senate President Troy Jackson
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson,

I would like to appeal the Legislative Council's decision rejecting my second session bill request, LR 2840, "An Act to Fill All Vacant Seats on the Emergency Medical Services' Board."

Of the 20 members on the Maine Board of Emergency Medical Services, there are currently six vacancies and eight expired appointments. These vacancies include representatives from different specialties, including professional nurses and pediatrics, and representatives from huge areas across our state. For over 18-months, Region 1 (Southern Maine – York, Cumberland and Sagadahoc Counties) has not had a representative on this Board. Similarly, Region 4 (Northeast Maine – Hancock, Penobscot, Piscataquis, and Washington Counties) has no representative. The appointments for regions that still have Board Members have all been expired for at least two years.

This Board continues to exercise its rule making process with reduced representation from the EMS community, and no representation from large areas in our state. This bill is an emergency because more than half of Maine residents have no voice on a Board which is making decisions that affect their lives. This has gone on for far too long and must end now.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Matthew Harrington".

Matthew Harrington
State Senator

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

TRANSPORTATION

LR 2639

ROADS

NAMING

Sponsor: Representative Hepler of Woolwich

Resolve, Designating Route 127 in Arrowsic as the Private Merwin A. Delano Memorial Highway

Jackson	Yes		Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No		Vitelli	Yes
Cloutier	No		Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent		Stewart	Yes
Arata	Yes		Keim	Yes

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	5	4	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would designate Route 127 in Arrowsic as the Private Merwin A. Delano Memorial Highway.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

Allison Hepler

417 Montsweag Rd.

Woolwich, ME 04579

Phone: (207) 319-4396

Allison.Hepler@legislature.maine.gov

To: President Jackson, Chair of the Legislative Council

Fr: Rep. Allison Hepler

Date: November 9, 2023

Re: LR: 2639 Resolve, Designating Route 127 in Arrowsic as the Private Merwin A. Delano Memorial Highway

I am appealing the decision of the Legislative Council regarding the above-referenced LR. I submitted this bill at the request of the family of Pvt. Merwin A. Delano, an Arrowsic resident who was killed in action in 1968 at the age of eighteen. I accompanied the family to a meeting of the Selectboard last December, and the Board decided to bring the matter to the Annual Town Meeting in June 2023, where there was a nearly unanimous decision to support the request. I ask you to reconsider this decision for two reasons: (1) the family of the late Pvt. Delano is aging, and (2) the Town of Arrowsic took the time and effort to consider this request. Route 127 is the major road through this very small town of less than 500 people, and so it was not a decision that residents took lightly. Thanks for your time and attention.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allison".

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

LR 2839

CONTAINERS - RETURNABLE

BOTTLES

Sponsor: Representative Hepler of Woolwich

An Act Regarding Responsibility for Actions Intended to Increase the Use of Reusable and Refillable Beverage Containers

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	Yes
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	1	8	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would move responsibility for certain activities intended to increase the use of reusable and refillable beverage containers from the Department of Environmental Protection to the commingling cooperative established in Public Law 2023, chapter 482.

Potential JR 217: LD 1909 Representative Hepler, A



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

Allison Hepler

417 Montsweag Rd.

Woolwich, ME 04579

Phone: (207) 319-4396

Allison.Hepler@legislature.maine.gov

To: President Jackson, Chair of the Legislative Council
Fr: Rep. Allison Hepler
Date: November 9, 2023

Re: LR: 2839 An Act Regarding Responsibility for Actions Intended to Increase the Use of Reusable and Refillable Beverage Containers

I am appealing the decision of the Legislative Council regarding the above-referenced LR. LD 1909, Act to Modernize Maine's Beverage Container Redemption Law, was unanimously supported in the Environment and Natural Resources Committee in June, and funded by the Appropriations Committee in July. I want to stress that, despite the nature of this complicated and potentially divisive bill, all of the stakeholders came together to modernize the bottle redemption program and plan for future improvements in Maine's most successful recycling program. I submitted this LR with input from the Department of Environmental Protection, which oversees the program, and support from the Maine Beverage Association, the Natural Resources Council of Maine, and several members of the ENR Committee. It seeks to move oversight of one of the elements of the new law from DEP to a newly created Commingling Cooperative. I ask you to reconsider your decision because the overhaul of the program accomplished by LD 1909 was detailed and complex. As such, I believe that the changes offered in LR 2839 would be best considered in the second session of the 131st Legislature by the same members of the ENR Committee rather than waiting for a new committee created in the 132nd, which would not have the same deep knowledge of the subject. Thanks for your time and attention.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allison".

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

JUDICIARY

LR 2731

REAL ESTATE

EMINENT DOMAIN

Sponsor: Representative Hymes of Waldo

An Act to Ensure Just Compensation When Eminent Domain Is Declared

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	Yes	Keim	Yes

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	3	6	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would amend the laws governing eminent domain to ensure property owners are justly compensated.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1440
TTY: (207) 287-4469

Benjamin C. Hymes

318 Birches Road
Waldo, ME 04915
Phone: (207) 808-3413
Benjamin.Hymes@legislature.maine.gov

11/13/2023

President Jackson,

I would like to appeal the Legislative Council's decision to reject LR 2731, "An Act to Ensure Just Compensation When Eminent Domain is Declared."

I truly believe in the merits of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ben C. Hymes'.

Ben Hymes
State Representative

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

LR 2960

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY DEPT
POWERS

Sponsor: Senator Ingwersen of York

An Act to Address Food Insecurity by Helping Maine Residents Access Locally Produced Food

Jackson	Absent	Talbot Ross	Absent
Terry	Absent	Vitelli	Absent
Cloutier	Absent	Daughtry	Absent
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Absent
Arata	Absent	Keim	Absent

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	0	0	0	10	Out

Comment

This bill would establish ongoing funding for the Fund To Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives.

Closely Related Carryover Req: LD 568 Senator Pouliot, M

Closely Related Carryover Req: LD 568 Senator Pouliot, M



Henry L. Ingwersen
Senator, District 32

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

President Troy D. Jackson
Chair of the Legislative Council
Maine State House
115 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0115

November 13, 2023

Dear President Jackson,

I am writing to you because I would like to appeal the Legislative Council's decision regarding **LR 2960, An Act to Address Food Insecurity by Helping Mainers Access Locally Produced Food**. If accepted, this bill would ensure that there is no gap in providing access to quality, locally-sourced food for those facing food insecurity. Nutrition programs like Harvest Bucks are integral to helping Mainers facing food insecurity have better access to quality food.

Part II of the budget that we passed in July allocated one-time funding of 1.2 million to this program over two years. However, this one-time funding will not ensure its longevity. When this funding ends in two years, the program will no longer be able to support as many Mainers experiencing hunger. Passing this legislation is an important piece in our long-term goal to end hunger in Maine by ensuring continuous funding to this program.

This bill would also increase funding to ensure that more Mainers can access Harvest Bucks. More than 150,000 Mainers are experiencing food insecurity, and the Harvest Bucks program is only able to help a portion of those people on SNAP benefits. Increasing the funding for this program ensures that more food insecure Mainers have access to this incentive. Furthermore, for every dollar we provide for these nutrition incentive programs, we leverage \$3 from the federal government: \$1 from the USDA in matching funds and \$2 in SNAP benefits.

LR 2960 is a necessary part of ending food insecurity in Maine. If we do not pass this bill in the Second Regular Session, Mainers experiencing hunger will have less access to locally-sourced food, when it will be too late to build on the momentum we have started in the 131st Legislature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Henry Ingwersen'.

Henry Ingwersen
State Senator, District 32

*Chair, Agriculture, Conservation, and Forestry Committee * Health and Human Services Committee
State House (207) 287-1515 * Fax (207) 287-1585 * Toll Free 1-800-423-6900 * TTY 711
Henry.Ingwersen@legislature.maine.gov * legislature.maine.gov/senate*

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

TAXATION

LR 2728

INCOME TAX

CREDITS

Sponsor: Representative Jackson of Oxford

An Act to Amend the Student Loan Repayment Tax Credit

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	1	8	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would enable eligible borrowers of student loans who are paying back eligible loans to redeem up to \$25,000 in student loan tax credit, with a \$2,500 annual limit, to encourage those borrowers to live and work in the State.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1440
TTY: (207) 287-4469

Caldwell Jackson

266 Hebron Road
Oxford, ME 04270
Cell: (207) 272-8543 Phone: (207) 539-2325
Caldwell.Jackson@legislature.maine.gov

November 13, 2023

Troy D. Jackson, Chair
Legislative Council
Maine State Legislature
115 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Chairperson Jackson,

I would like to appeal the rejection of my bill **LR 2728- An Act to Amend the Student Loan Repayment Tax Credit**. I believe this is timely and an emergency for those struggling with student loans. This would benefit them in the next tax season. I would be happy to speak to this in greater detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Caldwell Jackson'.

Caldwell Jackson
State Representative

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

LR 2612

INSURANCE

HEALTH INSURANCE

Sponsor: President Jackson of Aroostook

An Act to Improve Access to Over-the-counter Contraceptives

Jackson	Yes	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	Yes
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	Yes
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	4	5	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would, in order to keep health insurance coverage of contraceptives consistent, require health insurance carriers to cover over-the-counter hormonal birth control.

Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2756 Representative Arford, P

November 13, 2023

Legislative Council
115 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Members of the Legislative Council:

I'm writing to respectfully appeal the rejection of LR 2612, An Act To Improve Access to Over-the-Counter Contraceptives for consideration during the 2nd Regular Session of the 131st Legislature. The proposal would require state-regulated health insurance companies to cover over-the-counter hormonal birth control to keep coverage of contraception consistent. LR 2612 is needed for the upcoming session following the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's recent approval of an over-the-counter birth control pill.¹

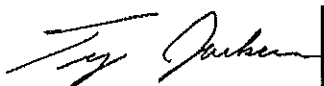
In 2010, Congress passed the Affordable Care Act, requiring insurance companies to cover at least one contraceptive product in each method category of contraception at no out-of-pocket cost to patients. The ACA made it possible for more Americans to exercise control over their reproductive health and make reproductive decisions on their own terms.² However, in the decade since the ACA became law, it's become clear that gaps remain in the coverage of contraceptives.³ In recent years, the Maine Legislature has taken steps to close these gaps passing several key measures with strong bipartisan support.

In 2022, the Legislature took action to ensure that Maine patients could access and afford the prescription contraceptive that works best for them based on conversations with their doctors, not insurance companies. Democrats and Republicans joined together to pass LD 1954 An Act to Ensure Access to Prescription Contraceptives, which requires all state-regulated health care plans to cover all prescription contraceptive medications approved by the FDA at no out-of-pocket cost.

This year, the Legislature built on these efforts by passing LD 351 An Act to Increase Access to Birth Control by Making Certain Contraception Available over the Counter from Sen. Eric Brakey, R-Auburn. This new law, as the title suggests, makes certain types of contraceptives available over-the-counter at the pharmacy.

LR 2612, An Act To Improve Access to Over-the-Counter Contraceptives builds on a string of bipartisan state efforts to keep birth control affordable and accessible. Due to changes at the federal level, Maine needs to take action this session if we want to keep contraceptive coverage consistent for Maine patients. Thank you for your time and feel free to reach out with any questions.

Sincerely,



Troy Jackson
Maine Senate President
Senate District 1

¹ <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/fda-approves-first-nonprescription-daily-oral-contraceptive>

² [https://www.contraceptionjournal.org/article/S0010-7824\(20\)15293-7/fulltext](https://www.contraceptionjournal.org/article/S0010-7824(20)15293-7/fulltext)

³ [https://www.contraceptionjournal.org/article/S0010-7824\(20\)15293-7/fulltext](https://www.contraceptionjournal.org/article/S0010-7824(20)15293-7/fulltext)

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

LR 2613

VETERANS

VETERANS HOMES

Sponsor: President Jackson of Aroostook

An Act to Strengthen Maine Veterans' Homes with Increased and Ongoing Funding

Jackson	Yes			Talbot Ross	Yes
Terry	Yes			Vitelli	Yes
Cloutier	No			Daughtry	Yes
Faulkingham	Absent			Stewart	No
Arata	No			Keim	No
	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	5	4	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would increase funding for Maine Veterans' Homes by providing a sustainable, ongoing source of funding and long-term strategies for ensuring all 6 Maine Veterans' Homes stay open, consistent with the Legislature's statutory mandate to keep the homes in Augusta, Bangor, Caribou, Machias, Scarborough and South Paris in continuous operation. The bill would also provide that, in the event of excess funding created by any long-term funding source, additional money may be transferred to the Maine Veterans' Homes Stabilization Fund pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 37-B, section 613.

Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2741 Senator Farrin, B



Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

November 13, 2023

Legislative Council
115 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

LR 2613, An Act to Strengthen Maine Veterans' Homes by Increased and Ongoing Funding

Dear Member of the Legislative Council:

When the Maine Legislature established the Maine Veterans' Homes in 1977, we made a commitment to the men and women serving in our nation's armed forces to repay their service by making sure they could get the care they need in their later years. For years, the state has kept this promise.

However, when it became public last year that the Board of the Maine Veterans' Homes had voted to close their homes in Caribou and Machias, that promise was in jeopardy. That's why I was proud to sponsor an emergency bill signed by the Governor to save those two homes. The law makes clear the intent of the Legislature in the creation of the Maine Veterans' Homes, and lays out a public and transparent closure process that requires legislative approval and puts back into statute that all six homes across our state be in continuous operation.

This proposal seeks to increase funding for Maine Veterans' Homes by providing a sustainable, ongoing source of funding and long-term strategies for ensuring all six Maine Veterans Homes stay open. This ongoing funding is consistent with the Legislature's statutory mandate to keep the homes in Augusta, Bangor, Caribou, Machias, Scarborough and South Paris in continuous operation. The bill also provides that in the event of excess funding created by any long-term funding source, additional monies may be transferred to the Maine Veterans' Homes Stabilization Fund created in the last Legislature.

Less than a week after Veterans' Day, it feels right and fitting to ask for your support on this proposal. Let's work to ensure that our veterans can remain in good care, close to their communities and their loved ones. We owe it to the men and women who gave so much to our country. Thanks for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,

Troy Jackson
Maine Senate President
Senate District 1

State House (207) 287-1500 * Cell (207) 436-0763 * Fax (207) 287-5862 * Toll Free 1-800-423-6900 * TTY 711
SenatorJackson1@gmail.com * Web Site: legislature.maine.gov/senate

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

LR 2630

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPT
 ADMINISTRATION

Sponsor: President Jackson of Aroostook

An Act to Strengthen Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Standards by Establishing a Family Advocacy Program for Military Families

Jackson	Yes		Talbot Ross	No	
Terry	No		Vitelli	Yes	
Cloutier	No		Daughtry	Yes	
Faulkingham	Absent		Stewart	Yes	
Arata	No		Keim	No	
	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	4	5	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would establish a military family advocacy program within the Department of Health and Human Services to share reports of child abuse or neglect involving military families with military authorities.



Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

November 13, 2023

Legislative Council
115 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

LR 2630, An Act To Strengthen Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Standards by Establishing a Family Advocacy Program for Military Families

Dear Members of the Legislative Council:

I respectfully request your consideration in favor of LR 2630, An Act To Strengthen Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Standards by Establishing a Family Advocacy Program for Military Families. LR 2630 would create a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Health and Human Services to ensure that any service member who is involved in a child abuse investigation here in Maine would be reported to that service member's military command to enhance child protective services in the state. Such an MOU would establish procedures and protocols for:

1. Identifying an individual alleged to have committed abuse or neglect as military personnel;
2. Reporting to a military family advocacy program when an investigation implicating military personnel has been initiated; and
3. Maintaining confidentiality requirements under state and federal law.

LR 2630 allows the reporting of child abuse to the appropriate military installation when the child is a military family member and ensures efforts to determine the military status of parents subject to abuse or neglect allegations.

There is currently no information-sharing procedure established within the State of Maine, and LR 2630 would allow for the cross sharing of information to begin. Title 10 USC Section 1787 directs the Secretary of Defense to request each state provide the reporting of any known or suspected instance of child abuse and neglect in which the victim or suspect is a member of the armed forces (or spouse). In many instances, there is no statutory authority for states to share case information with the appropriate military authorities. This policy change would put Maine in line with the directive.

An issue specifically relating to military families is the frequency at which military families move. The Family Advocacy Program may have information regarding incidents of allegations that occurred in other states where the service member was stationed that DHHS would not otherwise have access to during their investigation. Because military families move frequently across state lines, lack of information sharing could result in a military family falling through the cracks; and military connected children not receiving the protective services they deserve.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Troy Jackson
Maine Senate President
Senate District 1

State House (207) 287-1500 * Cell (207) 436-0763 * Fax (207) 287-5862 * Toll Free 1-800-423-6900 * TTY 711
SenatorJackson1@gmail.com * Web Site: legislature.maine.gov/senate

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

TAXATION
INCOME TAX
CREDITS

LR 2856

Sponsor: President Jackson of Aroostook

An Act to Provide Investment Incentives to Keep the Portland Sea Dogs in the State

Jackson	Yes	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	Yes
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	Yes
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	3	6	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would provide financial incentives to keep the Portland Sea Dogs in Maine, such as a tax credit for capital investment upgrades to the facilities used by the team.



Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

November 13, 2023

Legislative Council
115 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

LR 2856, An Act to Provide Investment Incentives to Keep the Portland Sea Dogs in the State

Dear Members of the Legislative Council:

Thank you for the opportunity to give further explanation of LR 2856, An Act to Provide Investment Incentives to Keep the Portland Sea Dogs in the State. I appreciate your time in giving this idea a second chance for consideration in the second regular session of the Legislature.

The Portland Sea Dogs are a well-known community fixture with a significant economic impact in Maine. A 2021 economic impact study determined that in 2019, the Sea Dogs Organization contributed \$28 million in total economic output, supported 447 full- and part-time jobs, and generated \$9.1 million in labor income.

The team and its owners share in the city and state's goal of bringing value to the franchise that exponentially and positively impacts the community for many years to come. New regulations from Major League Baseball and, as an initial step to safeguarding the club in the near-term, are poised to invest millions in necessary Player Development League (PDL) improvements required by Major League Baseball Association (MLB). This includes necessary capital improvements for the long term to be completed by April 1, 2025. The team owners are poised to invest millions in up-front capital to make these required improvements. The upgrades made through the construction project are estimated by University of Maine Economist Dr. Andy Crawley to generate an estimated \$18 million in total economic output, create additional jobs, and provide facilities for community events beyond baseball.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposal. I believe this is an issue that both parties can agree would be a signal of support for Maine's sports economy.

Sincerely,

Troy Jackson
Maine Senate President
Senate District 1

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session

Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

LR 2887

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

ADMINISTRATION

Sponsor: President Jackson of Aroostook

An Act to Improve Public Sector Workers' Rights

Jackson	Yes	Talbot Ross	Yes
Terry	No	Vitelli	Yes
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	Yes
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	4	5	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would improve public sector workers' rights.



Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
November 13, 2023

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Legislative Council
115 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

LR 2887, An Act to Improve Public Sector Workers' Rights

Dear Member of the Legislative Council:

The collective bargaining process works best when there is a guiding set of fair rules. In the public sector in Maine, the collective bargaining process should produce labor agreements that benefit the employees, the public employer and community that they work for.

Currently, in the public sector in Maine, when both parties cannot move forward, they enter into mediation. If mediation does not work, both parties move to fact finding. Both of these steps involve time, work and costs to both parties. When both groups are at an impasse after fact finding and mediation, they can go to the process of arbitration, where a 3-person panel reviews the issues at hand, seeks to reach a joint resolution and if that is not possible, ultimately issues a decision.

From the outset of negotiations, a public employer knows that arbitration is only advisory and non-binding on economic matters of salary, insurance and pension. Moreover, public employees do not currently have the legal right to strike. This means that when a group of working people want to negotiate for better salaries, retirement or health care they can be thwarted by an employer who knows that an arbitration process will result in a recommendation only. In the end, the employer can ignore the outcome of arbitration on economic issues and impose a contract on the workers.

If we are to have a meaningful and fair arbitration process to resolve disputes it should be binding on both parties. Otherwise, it is an ineffectual and unfair process that undermines the collective bargaining process from the outset and tilts the bargaining table in favor of the employer.

LR 2887 levels the playing field by making arbitration binding on all parties. Even under a system of binding arbitration, neither party wants to go to arbitration. It takes time, costs money and both parties have to live with the final judgment. However, if we are going to have this step in the dispute resolution process it should be binding on all matters. Having a binding system will result in resolving contracts earlier in the process and more equitably. Thank you for considering this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Troy Jackson". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Troy Jackson
Maine Senate President
Senate District 1

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

LR 2904

PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

REGULATION

Sponsor: President Jackson of Aroostook

An Act to Ensure Access to Non-opioid Medication for Pain Relief

Jackson	Yes		Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No		Vitelli	Yes
Cloutier	No		Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent		Stewart	Yes
Arata	No		Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	3	6	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would prevent insurers from establishing more restrictive or prohibitive coverage criteria for federal Food and Drug Administration-approved, non-opioid, non-narcotic drugs to treat and manage acute pain in comparison to opioid and narcotic drugs.

LR 2904: An Act to Ensure Access to Non-opioid Medication for Pain Relief

Dear Members of the Legislative Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide explanation and support for LR: 2904, An Act to Ensure Access to Non-opioid Medication for Pain Relief for consideration in the second regular session of the 131st Legislature.

Our state continues to face devastating losses stemming from substance use and addiction. Despite increased awareness, effort and resources, Maine families and communities in 2022 experienced 10,110 overdoses, including 716 deaths. Those harms continue to be largely driven by use of highly addictive and potentially deadly prescription and non-prescription opioids and narcotics. And a significant portion of that initial opioid use begins with medications prescribed and used to treat serious, acute pain - such as from an accident or surgery.

Despite these serious societal and economic challenges, there has not been a new mechanism in almost two decades to treat acute pain, excluding physician administered injectables and recent developments to treat migraines. Innovation is critical to provide additional treatment options for people experiencing pain. Fortunately, today there are currently several distinct research programs investigating novel approaches to pain which have the potential to redefine pain management, some of which are on track for potential FDA approval as soon as 2024.[1]

It is a simple concept. Providing access to effective, non opioid, non narcotic medications to treat acute pain will reduce the chance a patient *without* a substance use issue will be exposed to and potentially become dependent on opioids, and will provide an non-opioid alternative to those living with substance use disorder who are in various stages of treatment and recovery.

Because we act on a part time legislative schedule, it is vital that we act now to install appropriate safeguards to ensure healthcare providers and Maine patients are permitted full access to these options without facing unnecessary barriers or administrative hurdles that are not applied to opioid pain medications. This common sense proposal provides another approach to prevention by prohibiting insurers from imposing processes like prior authorization, step therapy, and exclusion from preferred drug lists that would disadvantage these drugs and create pressure on patients and providers to use opioids.

I have heard stories about exactly the circumstances we are seeking to prevent - someone with substance use disorder stable in recovery who suffered a broken bone, was put back onto an opioid narcotic, and is now battling relapse and all the destabilization and crises that come with it. Or a Maine senior, who after finally accessing a hip replacement, was surprised how quickly they found themselves sick and reaching for his pills - more to assuage the nausea and withdrawal than to treat the pain. We owe it to the people of Maine to protect access to these alternative pain medications as soon as they are approved by the FDA and become available. This bill will help address a heartbreaking issue that both parties can agree continues to be of vital importance across every county in our state, and one for which all meaningful avenues for change should be not be delayed. Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Sincerely,



Troy Jackson
Maine Senate President
Senate District 1

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session

Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

LR 2951

FORESTRY

PRACTICES

Sponsor: President Jackson of Aroostook

An Act to Protect Natural Forestry Habitat by Preventing Clear-cutting on Certain Public Lands in Allagash

Jackson	Yes	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	Yes
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	Yes
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	3	6	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would protect natural forestry habitat by preventing clear-cutting on certain public lands in Allagash.



Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

November 13, 2023

Legislative Council
115 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

LR 2951, An Act to Protect Natural Forestry Habitat by Preventing Clear-cutting on Certain Public Lands in Allagash

Dear Members of the Legislative Council:

I am writing to appeal the Legislative Council's decision regarding **LR 2951, "An Act to Protect Natural Forestry Habitat by Preventing Clear-cutting on Certain Public Lands in Allagash"**. This bill would protect ecologically, culturally, and scenically important public lands within the community of Allagash from unnecessary timber harvesting.

This bill constitutes an emergency because the Bureau of Public Lands currently intends to "harvest" these areas, which currently represent public lands that have not been mechanically logged in recent decades. The process of mechanical harvesting and road building by the state would forever alter these public lands that should instead be maximized for their ecologic value.

I am willing to meet with any and all stakeholders relevant to this matter, and hope for an important conversation about the future of these public lands to unfold during the 2nd Regular Session.

In sum, LR 2951 protects important wildlife habitat and forestland in an area that has been heavily cut by mechanical forestry operations. If the state has public lands in such an area, it should strive to maximize its ecological significance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Troy Jackson".

Troy Jackson
Maine Senate President
Senate District 1

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

LR 2913

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

PROTECTIVE SERVICES (CHILD)

Sponsor: Senator Keim of Oxford

Resolve, to Establish a Pilot Project to Alleviate the Crisis in the Offices of Regional Child Protective Services

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	Yes	Keim	Yes

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	3	6	0	1	Out

Comment

This resolve would establish a pilot project to allow the Department of Health and Human Services to employ, on a part-time basis, case aides in child protective services who are paid at a higher rate of compensation and are not in positions covered by a union. The case aides would be used in those areas most in need as determined by the department.



Lisa M. Keim
Senator, District 19
Assistant Republican Leader

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

November 12, 2023

Senate President Troy Jackson
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson,

I would like to appeal the Legislative Council's decision rejecting my second session bill request, LR 2913, "Resolve, to Establish a Pilot Project to Alleviate the Crisis in the Offices of Regional Child Protective Services."

It has been well reported that Maine's Offices of Child Protective Services are at a breaking point. The Government Oversight Committee's investigation into this office only continues to uncover abject deficiencies.

Caseworkers are vital to changing outcomes- and they have incredibly difficult jobs. In a recent GOC meeting, we learned that these employees sometimes work 22 straight hours. They are also sometimes told to record fewer hours than they actually work to limit overtime pay. This is the reality and we should not close our eyes and hope that everything is going to be all right without our forcing disruption in the current status quo. CPS status quo is failing our children.

Discussions with Lewiston based caseworkers led to the submission of this bill- they are desperate for help and there is some unknown impediment to hiring aides. A pilot project is meant to allow CPS full flexibility in hiring case aides to help us better understand what changes could be effective.

A case aide provides these essential services:

- Supervise visits between children and their parents, sit with children in hotel and hospital placement, and transport clients for various visits and appointments
- Make referrals to connect children, parents, and family members with needed services
- Enter documentation into the Child Welfare information system, Katahdin
- Maintain legal records and serve court paperwork

If we do not make serious changes to our child protective services system immediately, children will continue to lose their lives. Now is the time to take an outside-the-box look at hiring. The situation could not be more serious.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa M. Keim".

Lisa Keim
State Senator

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session

Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

LR 2914

ELECTRIC UTILITIES

TRANSMISSION LINES

Sponsor: Senator Keim of Oxford

Resolve, to Require Legislative Approval of Increased Costs to Ratepayers of the Transmission Project Approved Under the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	Yes	Keim	Yes

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	3	6	0	1	Out

Comment

This resolve would require approval by the Legislature of any increased costs to ratepayers, as determined by the Public Utilities Commission, of the 1,200-megawatt capacity, 345-kilovolt transmission line and associated facilities approved under the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program by the Legislature in Resolve 2023, chapter 66.

- Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2609 Senator Curry, C
- Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2637 Representative Cyrway, S
- Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2719 Representative Cyrway, S
- Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2743 Representative Smith, K
- Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2783 Representative Foster, S
- Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2844 President Jackson, T
- Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2915 Senator Keim, L
- Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2924 Representative Foster, S
- Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2953 Senator LaFountain, D

Lisa M. Keim
Senator, District 19
Assistant Republican Leader



THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

November 12, 2023

Senate President Troy Jackson
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson,

I would like to appeal the Legislative Council's decision rejecting my second session bill request, LR 2914, "Resolve, to Require Legislative Approval of Increased Costs to Ratepayers of the Transmission Project Approved Under the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Development Program."

In recent years, the Maine Legislature has passed laws intended to improve some aspects of our state's energy policies. Unfortunately, some of those laws have made costs for ratepayers skyrocket. Our constituents are already dealing with rising costs in all other aspects of their lives. We cannot allow a new project to add more expense and strain on Mainers' wallets.

LR 2914 is an emergency because when the LD Power project was approved during the First Special Session it was touted as a rate-reduction measure, yet there were no concrete rates available to lawmakers. It is imperative that the people's representatives know the full impact on ratepayers and that lawmakers have full opportunity to weigh the cost vs benefit.

I ask that you reconsider your decision and let this legislation move forward. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lisa M. Keim".

Lisa Keim
State Senator

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

LR 2916

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

DELIVERY

Sponsor: Senator LaFountain of Kennebec

An Act to Establish a Mobile Geropsychiatric Team Pilot Project

Jackson	Yes	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	Yes
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	Yes
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	4	5	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would require the Department of Health and Human Services to establish a pilot project in 3 counties under which a multidisciplinary team composed of licensed practitioners with geriatric expertise would perform comprehensive assessments of medications and care plans of individuals referred for assessment.



THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

David LaFountain
Senator, District 16

President Troy D. Jackson Chair of
the Legislative Council Maine State
House
115 State House Station Augusta,
ME 04333-0115

November 13, 2023

Dear President Jackson,

I am writing to you to appeal the Legislative Council's decision regarding **LR 2916, An Act to Establish a Mobile Geropsychiatric Team Pilot Project**. If accepted, this bill would establish a geropsych mobile unit pilot program, similar to a highly successful geropsych program that served Mainers in the recent past. Increasing access to geropsych care has been most recommended by the 2015 Commission to Study Difficult to Place Patients (co-chaired by Rep Gattine.) Instead of increasing beds as the report lays out, I feel confident that much of this shortage can be addressed via the mobile health unit my bill proposes. This is both less expensive and takes advantage of the advances in telehealth our state has experienced since the COVID-19 pandemic.

I consider this bill an emergency because according to the most recent report from Maine's Long-Term Care Ombudsman, there are more than a hundred patients that are essentially *waiting* in Maine hospitals because no long-term care facilities will take them. The majority of these patients face barriers to placement due to significant behavioral and mental health issues and/or brain injury. Maine's nursing homes are struggling to keep their doors open right now and therefore don't have the specialized staff to do assessments and develop care plans for these patients. While the most common waiting time before discharge from the hospital is 31-60 days, some--and I would say too many--wait over 180 days. This is an emergency for these patients, their families, hospitals, and staff.

Here's how my bill would work. Instead of long-term care facilities needing geropsych beds with specialized staff to perform assessments on-site, the mobile unit would be able to do an initial assessment, develop a care and treatment plan, and then provide on-going support as needed via telehealth. Therefore, the facility would be able to provide a safe and supportive home for the patient without a specialized bed or staff. The geropsych unit, made up of a team of 2-3 highly trained doctors, PAs/nurses, social workers, etc, could be free to travel either physically or virtually across the state to provide assessments and consults wherever and whenever they are needed. My bill establishes a 3 county pilot program to get the program off the ground.

In preparation for this upcoming session, I have met with Maine's Long-Term Care Ombudsman, Brenda Gallant and advocates from the long-term care community who do this work everyday. As Maine continues to get older, the need for greater access to care and resources will only grow. In sum, LR 2916 would build on the progress the Legislature has made and further promote our common goal of serving the needs of our constituents throughout our state. Nobody deserves to spend over 180 days in a hospital bed because appropriate care wasn't available. Thank you for your consideration of this request and I look forward to working with you all on this bill during the second regular session of the 131st Legislature.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David LaFountain".

David LaFountain
State Senator, District 16

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session

Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

TAXATION

LR 2726

MISCELLANEOUS TAXES

SERVICE PROVIDER TAX

Sponsor: Representative Lanigan of Sanford

An Act to Eliminate the Taxation on Certain Senior Housing

Jackson	No			Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No			Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No			Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent			Stewart	No
Arata	Yes			Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	1	8	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would include an exemption from the service provider tax for residential care facilities and private nonmedical institutions for the provision of housing services to individuals 65 years of age and older.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1440
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Lucas John Lanigan

13 Grant Street
Springvale, ME 04083
Cell Phone: (207) 351-5383
Office: (207) 287-1400
Lucas.Lanigan@legislature.maine.gov

11/13/2023

President Jackson,

I would like to take the opportunity and appeal the decision on LR 2726, "An Act to Eliminate the Taxation on Certain Senior Housing" and ask for re-consideration.

I truly believe in the merits of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'L. Lanigan'.

Lucas Lanigan
State Representative

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session

Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE

LR 2647

INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE DEPT
ADMINISTRATION

Sponsor: Senator Lawrence of York

An Act to Allow the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to Reimburse Volunteers of the So-called Hooked on Fishing - Not on Drugs Program for Gas Expenses

Jackson	Yes	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	Yes
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	Yes
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	3	6	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would add a provision to allow reimbursement for the cost of gasoline used by volunteers during the course of volunteering for the so-called Hooked on Fishing - Not on Drugs program. The reimbursement would come from the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

131st Legislature

*Senate of
Maine*

Senate District 35

Senator Mark Lawrence

3 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333-0003

Office (207) 287-1515

President Troy D. Jackson
Chair of the Legislative Council
Maine State House
115 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

November 13, 2023

Dear President Jackson,

I am writing to you because I would like to appeal the Legislative Council's decision regarding **LR 2647, An Act to Allow the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to Reimburse Volunteers of the So-called Hooked on Fishing - Not on Drugs Program for Gas Expenses.**

I consider this bill an emergency because this program and its volunteers are actively serving a need to benefit our kids and community. This program, according to the DIFW website, "uses fishing to address: positive alternatives to drug use, motivation, communication, self-esteem building, responsibility, positive role models, the ability to overcome peer pressure, good problem-solving and decision making skills, and improved family interaction."

Volunteers lead the fishing trips, and businesses can donate goods like fishing poles, tackle boxes, and other gear. This bill request is asking for these volunteers to be reimbursed for gas expenses incurred on these excursions. This program has helped many kids stay free of drug and underage alcohol use since its creation in the 118th Legislature, and this bill would ensure its longevity

In sum, LR 2677 would build on the progress of this initiative, and help alleviate travel costs of the trips making this program more accessible to volunteers across the state. It is my hope this program can continue to be a success, for both participants and the volunteer instructors.

Sincerely,



Senator Mark Lawrence

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

LR 2677

PUBLIC ADVOCATE

POWERS

Sponsor: Senator Lawrence of York

An Act to Clarify the Duties of the Public Advocate in Developing and Advocating for Legislation

Jackson	Yes	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	Yes
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	2	7	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would restrict the ability of the Public Advocate to collaborate with certain sources, including taking funds from those sources, when developing legislation and advocating before the Legislature.

131st Legislature
**Senate of
Maine**
Senate District 35

Senator Mark Lawrence
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
Office (207) 287-1515

President Troy D. Jackson
Chair of the Legislative Council
Maine State House
115 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0115

November 13, 2023

Dear President Jackson,

I am writing to you because I would like to appeal the Legislative Council's decision regarding **LR 2677, An Act to Clarify the Duties of the Public Advocate in Developing and Advocating for Legislation**. This bill would help set duties and parameters around the work the Office of the Public Advocate (OPA) does in developing and advocating for legislation.

I consider this bill an emergency because the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee is always collaborating on and tweaking legislation to ensure the best outcomes for Maine ratepayers. The OPA must act in the best interests of Maine ratepayers, not in the best interests of CMP, Versant, and other power players.

We have an opportunity to steer Maine on the right path to green, renewable energy. In order to do so, the OPA cannot be coordinating with big utility companies on the advancement of legislation. The time is now.

In sum, LR 2677 would further promote transparency and build trust with Maine citizens and the Office of the Public Advocate. I respectfully urge members of this council to approve this bill for consideration in the Second Regular session to ensure that the people of Maine will always be put ahead of special interests.

Sincerely,



Senator Mark Lawrence

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

LABOR AND HOUSING
EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES
LEAVE

LR 2769

Sponsor: Representative Lemelin of Chelsea

An Act to Amend the Law Regarding Earned Paid Leave

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	1	8	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would amend the earned paid leave law to allow an employee to carry over earned paid leave from one year to the next. As that leave is used, the employee would have an opportunity to increase earned paid leave back up to 40 hours.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Michael H. Lemelin
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Michael.Lemelin@legislature.maine.gov

November 13, 2023

The Honorable Troy D. Jackson, Chair
Legislative Council
115 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0115

RE: L.R. 2769, "*An Act to Amend the Law Regarding Earned Paid Leave*"

Dear President Jackson:

It is my desire to appeal the Legislative Council's decision whereby L.R. 2769 was not accepted for consideration during the Legislature's Second Regular Session.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to addressing Council members' related questions and/or concerns at the upcoming meeting when appeals are to be considered. In the meantime, if you wish to discuss this legislative request with me personally, I can be reached on my mobile phone at 798-9399.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Lemelin".

Michael H. Lemelin
State Representative

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

TAXATION

LR 2852

MISCELLANEOUS TAXES

EXCISE TAX

Sponsor: Representative Lemelin of Chelsea

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

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	No	Keim	Yes

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	2	7	0	1	Out

Comment

Current law provides an exemption from the excise tax imposed on motor vehicles owned by a person on active duty serving in the United States Armed Forces who is stationed in the State. This bill would extend that exemption to a person on active duty who is stationed outside of the State or deployed for military service for more than 180 days annually.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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November 13, 2023

The Honorable Troy D. Jackson, Chair
Legislative Council
115 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0115

RE: L.R. 2852, "*An Act to Exempt Motor Vehicles of Active Duty Service Members Stationed Out-of-state from Excise Tax*"

Dear President Jackson:

It is my desire to appeal the Legislative Council's decision whereby L.R. 2852 was not accepted for consideration during the Legislature's Second Regular Session.

Thank you for your time. I look forward to addressing Council members' related questions and/or concerns at the upcoming meeting when appeals are to be considered. In the meantime, if you wish to discuss this legislative request with me personally, I can be reached on my mobile phone at 798-9399.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M. Lemelin".

Michael H. Lemelin
State Representative

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

LR 2625

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPT
 PROCEDURES

Sponsor: Senator Libby of Cumberland

An Act to Require the Reporting of Alpha-gal Syndrome

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	Yes	Keim	Yes

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	3	6	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would add alpha-gal syndrome, a potentially life-threatening red meat allergy caused by a tick bite, to the list of conditions that must be reported to the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention.



James Libby, Ph.D.
Senator, District 22

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

November 13, 2023

President Troy Jackson
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson,

I would like to appeal the Legislative Council's decision rejecting my second session bill, LR 2625, "An Act to Require the Reporting of Alpha-gal Syndrome."

In July of this year the U.S. Center for Disease Control and Prevention released an updated report about the potentially life-threatening "red meat" allergy, Alpha-gal Syndrome caused by a tick bite. Alpha Gal Syndrome is a life-threatening allergic condition that is growing rapidly. Originally estimated at 5,000 cases in 2013, the CDC estimates up to 450,000 people in the US have this allergy.

By adding Alpha-gal Syndrome to the list of reportable conditions to the CDC in accordance with our state statutes, we can significantly enhance our public health response and protect the well-being of our citizens.

I ask that you reconsider your decision. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James D. Libby".

James Libby
State Senator

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

LR 2932

HOMELESS PERSONS

EMERGENCY SHELTER

Sponsor: Representative Light Lookner of Portland

An Act to Prohibit Certain Municipalities from Enforcing Moratoria on Emergency Shelters

Jackson	No		Talbot Ross	Yes
Terry	Yes		Vitelli	No
Cloutier	Yes		Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent		Stewart	No
Arata	No		Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	3	6	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would prohibit municipalities with populations exceeding 30,000 from enacting moratoria on the establishment of emergency homeless shelters.



Grayson Lookner

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

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TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

November 13, 2023

President Troy Jackson, Chair
Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross, Vice Chair
Legislative Council
C/O Office of the Revisor of Statutes
7 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson, Speaker Talbot Ross and members of Legislative Council:

Please accept this letter as notice of my intention to appeal the Legislative Council's rejection of **2932: *An Act to Prohibit Certain Municipalities from Enforcing Moratoria on Emergency Shelters***, for consideration during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

The situation around homelessness and people camping in public places in Portland, Bangor and Waterville is dire and untenable. Homelessness is a statewide problem, and in order for us to solve it, it requires that neighbors help neighbors. That fundamental Maine value is what drove me to introduce this bill.

When certain large municipalities in Maine pass moratoria on building shelters, it unfairly burdens other municipalities. Most regional service hubs recognize that it is necessary for them to provide some help in the form of emergency shelters for their neighbors experiencing homelessness. Sadly, some do not.

There are three municipalities in Maine with populations of over 30,000 people, and together they account for ~10% of the state's entire population. This bill would only affect these three municipalities.

For our neighbors experiencing homelessness, they will have the best outcomes and greater chance of success if they are able to stay near whatever limited support systems they may have, not in big cities where they become anonymous figures in already overburdened shelter systems.

I look forward to addressing Legislative Council on Nov. 16 to discuss this necessary proposal and its urgent nature. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Representative Grayson Lookner

District 113: Part of Portland

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

LR 2737

LEGISLATURE

STUDIES

Sponsor: Representative Madigan of Waterville

An Act to Require Compensation for Persons with Lived Experience Participating in Legislative and State Studies and Commissions

Jackson	No		Talbot Ross	Yes	
Terry	Yes		Vitelli	Yes	
Cloutier	Yes		Daughtry	Yes	
Faulkingham	Absent		Stewart	No	
Arata	No		Keim	No	
	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	5	4	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would require compensation, including compensation for travel, time spent and child care, for those persons with lived experience participating in legislative and state studies and commissions.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
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November 13, 2023

President Troy Jackson, Chair
Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross, Vice Chair
Legislative Council
C/O Office of the Revisor of Statutes
7 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson, Speaker Talbot Ross and members of Legislative Council:

Please accept this letter as notice of my intention to appeal the Legislative Council's rejection of LR 2737, An Act to Require Compensation for Persons with Lived Experience Participating in Legislative and State Studies and Commissions, for consideration during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

I worked on this bill with the Maine State Parent Ambassadors and others. A Parent Ambassador brought it to me. It is based on legislation recently passed in Washington State. We all have worked on bills regarding studies, work groups and commissions. This bill just puts in statute that which we all try to make sure that we do- compensate those with lived experience who we ask to participate in this work. Others who participate in these types of groups are already compensated as it is part of their workday. Moving this bill forward now to a public hearing means that if it passes, it would be in place for the following session when these types of groups and studies are likely to be approved.

I look forward to addressing Legislative Council on Nov. 16 to discuss this necessary proposal and its urgent nature. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Colleen M. Madigan".

Colleen Madigan
State Representative

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

LR 2738

MEDICAID

MAINECARE

Sponsor: Representative Madigan of Waterville

An Act to Equalize MaineCare Members' Health Care Rights Regarding Transportation

Jackson	Yes	Talbot Ross	Yes
Terry	No	Vitelli	Yes
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	Yes
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	4	5	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would require MaineCare contracts with providers of transportation to include provisions allowing another adult to accompany a patient to a MaineCare-reimbursable appointment.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
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November 13, 2023

President Troy Jackson, Chair
Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross, Vice Chair
Legislative Council
C/O Office of the Revisor of Statutes
7 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson, Speaker Talbot Ross and members of Legislative Council:

Please accept this letter as notice of my intention to appeal the Legislative Council's rejection of LR 2738, An Act to Equalize MaineCare Members' Health Care Rights Regarding Transportation, for consideration during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

This bill comes out of a problem that happened to a pair of my constituents in Waterville. They are an elderly mother and her adult daughter. The daughter developed some serious medical issues. In a short period of time, she was seen a number of times in the local emergency room and was admitted to the hospital. The doctors identified she was bleeding internally but they could not identify from where. The daughter required transfusions. The daughter and the mother were understandably scared. The daughter was also weak and was worried that she didn't really know what was going on; she wanted her mother's assistance at a transfusion and doctor's appointment. The MaineCare transportation provider refused to transport the mother along with the daughter. Think about the last time you had a doctor's appointment or medical procedure. They offer you and sometimes even tell you about your rights. One of those is your right to have someone accompany you. This right should be available to all, not just those who don't need to use MaineCare transportation.

I look forward to addressing Legislative Council on Nov. 16 to discuss this necessary proposal and its urgent nature. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Colleen M. Madigan".

Colleen Madigan
State Representative

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

LR 2739

LEGISLATURE

COMMITTEES

Sponsor: Representative Madigan of Waterville

An Act to Require Health Care and Substance Use Disorder Legislation to Be Supported by Relevant Data and Analysis

Jackson	No		Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No		Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No		Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent		Stewart	No
Arata	No		Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	0	9	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would require a legislative joint standing committee to request the Department of Health and Human Services and the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention or other relevant state agency or public health organization to provide relevant testimony, data and analysis for every bill regarding health matters, including substance use disorder matters.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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November 13, 2023

President Troy Jackson, Chair
Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross, Vice Chair
Legislative Council
C/O Office of the Revisor of Statutes
7 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson, Speaker Talbot Ross and members of Legislative Council:

Please accept this letter as notice of my intention to appeal the Legislative Council's rejection of LR 2739, An Act to Require Health Care and Substance Use Disorder Legislation to Be Supported by Relevant Data and Analysis, for consideration during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

This bill comes from concerns from many that serious public health data is not being considered in regards to bills that have to do with substances that can lead to substance use disorders. This has happened at a time when substance use has increased. The negative consequences of this have also increased. Public health professionals, members of the Substance Use Disorders Commission and professionals in the medical substance use disorders field have expressed concerns about this. This bill would require input from state or public health data when considering legislation, similar to what we recently passed regarding racial impact statements. I worked with public health advocates on this bill. In addition, members of the Substance Use Disorders Commission have expressed interest in this as many recognize that, in particular, regarding alcohol and cannabis, crucial public health information has been left out of the conversation in the committee process.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Colleen M. Madigan".

Colleen Madigan
State Representative

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session

Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

LR 2767

HOMELESS PERSONS

EMERGENCY SHELTER

Sponsor: Representative Madigan of Waterville

An Act to Improve Funding for Homeless Shelters

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	Yes
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	1	8	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would improve funding for homeless shelters.

Closely Related Carryover Req: LD 599 Representative Brennan, M

Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2714 Representative Mastraccio, A



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
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November 13, 2023

President Troy Jackson, Chair
Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross, Vice Chair
Legislative Council
C/O Office of the Revisor of Statutes
7 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson, Speaker Talbot Ross and members of Legislative Council:

Please accept this letter as notice of my intention to appeal the Legislative Council's rejection of LR 2767, An Act to Improve Funding for Homeless Shelters, for consideration during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

We have numerous homeless shelters in the state. But, we only have 6 low barrier shelters. Low barrier shelters serve people even if they are actively using substances. They take everyone. However, the nightly rate the state pays low barrier shelters is the same as the regular nightly shelter rate. Low barrier shelter staff need more training, ie: OD prevention, narcotics training, de-escalation, etc. So it costs more to operate as a low barrier shelter. In this time of both a housing and Substance Use Disorder crisis, these low barrier shelters are in crisis and will not survive if nothing changes. This bill asks for an increase in the nightly rate for low barrier shelters. Please note that this is NOT a MaineCare rate increase. The shelter nightly rates come from the general fund. The second part of this asks DHHS to explore a demonstration project or pursue a waiver to access federal Medicaid funds to serve unhoused people with Substance Use Disorders, mental health disorders and elderly or disabled people with medical needs. There has recently been movement in the federal government to recognize social determinants health and approve shelter costs as reimbursable by Medicaid.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Colleen M. Madigan'.

Colleen Madigan
State Representative

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

LABOR AND HOUSING

LR 2823

MANUFACTURED HOUSING

STANDARDS

Sponsor: Representative Malon, II of Biddeford

An Act to Ensure That Manufactured Housing May Be Built on Lots Where Single-family Dwellings Are Allowed

Jackson	Yes		Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No		Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No		Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent		Stewart	Yes
Arata	Yes		Keim	Yes

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	4	5	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would allow manufactured housing to be built on lots where single-family dwellings are allowed.



Marc Malon

PO Box 24

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

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TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

November 13, 2023

President Troy Jackson, Chair
Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross, Vice Chair
Legislative Council
C/O Office of the Revisor of Statutes
7 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson, Speaker Talbot Ross and members of Legislative Council:

Please accept this letter as notice of my intention to appeal the Legislative Council's rejection of LR 2823, *An Act to Ensure That Manufactured Housing May Be Built on Lots Where Single-family Dwellings Are Allowed*, for consideration during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

Maine's Housing Crisis has reached a critical level. This bill is necessary to encourage the construction of affordable manufactured housing. The current statute of Title 30-A, §4358 leaves too much room for interpretations as it increases the chance of denying the construction of a home solely because it is manufactured rather than stick-built. LR 2823 will amend that and provide more building opportunities for all Mainers.

I look forward to addressing Legislative Council on Nov. 16 to discuss this necessary proposal and its urgent nature. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marc Malon II".

Marc Malon II
State Representative

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

LR 2714

HOMELESS PERSONS

EMERGENCY SHELTER

Sponsor: Representative Mastraccio of Sanford

An Act to Support Shelters for the Unhoused

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	Yes
Terry	Yes	Vitelli	Yes
Cloutier	Yes	Daughtry	Yes
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	5	4	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would increase the shelter operating subsidy for the unhoused in the General Fund from \$2.5 million to \$12.5 million.

Closely Related Carryover Req:	LD 599	Representative Brennan, M
Closely Related Legislator Req:	LR 2767	Representative Madigan, C



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
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Anne-Marie Mastraccio

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Anne-Marie.Mastraccio@legislature.maine.gov

November 13, 2023

President Troy Jackson, Chair
Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross, Chair
Legislative Council
C/O Office of the Revisor of Statutes
7 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson, Speaker Talbot Ross and members of Legislative Council:

It is my intention to appeal the Legislative Council's rejection of **LR 2714, An Act to Support Shelters for the Unhoused**.

I look forward to speaking with Legislative Council on Nov. 16 to discuss this necessary proposal and its urgent nature. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne-Marie Mastraccio".

Anne-Marie Mastraccio
State Representative

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

LR 2674

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Sponsor: Representative Mathieson of Kittery

An Act to Create an Independent Child Advocate Ombudsman Service

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	0	9	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would establish an independent child advocate ombudsman service to provide complaint resolution, unbiased investigation, mediation and other alternative dispute resolution methods and referral services.

Closely Related Carryover Req: LD 1788 Senator Baldacci, J

Closely Related Carryover Req: LD 500 Senator Keim, L



Kristi Mathieson

26 Haley Road
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Phone: (603) 969-7496

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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November 13, 2023

President Troy Jackson, Chair
Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross, Vice Chair
Legislative Council
C/O Office of the Revisor of Statutes
7 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson, Speaker Talbot Ross and members of Legislative Council:

Please accept this letter as notice of my intention to appeal the Legislative Council's rejection of LR 2674, for consideration during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature. LR 2674 envisions an independent Office of the Children's Ombudsman. The new office would replace and expand jurisdiction of the current Ombudsman Program established pursuant to Title 22 § 4087-A. A new separate agency would structurally ensure independent oversight of State services and the voice of the very children who are, or should be, kept safe. Jurisdiction would be expanded to include all services provided or arranged for by the state. The people of Maine, especially the children, are eager for the Maine Legislature to take bold action now. There are many reasons LR 2674 meets criteria for emergency legislation on behalf of children.

1. Problems within child protection services have been chronic and children in juvenile justice services have long been without any mechanism of independent oversight.
2. The Legislature is contemplating a number of legislative actions for reform that currently rely upon information from the same administrators operating the problematic systems. There is no independent voice informed by broad access to information and most importantly, no representation of children's own lived experiences or viewpoints. Independence is the essential element of an ombudsman.¹ The current contract between ombudsman and OCFS, the agency the ombudsman oversees, is not a strong indicator of independence. An independent ombudsman with access to program administrators in confidence may serve as a valuable resource to help the administration and the legislature see beyond political priorities to effective investments.
3. No services for children and family can operate effectively without trust. It is necessary for children and families to engage in services. It is also necessary for the public to feel safe. An independent voice with access to both children, their records, system infrastructure, experts and science will serve as a valuable and essential resource to all parties for making the most effective, efficient decisions.
4. The US Department of Justice (DOJ) recently found Maine in violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act for over-institutionalizing children with disabilities.² Appointment of an independent ombudsman to oversee juvenile justice reforms would be a sign of good faith to the DOJ and potentially avoid fines, federal oversight and class action.
5. Maine communities like Rockland, are in crisis with heightened problem behavior by youth. To ensure effective policy response, expanded jurisdiction of the ombudsman creates an avenue for deeper investigation of underlying causes of problem behavior in communities.

Before we face one more child death, or one more incarcerated child in substance withdrawal without adequate medical care, we must create a mechanism for true independent oversight and promotion of children's best interest. The decisions we make to invest in services for children should be guided by an independent voice that is informed by broad access to information, including children themselves to fully assess their experience navigating state systems. Thank you for your careful consideration.

Respectfully,
Kristi Mathieson
State Representative

¹ U.S. Ombudsman Association (undated). <https://www.usombudsman.org/essential-characteristics-of-a-classical-ombudsman/>

² Office of Public Affairs, U.S. Department of Justice (2022). Justice Department finds Maine in violation of ADA for over-institutionalization of children with disabilities (June 22). <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-finds-maine-violation-ada-over-institutionalization-children-disabilities>

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

LR 2791

SPECIAL EDUCATION

PLANNING

Sponsor: Representative Millett of Cape Elizabeth

An Act to Establish a Pilot Program to Increase Postsecondary Educational Opportunities for Students with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder

Jackson	Yes	Talbot Ross	Yes
Terry	Yes	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	Yes	Daughtry	Yes
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	5	4	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would establish a pilot program in the Department of Education to increase postsecondary educational opportunities for students with intellectual or developmental disabilities or autism spectrum disorder.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1400
TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

Rebecca Millett

50 Market St., Ste 1A PMB 162
South Portland, ME 04106
Residence: (207) 415-3770
Rebecca.Millett@legislature.maine.gov

November 13, 2023

President Troy Jackson, Chair
Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross, Vice Chair
Legislative Council
C/O Office of the Revisor of Statutes
7 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson, Speaker Talbot Ross and members of Legislative Council:

Please accept this letter as notice of my intention to appeal the Legislative Council's rejection of **LR 2791, An Act to Establish a Pilot Program to Increase Postsecondary Educational Opportunities for Students with Intellectual or Developmental Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder**, for consideration during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

This pilot program would provide students with intellectual and developmental disabilities and/or autism with higher education experiences that, to the greatest extent possible, offer the rights, privileges, experiences, benefits and outcomes available to their peers without disabilities.

Because Maine is in the process of designing a new LifeSpan waiver with a start date of 2025, it is critical to begin this pilot program as soon as possible. The waiver emphasizes employment, and data shows that students with I/DD and autism who participate in postsecondary education programs are much more likely to secure employment. This pilot program can constructively inform the design of the LifeSpan waiver in order to prepare students for bright futures.

There are more than 300 inclusive higher education programs in the country, but regrettably, none of them are here in Maine. I look forward to addressing Legislative Council on Nov. 16 to discuss this necessary proposal and its urgent nature. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rebecca Millett".

Rebecca Millett
State Representative

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

LR 2878

EMERGENCY SERVICES

PERSONNEL

Sponsor: Senator Moore of Washington

An Act to Provide Funding for Dispatchers at the Washington County Regional Communications Center

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	No	Keim	Yes

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	2	7	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would provide ongoing General Fund appropriations for the Washington County Regional Communications Center to hire 4 new dispatchers.

131st Legislature
Senate of
Maine
Senate District 6

Senator Marianne Moore
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
(207) 287-1505
Marianne.Moore@legislature.maine.gov

November 10, 2023

Senate President Troy Jackson
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson,

I would like to appeal the Legislative Council's decision rejecting my second session bill request, LR 2878, "An Act to Provide Funding for Dispatchers at the Washington County Regional Communications Center."

For years the Maine State Police have provided rural call sharing in support of the Washington County (WC) Sheriff's Office. When a call came into the Regional Communications Center (RCC) for a dispatch to an area being covered by the State Police, the call was immediately transferred to the State Police Communications Center for dispatch of the nearby State Police. The initial call sharing percentage was 50% of the shifts. Coverage between the two entities was a coordinated effort to assure proper public safety for the citizens of Washington County across the County. Several years ago, claiming a reduction of personnel on the part of the Maine State Police, the call sharing percentage was reduced to 1/3 of the shifts. The WC Sheriff's Office was forced to add additional deputies to cover the necessary shifts, again to assure proper public safety. No additional dispatchers were added to handle the additional volume of calls.

This spring the WC Sheriff's Department was notified the Maine State Police would no longer be providing rural call sharing and would instead develop a one-year Resource Coordination Agreement which was reluctantly signed by the WC Sheriff on May 25, 2023 with an effective date of July 9, 2023. Since its effective date, the WC Sheriff's Department has seen a 42% increase in the total calls for service. (2,249 compared to 1,562 for the same time frame) For perspective, the Department has seen a 30% increase in the overall number of calls since January 1, 2023 compared to the same period in 2022. They are expecting at least 10,000 calls for service by years end. Since the reduction of coverage, the RCC has not only experienced the increase in calls but has seen an increase in the length of involvement by the local RCC dispatchers. For example, when a call comes in and a deputy must be dispatched, the travel time could be up to 3 hours depending on the location. Due to the urgency of the call, a dispatcher must remain on the line until the deputy arrives, making them unavailable to answer other calls.

As the Legislative Representative on the WC Budget Committee, we were presented the 2024 budget from the WC Sheriff's Department with a request for four (4) additional dispatchers (one for each shift) to attempt to cover the increased length of calls due to the discontinuance of the rural call sharing by the Maine State Police. The estimated cost to the County, to be passed down to the Municipalities, is close to \$375,000 considering all of the initial startup costs.

As the Senator representing Washington County, I am asking for assistance from the State simply for appropriations of \$400,000 per year to cover the wages to hire these dispatchers.

I respectfully ask for your consideration to allow my bill to move forward through the committee process for funding consideration and appropriation!

Marianne Moore

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

LR 2883

LAW ENFORCEMENT

SHERIFFS PATROL

Sponsor: Senator Moore of Washington

An Act to Provide Funding for Positions in the Washington County Sheriff's Office

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	No	Keim	Yes

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	2	7	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would provide ongoing funding to hire 2 additional sheriffs in the Washington County Sheriff's Office to provide coverage no longer being provided by the Maine State Police.

Closely Related Carryover Req: LD 630 Representative Graham, A

131st Legislature
Senate of
Maine
Senate District 6

Senator Marianne Moore
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Augusta, ME 04333-0003
(207) 287-1505
Marianne.Moore@legislature.maine.gov

November 10, 2023

Senate President Troy Jackson
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson,

I would like to appeal the Legislative Council's decision rejecting my second session bill request, LR 2883, "An Act to Provide Funding for Positions in the Washington County Sheriff's Office."

For years the Maine State Police have provided rural call sharing in support of the Washington County (WC) Sheriff's Office. The initial call sharing percentage was 50% of the shifts. Coverage between the two entities was a coordinated effort to assure proper public safety for the citizens of Washington County across the County. Several years ago, claiming a reduction of personnel on the part of the Maine State Police, the call sharing percentage was reduced to 1/3 of the shifts. The WC Sheriff's Office was forced to add additional deputies to cover the necessary shifts, again to assure proper public safety. This spring the WC Sheriff's Department was notified the Maine State Police would no longer be providing rural call sharing and would instead develop a one-year Resource Coordination Agreement which was reluctantly signed by the WC Sheriff on May 25, 2023 with an effective date of July 9, 2023. While the agreement agrees to provide specialized law enforcement services and provide proactive traffic enforcement with an emphasis on Route 9, Route 1, along with high crash areas, the removal of the call sharing has placed a major strain to the current staffing levels of the WC Sheriff's Department to cover shifts. Since its effective date, the WC Sheriff's Department has seen a 42% increase in the total calls for service. (2,249 compared to 1,562 for the same time frame) For perspective, the Department has seen a 30% increase in the overall number of calls since January 1, 2023 compared to the same period in 2022. They are expecting at least 10,000 calls for service by years end.

Further conversations with the Maine State Police identified 45-50 vacancies in the Department that have already been funded and are unfilled. Our request to use some of these monies was denied during Committee deliberations relating to similar bills. A comment made during a recent meeting with the Maine State Police was "If we had enough personnel, perhaps we could go back to call sharing." In the meantime, we are obligated to provide continuous public safety for the citizens of Washington County, especially to the municipalities without their own Police Department.

As the Legislative Representative on the WC Budget Committee, we were presented the 2024 budget from the WC Sheriff's Department with a request for two (2) additional deputies to attempt to cover the required shifts vacated by the discontinuance of the rural call sharing by the Maine State Police. The estimated cost to the County, to be passed down to the Municipalities, is close to \$390,000 considering all of the initial startup costs.

I respectfully ask for your consideration to allow my bill to move forward through the committee process for funding consideration and appropriation!

Marianne Moore

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

TRANSPORTATION

LR 2885

MOTOR VEHICLES

ALTERNATIVE

Sponsor: Representative Morris of Turner

An Act to Enhance Legislative Oversight of Rules Regulating Electric Vehicles

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	Yes	Keim	Yes

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	3	6	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would designate rules regarding electric vehicles as major substantive rules.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1440
TTY: (207) 287-4469

Joshua Morris

P.O. Box 246
North Turner, ME 04266
Phone: (207) 754-7829
Joshua.Morris@legislature.maine.gov

November, 2023

Senate President Jackson,

I would like to formally request that ***“LR 2885 An Act to Enhance Legislative Oversight of Rules Regulating Electric Vehicles.”*** Be a part of appeal process scheduled for the next meeting of the Legislative Council meeting on Thursday November 16th.

It is my belief that LR 2885 is common sense legislation supported by not only fellow colleagues of mine in the Maine State Legislature, but also the majority of hard working Maine Citizens. The good people of this state deserve a say in what vehicle fits their financial, social, & adjacent needs to their specific area. Our people are not “one size fits all” citizens, what works for someone in Aroostook County may not work for someone in York County.

Additionally, it is not within the preview of our Government to dictate what private car dealerships sell from their inventory. Requiring private businesses to sell a certain model vehicle is simply unacceptable and I feel as though it is the duty of our legislature to stop this proposed rule change.

We are currently living in a world where things are hard, everyday necessities are becoming too expensive, and purchasing a vehicle is already hard enough. Public opinion matters and I will continue to fight to give Mainers a voice in having the choice in what vehicle works best for them.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Joshua Morris'.

Joshua Morris
State Representative

District 91 Leeds, Turner & Wayne

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

LR 2898

LAND USE

SHORELAND ZONING

Sponsor: Senator Nangle of Cumberland

An Act to Establish the Municipal Shoreline Protection Legal Fund

Jackson	Yes		Talbot Ross	No	
Terry	No		Vitelli	Yes	
Cloutier	No		Daughtry	Yes	
Faulkingham	Absent		Stewart	No	
Arata	No		Keim	No	
	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	3	6	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would establish the Municipal Shoreline Protection Legal Fund to assist municipalities in covering legal fees incurred in the pursuit of shoreland zoning violations.



Timothy Nangle
Senator, District 26

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

President Troy Jackson
Chair of the Legislative Council
Maine State House
115 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0115

November 13, 2023

Dear President Jackson,

I respectfully urge a reconsideration of LR 2898, "An Act to Establish the Municipal Shoreline Protection Legal Fund," a vital measure that would address a significant legislative oversight. The State has created an unfunded mandate whereby municipalities are required to enforce shoreland zoning laws but are not provided with the necessary financial resources to litigate these complex issues.

The case in Raymond, where the Town faces legal costs exceeding \$335,000 in addressing shoreline violations on Sebago Lake, exemplifies the financial burdens municipalities can incur in fulfilling these state-mandated responsibilities. This is but one example of a problem many municipalities are burdened with, leading to unintended financial strains on local taxpayers.

LR 2898 would establish a fund to assist municipalities in covering legal expenses related to enforcing shoreland zoning laws. It would require municipalities that benefit from this fund to reimburse the costs, ensuring the fund's long-term sustainability and promoting a responsible and self-sustaining model for environmental enforcement.

Establishing this fund would be an acknowledgment of the State's duty to support municipalities in their efforts to protect Maine's shorelines. It represents a balanced approach, addressing both the environmental and fiscal responsibilities of our local and state governments.

I urge the Legislative Council to recognize the urgency and necessity of this bill and to act promptly in the interest of Maine's communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tim Nangle'.

Tim Nangle
State Senator, District 26

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

LR 2781

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY DEPT
 POWERS

Sponsor: Representative Paul of Winterport

An Act to Protect the Cultural Resources and Historical Heritage of Sears Island in Searsport

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	Yes	Keim	Yes

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	3	6	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would grant a conservation easement to Maine Coast Heritage Trust for the entirety of Sears Island that is not privately owned.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
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Reagan Paul

PO Box 165
Winterport, ME 04496
Cell: (207) 944-8033
Reagan.Paul@legislature.maine.gov

November 11, 2023

Troy D. Jackson, Chair
Legislative Council
Maine State Legislature
115 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Chairman Jackson,

I would like to take the opportunity to appeal the decision on my bill, LR 2781 "An Act to Protect the Cultural Resources and Historical Heritage of Sears Island in Searsport." I am including a statement from Rep. Lynne Williams of Bar Harbor in regard to this legislation:

"Hello Legislative Leadership: I am writing to you regarding the proposed bill submitted by Rep. Reagan Paul, regarding protections for Sears Island. While Rep. Paul and I clearly come from opposite ends of the political spectrum, we are in complete agreement with respect to Sears Island and the protection that it needs. It is my understanding that her late bill was rejected by the Legislative Council and she will be requesting reconsideration. I strongly support granting such reconsideration and allowing the bill to move forward. Sears Island is a heavily protected area for good reasons. It is untouched by development, yet the Maine DOT now proposes to use 100 or so acres of undeveloped land to build and ship out floating wind turbines. This is ecologically inappropriate, and I suggest dropping this idea and looking instead at Mack Point - already industrialized - for such development. Warm regards, Rep. Lynne Williams"

Sears Island is a national treasure. It is the largest undeveloped, uninhabited, causeway-accessible island on the eastern coast of the United States. The island is rich with indigenous Wabanaki history and American history from the Revolutionary War that deserves to be preserved and protected as well. I wholeheartedly agree with the good representative's statement and respectfully request the opportunity to present the numerous reasons why this legislation is necessary, beneficial, and sentimental to my district and to the State of Maine as a whole. I thank you in advance for your thoughtful reconsideration of this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Reagan Paul".

Representative Reagan Paul

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS
 SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION
 ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS

LR 2799

Sponsor: Representative Paul of Winterport

An Act to Require the Return of School Budget Surplus Funds to Their Respective Municipalities

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	Yes	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	2	7	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would require a regional school unit to return budget surplus amounts to the municipalities in the regional school unit in the proportion that they pay in and allow the funds to be used at the municipalities' discretion. It also would require annual mandatory audits of regional school units that have continual budget surpluses.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
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Reagan Paul

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Cell: (207) 944-8033
Reagan.Paul@legislature.maine.gov

November 13, 2023

Troy D. Jackson, Chair
Legislative Council
Maine State Legislature
115 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Chairman Jackson,

I would like to take the opportunity to appeal the decision on my bill, LR: 2799 "An Act to Require the Return of School Budget Surplus Funds to Their Respective Municipalities." I respectfully request reconsideration of this bill because of the potential benefits that this bill would provide to the local municipalities across the state. I am including a short statement I received from the town manager of Winterport, Casey Ashey:

"On behalf of the Town of Winterport, I would like to extend our gratitude for your efforts by proposing legislation that would protect the taxpayers of the Town of Winterport. However, it has come to our attention that the 131st Legislature is not moving forward with your proposal. The 131st Legislature has a duty to listen, discuss, and debate bills that create common sense laws for the State of Maine. It is of vital importance that the current Legislature move forward with your bill, as it protects the taxpayers from an overreach of local school districts. The Town of Winterport supports our local public education, but when the amount of money that is raised is more than is needed, the money should come back to its people that raised the funds in the first place. Representative Paul, please appeal this decision of the 131st Legislature, and move forward with creating common sense laws that protects the citizens of Maine. "

For example, our school district RSU 22, over collected this year by \$8 million. This same school district has barred Winterport from using the elementary and middle schools from being utilized as voting locations, as has been the practice for many many years. At this time, Winterport is left without an adequate polling location and funds could be returned to Winterport as well as any town to best meet the immediate needs of its residents. A creative solution was proposed to return budget surpluses from school budgets back to the municipalities in the proportion that they pay in. This measure has the support of various towns in my area. I appreciate your time in considering my request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Reagan Paul".

Representative Reagan Paul

District 37- Winterport, Frankfort (part), Prospect, Stockton Springs, Searsport

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS
 INDUSTRIES
 STORAGE FACILITIES

LR 2818

Sponsor: Representative Perry of Calais

An Act to Update the Maine Self-service Storage Act

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	1	8	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would update the Maine Self-service Storage Act by clarifying the disposition of property upon termination or nonrenewal of a rental agreement; permitting electronic delivery of notices; permitting an online platform to be the location of the sale of personal property; and requiring watercraft and trailers to be treated in the same way as motor vehicles under the Act.



Anne C. Perry

474 South St.

Calais, ME 04619

Phone: (207) 214-7000

anne.perry@legislature.maine.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: (207) 287-4469

November 12, 2023

Legislative Council

Re: LR 2818

Dear Senator Jackson, Chair:

Please accept this appeal of the vote on LR 2818-An Act to Update the Maine Self-Service Storage Act. This bill is an emergency because of the need to address issues that have arisen with Maine's dated Act. Nearly 1 in 10 U.S. households rent a self-storage unit. Approximately 50% of storage tenants are in transition – for example, moving in connection with military service or college graduation or study abroad, employees on extended assignment outside of their state or the country, or downsizing following divorce or death in the family. And in emerging from the pandemic, consumers have recalibrated their expectations with almost everything transitioning to online platforms. The engagement of the public interacting with self-service storage operators is no different.

The bill adds features to our law to deal with this new world of consumer expectations and commerce we live in. Delaying consideration of the bill needlessly hinders modernizing key aspects of our law and meeting consumer expectations. Maine cannot afford to wait to address this consumer demand. Please allow this bill in so that the Legislature can address these concerns. I fully expect this bill would consume little legislative time while addressing significant benefits for all of our constituents.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Anne Perry".

Rep Anne Perry, Dist. 9

474 South St.

Calais, ME 04619

Anne.Perry@legislature.maine.gov

(207) 287-1430 Leg. Phone

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

LR 2872

INSURANCE

MOTOR VEHICLE

Sponsor: Representative Perry of Calais

An Act to Exempt Certain Motor Vehicle Liability Insurance Policies from Covering Towing and Storage Charges for Certain Vehicles

Jackson	No			Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No			Vitelli	Yes
Cloutier	Yes			Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent			Stewart	Yes
Arata	No			Keim	No
	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	3	6	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would exempt insurance policies issued prior to July 1, 2024 from the requirement that motor vehicle liability policies provide coverage in an amount up to \$500 per accident for the reasonable towing and storage charges incurred as a result of an accident involving the insured vehicle if the vehicle is towed at the request of a law enforcement officer.

Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2884 Representative Morris, J



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

Anne C. Perry

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Calais, ME 04619

Phone: (207) 214-7000

anne.perry@legislature.maine.gov

November 13, 2023

Honorable Edward Charbonneau, Esq.

Revisor of Statutes

Maine State Legislature

Office of the Revisor of Statutes

108 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson, Speaker Talbot Ross and members of Legislative Council:

Please accept this letter as notice of my intention to appeal the Legislative Council's rejection of LR 2872, An Act to Exempt Certain Motor Vehicle Liability Insurance Policies From Covering Towing and Storage Charges for Certain Vehicles, for consideration during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

The HCIFS Committee worked at great length on towing coverage legislation during the First Session. The language that emerged from the Committee does address towing coverage rights. The legislation has a prospective date. It applies to automobile insurance policies written or renewed after June 1, 2024. It was not intended to be retroactive. Unfortunately, the word "continue" is in the legislation as enacted. That word could be construed to allow retroactive application of towing policies. That was not the Committee's intent, and it does not work in terms of understanding and pricing the risks involved in towing insurance. Accordingly, that one word needs to be removed. It will not be controversial. This is a technical corrective change, not a substantive change.

I look forward to addressing Legislative Council on Nov. 16 to discuss this necessary proposal and its urgent nature. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Anne Perry".

Anne Perry

State Representative

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

LABOR AND HOUSING
 HOUSING
 REGULATION

LR 2803

Sponsor: Senator Pouliot of Kennebec

An Act to Increase Housing Options in Maine

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	Yes
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	No	Keim	Yes

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	3	6	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would require licensure for off-site home installation.



Matthew Pouliot
Senator, District 15

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

November 13, 2023

President Troy Jackson
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson,

I would like to appeal the Legislative Council's decision rejecting my second session bill, LR 2803, "An Act to Increase Housing Options in Maine."

As everyone is aware, we desperately need more housing in Maine. Currently in Maine, you need a license to install manufactured homes. This legislation is to look at ways we can expand training opportunities for individuals to become licensed home installers.

It is important we look at this now, as I believe manufacturing housing is going to become a big part of the solution in solving the housing crisis and we need to make sure we have the ability to train the workforce needed.

I ask that you reconsider your decision. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew G. Pouliot".

Matthew Pouliot
State Senator

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

LR 2942

MUNICIPALITIES

ORDINANCES

Sponsor: Representative Rana of Bangor

An Act to Standardize Municipal Public Health Policies

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	Yes
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	1	8	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would require municipal standards and protocols that relate to public health to be standardized in accordance with state policy and the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention qualifications. The bill would prevent municipalities from creating ordinances and regulations that contradict the best practice recommendations of the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention.



Ambureen Rana

124 West Broadway
Bangor, ME 04401
Cell: (207) 350-5081

Ambureen.Rana@legislature.maine.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

November 13, 2023

President Troy Jackson, Chair
Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross, Vice Chair
Legislative Council
C/O Office of the Revisor of Statutes
7 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson, Speaker Talbot Ross and members of Legislative Council:

Please accept this letter as notice of my intention to appeal the Legislative Council's rejection of **LR 2942**, *An Act to Standardize Municipal Public Health Policies*, for consideration during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

This bill is urgent because, across our state, communities are taking steps to block necessary and life-saving services that protect our communities. This bill seeks to make sure that everyone in Maine has access to means that support them and their neighbors in staying safe and healthy. The Maine CDC and DHHS have adopted evidence-based regulations regarding public health, and communities throughout our state should not be able to reverse those decisions.

I look forward to addressing Legislative Council on Nov. 16 to discuss this necessary proposal and its urgent nature. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ambureen Rana".

Representative Ambureen Rana

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

LR 2967

HOMELESS PERSONS

EMERGENCY SHELTER

Sponsor: Representative Rana of Bangor

An Act to Prohibit Clearing Encampments of Unhoused Individuals

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	0	9	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would prohibit the removal of individuals and clearing of belongings from encampments of individuals who are unhoused.

Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2879 Representative Light Lookner, G

Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2940 Representative Rana, A



Ambureen Rana

124 West Broadway
Bangor, ME 04401
Cell: (207) 350-5081

Ambureen.Rana@legislature.maine.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

November 13, 2023

President Troy Jackson, Chair
Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross, Vice Chair
Legislative Council
C/O Office of the Revisor of Statutes
7 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson, Speaker Talbot Ross and members of Legislative Council:

Please accept this letter as notice of my intention to appeal the Legislative Council's rejection of **LR 2967**, *An Act to Prohibit Clearing of Individuals from Encampments of Unhoused People*, for consideration during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

Unfortunately, many of our unhoused neighbors are forced to live outside in encampments due to lack of shelter and affordable housing. This issue is urgent because unsheltered homelessness is soaring and continuing to rise across Maine. This bill is critical because people who are unsheltered tend to get trapped in homelessness for longer and have far worse health outcomes.

Municipalities across Maine are responding to the rise in homelessness and unsheltered homelessness with policies and practices that sweep and criminalize homelessness in an effort to hide the issue. Sweeps are very expensive and ineffective at addressing homelessness. They only make the situation worse. State legislation is needed to discourage cities and towns from wasting limited public resources on sweeps and criminalization.

I look forward to addressing Legislative Council on Nov. 16 to discuss this necessary proposal and its urgent nature. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ambureen Rana".

Representative Ambureen Rana

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session

Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

LR 2834

UTILITIES

PROVIDERS

Sponsor: Representative Riseman of Harrison

An Act to Repeal the Maine Public Utility Financing Bank Act

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	0	9	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would repeal the Maine Public Utility Financing Bank Act.

Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2654 Senator Beebe-Center, A



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

Walter Riseman

P.O. Box 543

Harrison, ME 04040

Cell Phone: (207) 890-7866

walter.riseman@legislature.maine.gov

November 13, 2023

President Troy Jackson, Chair
Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross, Chair
Legislative Council
C/O Office of the Revisor of Statutes
7 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson, Speaker Talbot Ross and members of Legislative Council:

It is my intention to appeal the Legislative Council's rejection of **LR 2834, An Act to Repeal the Maine Public Utility Financing Bank Act.**

I look forward to speaking with Legislative Council on Nov. 16 to discuss this necessary proposal and its urgent nature. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Walter Riseman".

Walter Riseman
State Representative

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session

Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

LR 2843

MUNICIPALITIES

SERVICES

Sponsor: Representative Riseman of Harrison

An Act to Repeal Reporting Requirements for Special Districts Regarding Outstanding Debt

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	0	9	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would repeal the annual reporting requirements for special districts regarding the outstanding debt of the special districts.

Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2655 Senator Beebe-Center, A



Walter Riseman

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walter.riseman@legislature.maine.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
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TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

November 13, 2023

President Troy Jackson, Chair
Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross, Chair
Legislative Council
C/O Office of the Revisor of Statutes
7 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson, Speaker Talbot Ross and members of Legislative Council:

It is my intention to appeal the Legislative Council's rejection of **LR 2843, An Act to Repeal Reporting Requirements for Special Districts Regarding Outstanding Debt.**

I look forward to speaking with Legislative Council on Nov. 16 to discuss this necessary proposal and its urgent nature. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Walter Riseman".

Walter Riseman
State Representative

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session

Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

LR 2755

ELECTRIC UTILITIES

RATES

Sponsor: Representative Runte, Jr. of York

An Act to Enhance Electric Utility Performance-based Ratemaking

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	0	9	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would add new performance criteria to provisions of law regarding electric utility performance-based ratemaking. It would establish financial consequences for utilities based on the utilities' performance.

Potential JR 217:

LD 542 Representative Runte, Jr., W



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

Walter Gerard Runte Jr.

45 Fall Mill Road

York, ME 03909

Phone: (207) 361-7143

Gerry.Runte@legislature.maine.gov

November 13, 2023

President Troy Jackson, Chair
Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross, Vice Chair
Legislative Council
C/O Office of the Revisor of Statutes
7 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson, Speaker Talbot Ross and members of Legislative Council:

Please accept this letter as notice of my intention to appeal the Legislative Council's rejection of LR 2755, An Act to Enhance Electric Utility Performance-based Ratemaking, for consideration during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

As Maine forges ahead in designing its future electricity grid, regulatory reform is critical to address ratepayer dissatisfaction. Enhancing performance-based ratemaking (PBR), begun in the 130th Legislature, can help us shape a utility sector that actively drives our climate goals forward while keeping costs as low as possible, as soon as possible. PBR isn't just regulatory reform; it's a recommitment to our environment, our economy and the well-being of every Mainer. Getting to a fully developed PBR program is a matter of great urgency- thus the importance it be established in the second regular session.

I look forward to addressing Legislative Council on Nov. 16 to discuss this necessary proposal and its urgent nature. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gerry Runte". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "G" and "R".

Gerry Runte
State Representative

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session

Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

TAXATION

LR 2842

PROPERTY TAX

RELIEF

Sponsor: Representative Russell of Verona Island

An Act to Provide Property Tax Relief

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	Yes
Terry	Yes	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	Yes	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	3	6	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would amend the property tax fairness credit to provide increased property tax relief.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

Ronald B. Russell

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Bucksport, ME 04416

Cell: (207) 735-4450

Ronald.Russell@legislature.maine.gov

November 13, 2023

President Troy Jackson, Chair
Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross, Vice Chair
Legislative Council
C/O Office of the Revisor of Statutes
7 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson, Speaker Talbot Ross and members of Legislative Council:

Please accept this letter as notice of my intention to appeal the Legislative Council's rejection of **LR 2842, An Act to Provide Property Tax Relief**, for consideration during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

LR 2842 would help older Mainers afford to stay in their homes and communities, which improves quality of life and ultimately saves money in the long run. I have recently held in-district meetings with older constituents to discuss property tax relief, and during those meetings, there has been a universal outcry of their struggles to get by. In my committee, Labor and Housing, we heard countless stories of battered pensions, rising costs and the burden on seniors struggling to stay in their homes. This is a time-sensitive issue that we need to address before the close of the 131st Legislature.

I look forward to addressing Legislative Council on Nov. 16 to discuss this necessary proposal and its urgent nature. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Russell".

Ron Russell

State Representative

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

TAXATION

LR 2900

PROPERTY TAX
RELIEF

Sponsor: Representative Russell of Verona Island

An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Municipal Property Tax Deferral Programs

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	Yes	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	1	8	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would eliminate the requirement that interest be paid by seniors to the State on tax deferred under municipal property tax deferral programs.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

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November 13, 2023

President Troy Jackson, Chair
Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross, Vice Chair
Legislative Council
C/O Office of the Revisor of Statutes
7 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson, Speaker Talbot Ross and members of Legislative Council:

Please accept this letter as notice of my intention to appeal the Legislative Council's rejection of **LR 2900, An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Municipal Property Tax Deferral Programs**, for consideration during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

Last session, the Taxation Committee made important changes to our property tax relief programs for older Mainers. This included broadening eligibility guidelines for the Property Tax Deferral Program, which will open the program up to more seniors. However, without further improvements, the program will remain flawed and underutilized.

I have recently held in-district meetings with older constituents to discuss property tax relief, and during those meetings, there has been a universal outcry of their struggles to get by. In my committee, Labor and Housing, we heard countless stories of battered pensions, rising costs and the burden on seniors struggling to stay in their homes. This is a time-sensitive issue that we need to address before the close of the 131st Legislature.

I look forward to addressing Legislative Council on Nov. 16 to discuss this necessary proposal and its urgent nature. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Russell".

Ron Russell
State Representative

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

LR 2669

STATE GOVERNMENT

STATE COMMEMORATIONS

Sponsor: Representative Sachs of Freeport

Resolve, to Add Legislators to the Maine Semiquincentennial Commission

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	Yes
Terry	Yes	Vitelli	Yes
Cloutier	Yes	Daughtry	Yes
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	5	4	0	1	Out

Comment

This resolve would add Legislators to the Maine Semiquincentennial Commission, which was established to develop and coordinate the commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States of America.

Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2745 Speaker Talbot Ross, R



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
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Melanie Sachs
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Melanie.Sachs@legislature.maine.gov

November 13, 2023

President Troy Jackson, Chair
Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross, Vice Chair
Legislative Council
C/O Office of the Revisor of Statutes
7 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson, Speaker Talbot Ross and members of Legislative Council:

I am writing to appeal the decision of the Legislative Council's action on denying the admission of LR 2669, "Resolve, to Add Legislators to the Maine Semiquincentennial Commission."

This bill would address a number of oversights from LD 1029 "Resolve, to Establish a Commission to Commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the Founding of the United States" that was signed into law in the first session of this legislature.

As the Commission membership is currently instituted, there is a lack of representation by the Franco-American community and African-American community. I have also heard that the Wabanaki community has an uneasiness of making decisions on behalf of other Tribal nations that have very different perspectives and experiences than their own. This would be rectified by this bill.

Additionally, Maine legislators are currently not a part of the commission. Involvement of duly elected Senators and Representatives is critical to the success of the work, not only to provide important perspective but also to actively facilitate exchange of information or additional requirements of the Semiquincentennial Commission as the work proceeds.

Another issue that has been raised is compensation for members. There is interest by members of the public in participating for the four-year appointment, but there is strong concern that only travel and meal reimbursement does not fully accommodate and reimburse their time. Equity in this area is critical.

America's 250th birthday will only happen once. We need to do it right. For these reasons, I believe this bill is an emergency and should be admitted for consideration by the legislature for the 2nd session of the 131st Legislature.

Sincerely,

Melanie Sachs
State Representative

District 102: Freeport

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session

Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

LR 2935

ANIMALS

COMPANION

Sponsor: Representative Sheehan of Biddeford

An Act to Establish the Animal Law Enforcement Response Team

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	0	9	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would establish the Animal Law Enforcement Response Team to provide a coalition of trained professionals to assist with and enhance the enforcement of the State's animal laws, either by consultation or physical response. Team members would include police chiefs, sheriffs, prosecutors and animal control professionals.

Closely Related Carryover Req: LD 1121 Senator Harrington, M



Erin Sheehan
PO Box 1423
Biddeford, ME 04005
Phone: (207) 200-6616
Erin.Sheehan@legislature.maine.gov

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1400
TTY: Maine Relay 711

November 13, 2023

President Troy Jackson, Chair
Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross, Vice Chair
Legislative Council
C/O Office of the Revisor of Statutes
7 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson, Speaker Talbot Ross and members of Legislative Council:

Please accept this letter as notice of my intention to appeal the Legislative Council's rejection of LR 2935, An Act to Establish the Animal Law Enforcement Response Team, for consideration during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature.

In early February, I was contacted by a constituent who was attacked by a dog in the course of her work as part of the Assertive Community Treatment team at Maine Behavioral Healthcare. During the attack, she received a puncture wound close to her eye, a laceration to her wrist so serious that she could not use her right hand, and painful lacerations to her back and buttocks. She was unable to work for weeks after the attack. The owner was fined, charged, and ordered to confine the dog to their premises, but a hearing wasn't scheduled until May 10th. My constituent was outraged, hurt, and worried for the safety of her neighbors. The Police told her that they had done all they could do, so she reached out to me asking for a change to the law. She has been tireless in her self-advocacy and patient as I worked with stakeholders who feel strongly that a solution other than statutory change is needed to ensure improved response.

The dangerous dog statute is complicated and gives officers very broad discretion in responding to incidents involving dangerous dogs. However, there are currently no animal law training requirements for either Animal Control Officers or law enforcement. This puts our constituents at grave risk while exposing municipalities and law enforcement agencies to liability when responding to attacks, as well as reports of cruelty.

I worked closely with the Maine Prosecutors' Association and the President of the Animal Control Officers' Association. The Maine Municipal Association assisted in coordinating the regional Animal Control Officers' letters of support, and the Humane Society also believes a solution is urgently needed.

I look forward to addressing Legislative Council on Nov. 16 to discuss this necessary proposal and its urgent nature. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Erin Sheehan
State Representative

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

LR 2743

ELECTRIC UTILITIES

TRANSMISSION LINES

Sponsor: Representative Smith of Palermo

Resolve, Requiring a Transparent Public Hearing Regarding the Finalized Route of the Northern Maine Transmission Infrastructure

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	Yes	Keim	Yes

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	3	6	0	1	Out

Comment

This resolve would require the finalized route of the northern Maine transmission infrastructure to receive a public hearing and legislative vote in order to be constructed.

- Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2609 Senator Curry, C
- Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2637 Representative Cyrway, S
- Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2719 Representative Cyrway, S
- Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2783 Representative Foster, S
- Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2844 President Jackson, T
- Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2914 Senator Keim, L
- Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2915 Senator Keim, L
- Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2924 Representative Foster, S
- Closely Related Legislator Req: LR 2953 Senator LaFountain, D

To: Senate President Troy Jackson

RE: Appeal for LR 2743 Resolve, Requiring a Transparent Public Hearing Regarding the Finalized Route of the Northern Maine Transmission Infrastructure

Senator Jackson,

I am writing to you today to request an appeal to your rejection of LR 2743. When LD 924 passed through the legislative bodies my constituents in the towns of Palermo, China, Windsor, and Somerville were **denied** their Constitutional right to petition the legislature on behalf of themselves, their families, and their communities. When LD 924 went through committee and then through the Legislature there were **NO FINALIZED MAPS AVAILABLE** for myself or my constituents to understand the monumental impact the powerline would have on their homes and on their lands.

Allowing LR 2743 into the second session would right the wrong perpetuated against the people of Maine. LR 2743 would bring the final maps of the Northern Maine Renewable Energy Transmission line to committee, but more importantly, allow those impacted to speak of the effects they would undergo if the powerline runs through their town and/or their land.

Please allow LR 2743 into the second session as it is the only honest way forward for this Northern Maine Renewable Energy project.

Thank you,
Representative Katrina Smith

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

LR 2903

CANNABIS

ADULT USE CANNABIS

Sponsor: Representative Soboleski of Phillips

An Act to Provide Investigative Authority to the Maine State Police, Sheriffs and Local Police Regarding Maine's Recreational Cannabis Laws and Ordinances to Ensure Proper Enforcement

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	Yes	Keim	Yes

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	3	6	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would provide investigative authority to the Maine State Police, sheriffs and local police regarding Maine's recreational cannabis laws and ordinances to ensure proper enforcement.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
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Michael Soboleski

11 Snowy Ridge Road
Phillips, ME 04966
Residence: (207) 400-7233
Michael.soboleski@legislature.maine.gov

November 2023

Senate President Jackson,

I would like to formally request that **LR 2903** "*An Act to Provide Investigation Authority to the Maine State Police, Sheriffs, and Local Police Regarding Maine's Recreation Cannabis Laws and Ordinances to Ensure Proper Enforcement.*" Be a part of the appeals process scheduled for the next meeting of the Legislative Council on Thursday, November 16, 2023.

This request is being made to support Maine's Law enforcement officials on all parts of our state to ensure that there is consistency across the board when enforcing laws related to Cannabis. It seems as though there are inconsistencies in each of our counties, towns, and cities as well as a considerable amount of hearsay as to what laws are enforced and when.

It is my belief that an investigation to make sure that each department has accountability when enforcing cannabis laws will close the cracks that Maine citizens choosing not to follow the law have continued to fall through. Our cannabis laws are in place for a reason, and as such need to be properly and thoroughly enforced and an investigation would give us the data to examine which laws are not being followed. Once the data is received, we can properly move forward as a Legislative body to better our state and its cannabis laws.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael A. Soboleski".

Michael A. Soboleski
State Representative

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

JUDICIARY

LR 2648

JUVENILE OFFENDERS

JURISDICTION

Sponsor: Senator Stewart of Aroostook

An Act Establishing Concurrent Jurisdiction in Juvenile Matters with the United States Department of Defense

Jackson	No		Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No		Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No		Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent		Stewart	Yes
Arata	Yes		Keim	Yes

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	3	6	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would establish concurrent jurisdiction in juvenile matters with the United States Department of Defense.

131st Legislature
Senate of
Maine
Senate District 2

Senator Harold 'Trey' Stewart
Senate Republican Leader
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
(207) 287-1505

November 13, 2023

The Honorable Troy Jackson, Chair
Maine Legislative Council
115 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson:

I write today to urge the Legislative Council's reconsideration of LR 2648, "An Act Establishing Concurrent Jurisdiction in Juvenile Matters with the United States Department of Defense." The impetus for this measure was brought to my attention in September, thus the reason for the Second Session emergency request.

This measure would benefit our Navy Community in Southern Maine as well as those who live around Loring Air Force Base in Limestone. Under current state law, if a juvenile were to commit a crime on Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery or Loring Air Force Base in The County, that misconduct could only be adjudicated in the federal court system, which is designed for adults. Simply put, LR 2648 would:

1. Allow offenses committed by minors to be transferred to a state court and allow them to take advantage of juvenile review boards, diversionary programs, and services offered through the State.
2. Produce better outcomes and reduce the likelihood that youth will end up in the juvenile justice system at this time or in the future.
3. Give youth who commit crimes on the property of federal military installations the same opportunities as those who commit crimes anywhere else in the state.

On military installations subject to exclusive federal jurisdiction, investigation and adjudication of juvenile offenses is limited because cases may only be adjudicated in the federal system. States can adopt concurrent jurisdiction policies to ensure access to state resources and juvenile courts for appropriate adjudication options to better respond to juvenile needs.

I appreciate your time and reconsideration of this important request. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Harold 'Trey' Stewart
State Senator

*Fax: (207) 287-1527 * TTY (207) 287-1583 * Message Service 1-800-423-6900 * Web Site: legislature.maine.gov/senate*

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY

LR 2873

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

WIND ENERGY

Sponsor: Representative Strout of Harrington

Resolve, to Protect Maine's Right to Energy Independence by Requiring the State to Bid on Lobster Management Area 1

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	Yes	Keim	Yes

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	2	7	0	1	Out

Comment

This resolve would require the State to bid on Lobster Management Area 1 in the Gulf of Maine, a major fishing area for Maine residents that is being auctioned by the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management to allow companies to install offshore wind turbines.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
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Tiffany Strout

12 Anderson Lane
Harrington, ME 04643
Home Phone: (207) 598-7043
Tiffany.Strout@legislature.maine.gov

November 13, 2023

Troy D. Jackson, Chair
Legislative Council
Maine State Legislature
115 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Chairperson Jackson,

Thank you for reviewing my bill LR:2873 – Resolve, to Protect Maine’s Right to Energy Independence by Requiring the State of Maine to Bid on Lobster Management Area 1.

I am writing to appeal your decision to reject this bill in the second session of the 131st Legislature. I understand the second session is for emergency bills and I feel that this bill does fall in that category.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) is prepared to offer leasing of the Gulf of Maine as soon as the summer of 2024. What this means is sections of the Gulf Maine will be opened for bidding and then managed by the leaseholder.

Lobster Area Management 1 (LMA 1) is one of the biggest contributors to the fishing industry. Losing any of this area would be detrimental to the lives of those who rely on this for their livelihood as well as the downstream economy that directly affects the entire State of Maine.

I believe this bill is bipartisan and is an opportunity to work together to not only protect our fishing grounds but also to have energy independence.

Thank you for your consideration and please let me know if you have any questions or would like more details as I have much more that can go along with this if approved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Tiffany Strout'.

Tiffany Strout
State Representative

District 11 Addison, Beals, Columbia, Columbia Falls, Harrington, Jonesboro, Jonesport, Machias, Milbridge, Roque Bluffs, Whitneyville, Centerville Township, and North Washington (Part)

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

LR 2611

MEDICAID

MAINECARE

Sponsor: Speaker Talbot Ross of Portland

An Act to Restore Access to the MaineCare Program for Certain Residents

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	Yes
Terry	Yes	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	Yes	Daughtry	Yes
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	4	5	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would provide MaineCare coverage for noncitizen residents of Maine who are elderly or disabled with qualifying low incomes and who are ineligible for MaineCare coverage due to their immigration status.

Potential JR 217:

LD 199

Speaker Talbot Ross, R



STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SPEAKER'S OFFICE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1300

RACHEL TALBOT ROSS
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

November 13, 2023

President Jackson,

I am writing to appeal the decision of the Legislative Council's action on denying the admission of **LR 2611 "An Act to Restore Access to the MaineCare Program for Certain Residents"**.

This bill would provide MaineCare coverage for noncitizen residents of Maine who are elderly or disabled with qualifying low incomes and who are ineligible for MaineCare coverage due to their immigration status.

Just last week outside of the Legislative Council chambers as this title was being considered was a naturalization ceremony for many incredible and long-contributing Mainers who have been doing everything right as they work towards the privilege that we had by absolute chance of being born in the United States.

It was only 2011 when many in the Hall of Flags had the right to healthcare coverage that was taken away from them.

For many that we know who are elderly and disabled, hospital and doctor visits are not just an annoying annual checkup that we try to avoid. These visits are common and frequent to maintain their health that is evermore problematic as humans age.

The legislature has done a lot of good recently at addressing the healthcare needs of Mainers, but we have failed to address the healthcare needs of this population.

For these reasons, I believe this bill is an emergency and should be admitted for consideration by the legislature for the 2nd session of the 131st Legislature.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

Cc:
Suzanne Gresser
Ed Charbonneau

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

LR 2943

FOOD

REGULATIONS

Sponsor: Speaker Talbot Ross of Portland

An Act to Strengthen Maine's Agriculture, Food System and Forest Products Infrastructure Investment

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	Yes
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	1	8	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would strengthen Maine's agriculture, food system and forest products infrastructure investment by making changes and providing funding for grants to the Maine Agriculture, Food System and Forest Products Infrastructure Investment Advisory Board.

Closely Related Carryover Req: LD 650 Senator Hickman, C



STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SPEAKER'S OFFICE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1300

RACHEL TALBOT ROSS
SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

November 13, 2023

President Jackson,

I am writing to appeal the decision of the Legislative Council's action on denying the admission of **LR 2943 "An Act to Strengthen Maine's Agriculture Food Systems and Forest Products Infrastructure Investment"**.

In the first session of this legislature, LD 1670 "An Act to Strengthen Maine's Agriculture, Food and Forest Economy by Funding the Maine Agriculture, Food and Forest Products Investment Fund and Amending Related Provisions of Law" passed unanimously out of the Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry Committee and was signed into law by Governor Mills. Along the way, the Appropriations & Financial Affairs Committee changed the funding that capitalized the investment fund from ongoing funds of \$20,000,000 annually to just \$500,000 in the second year of this biennium.

Maine farmers and foresters who run small businesses are struggling to advance considerable capital investments to meet the growth possibilities, their spirited will, and the market demands of wanting to purchase locally produced products.

It has been shared that \$500,000 is not enough funding for positions that were created in the budget for this program. We have created positions in the budget, but no work for them to do. Government at its finest.

In 2022, the Agricultural Infrastructure Investment Program invested \$22,000,000 into only 64 Maine food and forestry businesses. The Department received 850 funding requests from qualifying businesses. Businesses that applied for the fund have needed to turn down purchasing contracts from buyers because they currently cannot fulfill those contracts with their current operations. The need exists.

If there is no investment by state government to meaningfully invest into the businesses that are working and are our heritage industry, we are complicit in capping their potential for growth.

Regarding a closely related bill identified by the Revisor of Statutes, as I understand LD 650 by Senator Hickman, that bill is a concept draft for the Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry Committee to address future legislative recommendations that are identified throughout the committee process this coming session. It is not my intention to interfere with how they do work.

For these reasons, I believe this bill is an emergency and should be admitted for consideration by the legislature for the 2nd session of the 131st Legislature.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House

Cc: Suzanne Gresser
Ed Charbonneau

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

TAXATION

LR 2848

PROPERTY TAX

FARM AND OPEN SPACE TAX

Sponsor: Representative Terry of Gorham

An Act to Amend the Recapture Penalty Imposed Under the Farm and Open Space Tax Law

Jackson	No		Talbot Ross	Yes
Terry	Yes		Vitelli	Yes
Cloutier	Yes		Daughtry	Yes
Faulkingham	Absent		Stewart	No
Arata	No		Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	5	4	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would make changes to the recapture penalty imposed when land is withdrawn from classification under the farm and open space tax law program.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

(207) 287-1400

TTY: MAINE RELAY 711

Maureen Fitzgerald Terry

9 Lombard Street
Gorham, ME 04038
Cell Phone: (207) 712-9735
Maureen.Terry@legislature.maine.gov

November 13, 2023

President Troy Jackson, Chair
Speaker Rachel Talbot Ross, Chair
Legislative Council
C/O Office of the Revisor of Statutes
7 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson, Speaker Talbot Ross and members of Legislative Council:

It is my intention to appeal the Legislative Council's rejection of **LR 2848, An Act to Amend the Recapture Penalty Imposed Under the Farm and Open Space Tax Law.**

I look forward to speaking with Legislative Council on Nov. 16 to discuss this necessary proposal and its urgent nature. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Ms", written over a light grey circular stamp.

Maureen Terry
State Representative

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

LR 2642

STATE GOVERNMENT

AGENCY REGULATION

Sponsor: Senator Timberlake of Androscoggin

An Act to Eliminate State Agency Review of Program Evaluation Reports Prior to Release of Reports to the Government Oversight Committee

Jackson	Yes		Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No		Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No		Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent		Stewart	Yes
Arata	No		Keim	Yes

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	3	6	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would eliminate the requirement that the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability provide a draft of a program evaluation report to the evaluated state agency prior to releasing the report to the Government Oversight Committee.



Jeffrey Timberlake
Senator, District 17

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

November 13, 2023

President Troy Jackson
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson,

I would like to appeal the Legislative Council's decision rejecting my second session bill, LR 2642, "An Act Eliminate State Agency Review of Program Evaluation Reports Prior to Release of Reports to the Government Oversight Committee."

Currently, when the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability (OPEGA) is doing a report for the Government Oversight Committee (GOC), the party being reviewed or investigated receives the report two weeks before this Government Oversight Committee. I find this problematic as this gives them two weeks to prepare to respond before GOC sees the report. Everyone should be receiving the report at the same time.

As you are currently aware, GOC is working extremely hard to get to the bottom of the issues at the Office of Child and Family Services within the Department of Health and Human Services. With the Department receiving the reports before the committee, it makes it harder to do our work as it gives them time to prepare a response on every report before the committee is even able to see it.

I ask that you reconsider your decision. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeff Timberlake".

Jeff Timberlake
State Senator

**131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal**

STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

LR 2643

STATE GOVERNMENT

AGENCY REGULATION

Sponsor: Senator Timberlake of Androscoggin

An Act to Repeal the Law Requiring Initiation of Agency Routine Technical Rule-making Proceedings upon Receipt of a Petition of 150 Voters

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	Yes	Keim	Yes

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	3	6	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would repeal the law requiring a state agency to initiate routine technical rule-making proceedings upon receipt of a petition submitted by 150 or more registered voters.



Jeffrey Timberlake
Senator, District 17

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

November 13, 2023

President Troy Jackson
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson,

I would like to appeal the Legislative Council's decision rejecting my second session bill, LR 2643, "An Act to Repeal the Law Requiring Initiation of Agency Routine Technical Rule-making Proceedings upon Receipt of a Petition of 150 Voters."

Recently the Board of Environmental Protection had a couple of routine technical rules that came before them that were initiated by a petition signed by 150 voters. These rule changes that were requested could have an effect on the entire state and how business is done in Maine. I do not believe that 150 voters should be able to sign a petition to require an agency to initiate routine technical rulemaking proceedings; changes like this should be done through the legislative process.

This bill should move forward as now is the time to have this conversation as this process has been recently used and the debate is fresh on everyone's minds.

I ask that you reconsider your decision. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Jeffrey Timberlake
State Senator

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session

Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

TAXATION

LR 2694

PROPERTY TAX

ABATEMENTS

Sponsor: Senator Timberlake of Androscoggin

An Act Regarding the Poverty Abatement Timeline

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	Yes	Keim	Yes

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	3	6	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would align the deadline for filing an application for poverty abatement, which may be filed up to 3 years from the date of commitment, with the timeline of the foreclosure process, in which liens automatically foreclose 18 months from the date of filing.



Jeffrey Timberlake
Senator, District 17

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

November 13, 2023

President Troy Jackson
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson,


I would like to appeal the Legislative Council's decision rejecting my second session bill, LR 2694, "An Act Regarding the Poverty Abatement Timeline."

A town in my district reached out to me in regards to the issue they are having when it comes to dealing with the timeline of the submission of the Poverty Abatement application. Current law states the application may be filed up to three years from the date of commitment, yet the foreclosure timeline is less. This means that the applicant could file for an abatement after the sale and closing if they believe the sale price was too low.

The legislature has done work on and is continuing to look at a number of property tax programs and I believe this one should be a part of the conversation.

I ask that you reconsider your decision. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Jeff Timberlake
State Senator

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

LR 2773

LAW ENFORCEMENT

STATE POLICE

Sponsor: Senator Timberlake of Androscoggin

An Act to Reinstate State Police Rural Patrol Services

Jackson	Yes	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	Yes	Keim	Yes

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	4	5	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would direct the State Police to reinstate rural patrol services in all counties in which rural patrol services were eliminated.

Closely Related Carryover Req: LD 630 Representative Graham, A



Jeffrey Timberlake
Senator, District 17

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

November 13, 2023

President Troy Jackson
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson,

I would like to appeal the Legislative Council's decision rejecting my second session bill, LR 2773, "An Act to Reinstate Rural Patrol."

As I believe you are aware, the State Police has eliminated rural patrol in many areas of the state. I recently heard from towns in my district as well that the elimination of rural patrol by the State Police is affecting them. Instead of having a patchwork of bills for this county or that county as we have seen, my bill would be to look at the entire state and what can be done to reinstate rural patrol.

Currently what is happening is Sheriffs are asking for more funding for more officers and this causes county taxes to go up, which in turn causes property taxes to go up. With state revenues at an all-time high, I believe with everyone working together the resources can be found to provide the State Police with the funds needed to reinstate rural patrol.

I ask that you reconsider your decision. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jeff Timberlake".

Jeff Timberlake

State Senator

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session
Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES

LR 2850

FINANCIAL PRACTICES

PAYROLL PROCESSORS

Sponsor: Senator Timberlake of Androscoggin

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Payroll Processors

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	Yes
Arata	No	Keim	Yes

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	2	7	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would remove the authority of the Superintendent of Consumer Credit Protection and the Superintendent of Financial Institutions in the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to require licensing of payroll processors through the nationwide mortgage licensing system and registry.



Jeffrey Timberlake
Senator, District 17

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

November 13, 2023

President Troy Jackson
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson,

I would like to appeal the Legislative Council's decision rejecting my second session bill, LR 2850, "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Payroll Processors."

The Nationwide Mortgage Licensing System (NMLS) was not designed to license payroll processors. The final rule recently adopted by the Bureau of Consumer Credit Protection places a costly undue burden on Maine's small businesses who cannot meet the requirements for licensing using the NMLS system. This has resulted in implementation challenges that have created uncertainty for companies who perform payroll processing services and for those companies who rely on these services to pay their employees.

Payroll processors doing business in Maine appreciate the need to convert to a digital licensing platform but disagree NMLS is the appropriate vendor and request legislative oversight and additional stakeholder engagement to make the transition to a digital platform feasible.

I ask that you reconsider your decision. Thank you.

Sincerely,


Jeffrey Timberlake
State Senator

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session

Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

LR 2616

SCHOOL POLICIES

CURRICULUM

Sponsor: Representative Underwood of Presque Isle

An Act to Require Elementary School Students to Learn Cursive Writing

Jackson	No	Talbot Ross	No
Terry	No	Vitelli	No
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	No
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	0	9	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would require elementary school students to learn cursive writing.



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002
(207) 287-1440
TTY: (207) 287-4469

Joseph F. Underwood

290 Skyway Street, Lot 11
Presque Isle, ME 04769
Residence: (207) 762-4921
Joseph.underwood@legislature.maine.gov

November 2023

Senate President Jackson,

I would like to formally request that **LR 2616** "*An Act to Require Elementary School Students to Learn Cursive Writing*" be a part of the appeal process scheduled for the next meeting of the Legislative Council meeting on Thursday November 16, 2023.

According to Dr. Phyllis Rand, senior editor of "*Abekamazing*" for Christian School and a former Pensacola Christian College administrator, with 40 years of service in education despite its negative connotation, cursive writing is actually easier for elementary aged children to learn rather than manuscript. Cursive writing does not require the stop and go motion of manuscript and is helpful with children due to its curved lines. Learning cursive can have a significant impact on language development, as it is believed to stimulate the part of the brain that develops our language skills at a young age according to Dr. Rand. It is also believed that children, who learn cursive early, are less likely to confuse letters that are more distinct, aiding them in becoming more efficient readers as they grow.

As it is believed by researchers that cursive writing is important to cognitive development, I believe that we owe it to Maine children to re-incorporate this lost practice into our children's core curriculum. I believe we should jump at any opportunity to enhance cognitive development. Our children deserve the best education we can possibly offer them in hopes to better their lives as they grow and develop.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Sincerely,

Joseph F. Underwood
State Representative

House District 3

131st Legislature - Second Regular Session

Bill Requests For Screening On Appeal

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

LR 2710

SCHOOL FACILITIES

CONSTRUCTION

Sponsor: Senator Vitelli of Sagadahoc

An Act to Help Public Schools Affected by Disasters to Apply for State Construction Funding and to Establish an Emergency School Construction Fund

Jackson	Yes	Talbot Ross	Yes
Terry	Yes	Vitelli	Yes
Cloutier	No	Daughtry	Yes
Faulkingham	Absent	Stewart	No
Arata	No	Keim	No

	Yes	No	Abstain	Absent	
Total:	5	4	0	1	Out

Comment

This bill would change how emergency school construction projects are evaluated for approval and create an emergency school construction fund.

Total number of bills screened: 106

131st Legislature
Senate of
Maine
Senate District 24

Senator Eloise Vitelli
Senate Majority Leader
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
Office (207) 287-1515

November 13, 2023

President Troy Jackson
Chair of the Legislative Council
Maine State House
115 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0115

President Jackson,

I would like to appeal the Legislative Council's decision regarding **LR 2710, An Act to Help Public Schools Affected by Disasters to Apply for State Construction Funding and to Establish an Emergency School Construction Fund**. If accepted, this bill would have the potential to help the administrators, faculty, and, particularly, students at Dike Newell Elementary School in Bath and at Dr. Levesque Elementary School in Frenchville, both of which were badly damaged by fire.

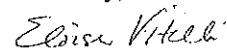
In the months following these fires, I, along with the superintendents and school board members of both districts, appealed to the State's Construction Committee for assistance. We were informed that the Committee does not have funding for emergency school projects, and the Committee could not clearly define an emergency school project. Meanwhile, Dr. Levesque students have been relocated to the Wisdom Middle and High Schools in St. Agatha, which has resulted in overcrowding, and Dike Newell students have been relocated to the old Morse High School, which has failed to meet the Department of Education's quality and safety standards.

When a school system, such as RSU 33 and RSU 1, presents the State Board of Education with an emergency request for construction assistance, a clearly defined process – as well as guidelines for achieving priority status under emergency circumstances – ought to be in place. Schools, such as those in Bath and Frenchville are currently stymied in their efforts to move forward with reconstruction plans – or even to make effective use of any insurance claims received.

This legislation, if considered, would lay out a pathway for schools facing emergencies to be granted priority status among approved construction projects and establish an emergency funding mechanism. LR 2710 would provide much-needed assistance to schools that are trying to rebuild their facilities that have been struck by disaster – and would prevent students from learning in low-quality, unsafe environments for any longer than necessary.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Eloise Vitelli
Senate Majority Leader, Senate District 24
All of Sagadahoc County and Dresden