

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
31st Legislative Day
Friday, June 13, 2025

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

Prayer by Pastor Rick Stoops, First United Pentecostal Church, Augusta.

National Anthem by Kelli Palmer, Augusta.

Pledge of Allegiance.

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Fund Collective Bargaining Agreements with Judicial Branch Employees" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 794) (L.D. 1986)

Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** suggested and ordered printed.

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

Under suspension of the rules and **WITHOUT REFERENCE** to a Committee, the Bill was **READ TWICE** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** in concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Establish a Program to Assist Residents of Large Recovery Residences"

(H.P. 138) (L.D. 215)

PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-645) in the House on June 11, 2025.

Came from the Senate **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-645) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-369)** thereto in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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

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

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

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Good morning, Mr. Speaker. It wouldn't be the end of the week if I didn't stand up and say that we are on week 12 of a non-emergency political emergency session. So, I'm just glad we're down to the last few days and hopefully we're all done. But once again, if somebody; it doesn't look like there's an answer forthcoming, so, I will just say, if you get an answer, please let me know. Thank you.

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

PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE

Bill "An Act to Address Funding Needs for State Employees Affected by Federal Funding Disruptions" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1336) (L.D. 1988)

Sponsored by Representative GATTINE of Westbrook. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)

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

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

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

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

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

ORDERS

On motion of Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston, the following House Order: (H.O. 32)

ORDERED, that Representative Arthur L. Bell of Yarmouth be excused Jun 5 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Sally Jeane Cluchey of Bowdoinham be excused Jun 2 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Valli D. Geiger of Rockland be excused Jun 5 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Tiffany Roberts of South Berwick be excused Jun 5 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Joseph F. Underwood of Presque Isle be excused Jun 9, 10, and 11 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Nathan J. Wadsworth of Hiram be excused Jun 2 for personal reasons.

READ and PASSED.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

Expression of Legislative Sentiment Recognizing the Winthrop/Maranacook Field Hockey Team, of Winthrop

(HLS 265)

TABLED - May 22, 2025 (Till Later Today) by Representative HASENFUS of Readfield.

PENDING - **PASSAGE**.

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

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE**Divided Reports**

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Reform Net Energy Billing by Establishing Limitations on the Programs' Duration and Compensation"

(H.P. 856) (L.D. 1321)

Signed:

Senators:

LAWRENCE of York

GROHOSKI of Hancock

Representatives:

SACHS of Freeport

GEIGER of Rockland

KESSLER of South Portland

RUNTE of York

WARREN of Scarborough

WEBB of Durham

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-675)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

HARRINGTON of York

Representatives:

FOSTER of Dexter

MCINTYRE of Lowell

PAUL of Winterport

WADSWORTH of Hiram

READ.

Representative SACHS of Freeport moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on her motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

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

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

Representative **FOSTER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I stand in opposition to the pending motion.

It's well known by now that early predictions of the extra cost of net energy billing of \$130 million a year were much lower than actual, with the current number nearly \$200 million per year, predicted to reach \$240 million by the end of 2025. Mr. Speaker, some debate was heard before EUT about the true cost and whether ratepayers are benefitting from things they don't actually see financially offsetting what they do see in their bills each month. The PUC, the OPA and the GEO presented numbers from reports they had paid consultants to provide after researching all aspects of the cost versus gain of NEB all rests on what folks are spending each month, seeing in their electric bills, to support net energy billing.

This bill, LD 1321, seeks to save approximately \$103 million a year that is now part of that \$180-90 million we currently see and is expected to go to 240. That's only 43% of what NEB is currently costing ratepayers in Maine. The intent here is to address the successive costs that we placed on Maine ratepayers in 2019, while doing little or nothing the last few years to help relieve that burden. It's time to make some changes, which LD 1321 will do in the various sections of Statute it will affect.

LD 1321; sorry, Mr. Speaker, pages are out of order. LD1321 addresses the kilowatt-hours allowed for NEB projects to continue. It also, those projects will have to pay in the kilowatt-hour program for transmission and delivery costs on the kilowatt-hour credits that they have banked and only when they use them. They will still not be charged for T&D charges when sending their extra kilowatt-hours to the grid, and they will still realize the retail rate for those kilowatt-hours, not wholesale rate. This will help to fund the transmission infrastructure we all use and relieve some of their subsidy other ratepayers are currently funding. Most of the many rooftop solar owners I've talked with or shared emails with over the last two or three years were okay with this once they understood how the current program works. Their biggest concern was losing their net energy billing capability, with lapsing credits coming in a close second.

Mr. Speaker, this would alleviate the situation we now see and brought forward before the EUT Committee of Fox Island, a small COU where so many financially able to do so have burdened the remaining ratepayers in that small district with their T&D costs. That Fox Island group came to us at EUT asking for us to help with that situation. This bill would help do that.

The next change that I have in store in this bill would reduce qualifying projects from one megawatt to 500 kilowatts, which at least one solar developer I talked to told me his last project was about three acres, that size. This keeps Maine well above the project cap now in Massachusetts, which was recently raised last year to 25 kilowatts. It maintains most, if not all, rooftop or backyard behind-the-meter solar projects. The current one megawatt limit allows a continued growth of net energy billing that is not sustainable. This came to light when I read an email solar company ad wanting me to join and proclaiming they are now going after all the one megawatt projects they can find. This section also reduces the number of customers for a project to 10 and the number of projects a customer may have an interest in to five.

For both the NEB and tariff rate programs, LD 1321 would set the termination date of the NEB benefit for a project to 20 years after the execution of an agreement, or December 31, 2045, whichever comes first. It also, the tariff rate in NEB projects would be affected by requiring the NEB project's renewable energy credits to be sold in Maine. Although this won't directly lower NEB costs, it should lower consumer costs. It's estimated for each dollar reduction in REC costs, it would;

because these RECs would now stay in the State of Maine and be retired here; Maine consumers would realize about eight million dollars in savings. Again, each reduction in the cost of a REC of one dollar would save eight million dollars to consumers. That may be at your grocery store, who maybe is participating in a program buying RECs, so that they can use that to claim green energy, or it may be because their electric rate goes down a bit because a natural gas generator in Maine is buying those RECs to offset the use of that hydrocarbon.

It would also remove from the tariff rate program 75% of the T&D rate that's in that compensation program for a net energy billing participant in that program with a distributed generation resource. It sets the tariff rate for an NEB distributed generator customer by doing so at the standard offer of the rate class of the consumer receiving the credit on December 31, 2020. Now, this is not wholesale; this is the standard offer rate. And there is a risk to this because, as we know, just a few short years ago when natural gas prices went up, the standard offer went up to nearly 20 cents a kilowatt-hour.

LD 1321 also provides a new offramp for any net energy billing or tariff rate project whereby the PUC may set the amount of compensation, providing the project owner with a reasonable rate of return. This is similar to what was proposed as part of LD 1347 in the 131st Legislature, which was voted down in the Other Body. The opportunity that was placed in Statute as part of LD 1986, passed by the 131st Legislature, offering developers the ability to move from NEB to long-term contracts at a bid price acceptable to the PUC is retained, keeping it as an option should a project wish to pursue it. So, a project that feels that previous changes that I've mentioned are too much for them can select one of those so-called offramps to move into a different program.

Mr. Speaker, as with past attempts at reducing the costs of net energy billing for Maine ratepayers, we'll once again hear that we cannot now change what was done by the Legislature in the summer of 2019. Of course, we know that's not true. Unlike the contracts bid by grid-scale solar companies or fixed contracts starting at a few pennies a kilowatt-hour, a new Legislature can certainly change the parameters of NEB in Statute, just as was done by the 129th Legislature with LD 1711.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the former Representative, the Honorable Seth Berry, appeared before our Committee to testify on a different matter, and at the end of his testimony, he did, on mic, say that something needs to be done about net energy billing and the cost to Maine ratepayers. And later on in an email to me, and I'm sure he wouldn't mind me saying this, he did mention that solar developers at the time LD 1711 passed knew very well that the Legislature could change this in the future.

Mr. Speaker, we'll also hear about the many Maine green energy jobs that will be lost if we make these changes. That's contrary to what I've seen the last few years as once a solar project is in place, I have not yet to see anyone working in that solar farm in my travels around the State.

Also, Sir, some will raise concerns about the poor solar developers or their investors who will be greatly affected by the reduction in their windfall profits. Now, that's a nasty term we've heard in the past associated with other producers of products we need like gasoline, pharmaceuticals, farm goods or even COVID-era toilet paper. But as I contemplate rumors of some developers who have managed to afford properties on the Maine coast, or the recent local news story of the owner of one of Maine's solar companies, a smaller solar company, just a few years ago who's now able to take a years-long sabbatical in Scandinavia while its now much larger company flourishes, other folks in Maine come to mind.

So, as you consider the fate of LD 1321, please take a moment or two to remember the many we represent with a different view of the effects of NEB. We pass by them every day. There's the retiree forced to take a part-time job at the convenience store in order to supplement their Social Security, cashing out the lunch pail union worker headed for the mill or shipyard who's supporting a family and wondering how they'll pay for college and why their electric bill has increased so much. Think about the average homeowner, maybe a born-and-raised Mainer living in the coastal home their grandparent was born in, who now, along with rising property taxes, faces higher electric bills to help pay for their well-to-do neighbors' recently installed solar panels and their free use of the transmission system they enjoy to move the extra power their system produces.

So, Mr. Speaker, it's up to this Body to decide, who do we help? Will it be those who can afford to send high-paid lobbyists here to protect their profits, or those who struggle to afford their day-to-day existence, with no extra to donate to a political campaign, only left with one thing in hand, their ballot. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope you'll join me in supporting this bill and all the citizens of Maine we represent.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Scarborough, Representative Warren.

Representative **WARREN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in support of the current motion and against LD 1321. Not because I oppose reform; I do support reform; but because this bill moves in the wrong direction to achieve what is much needed reform to the rate and design of these important but overly generous subsidies.

This bill risks undermining the very communities, businesses and working families we should be prioritizing in our transition to clean energy. Let's be clear, though: Maine's net energy billing program does need reform. We need reforms that put energy justice at the center, that lower energy burden for working families and small businesses. Reform that recognizes the disproportionate burden high energy costs place on low- and moderate-income households, renters, manufacturers and municipalities. Reform that ensures our clean energy transition lifts up everyone, not just those who can afford large up-front investments. We must also acknowledge that the current energy system, both with and without net energy billing, has not fully delivered affordable, equitable access to clean energy for every Mainer. Our work must focus on how to accelerate that access and that generation while keeping bills affordable for everyone. But LD 1321, I regret, goes too far and critically, it moves us in a way that actually threatens to increase costs for many of the very groups we're trying to help.

This bill as drafted fails to distinguish between those who are cost causers in our system and those who actually reduce costs and bring value. Many of the projects currently operating under net energy billing, particularly municipally hosted projects, school district arrays and community solar projects, small commercial systems, are not the cost causers. They are delivering substantial system benefits that outweigh costs in any way you would choose to analyze these programs. They reduce peak demand, reduce transmission costs, bring energy production closer to load, incentivize local grid resilience and stabilize long-term power supply costs for towns, schools and small businesses that otherwise face volatile wholesale market prices. Yet under LD 1321, these projects are placed at the same clear existential risk. More than that, this bill provides no future for distributed generation. You will see no successful program to protect the economical value of distributed generation or provide a viable investment path for future generation.

We must also talk more broadly about environmental justice. Low-income households, front-line communities and small businesses have often been left out of the clean energy transition, and this transition must work for them. The cooperatively owned solar arrays, the small municipally hosted project, the school district installations have allowed renters, seniors and small businesses, people who have traditionally had the least access to clean energy, to finally participate. This is outside of what I feel is sort of a punishing of rooftop solar investments, which are often investments made at great personal sacrifice, to be the change Maine needs to see at this critical time of great energy transition.

It is not simply a values-based proposition, my defense of these projects and designs. These projects provide real savings to homeowners and local taxpayers, allow towns to stabilize budgets and help manufacturers keep costs down, so they can remain competitive and employ Maine workers. We cannot claim to be advancing economic justice while simultaneously fundamentally dismantling programs whole-cloth that have allowed these groups to access local, affordable clean energy for the first time. And Mr. Speaker, none of these are easy decisions. They are extremely hard, and they should be. We are grappling with the fundamental questions of climate justice. We must take to this values valued program with thoughtful nuanced and values-based changes.

It is also important to ground ourselves in the reality of our recent energy history. Since before the current Chief Executive's administration took office, net energy billing has been the only driver of new solar generation in Maine. So, the notion of grid-scale solar is so fundamental, but we have seen none of it, while NEB has allowed a path for generation. Outside of NEB, we have seen little to no new solar generation built to meet our ambitious clean energy targets, period. And yet, responsible, meaningful, active reform is necessary. These are overly generous subsidies all Maine people cannot continue to be burdened with as these costs continue to grow. But a responsible reform would protect the credibility and viability of distributed generation. It would achieve meaningful savings to all of Maine ratepayers. It would create pathways for continued municipal, cooperative and small commercial participation that delivers system benefits and local savings. It would strengthen consumer protections and reduce cross subsidies without eliminating value-producing projects. It would protect access to savings for low-income households and renters. It would ensure a future for this generation design that indisputably provides ratepayers long-term system benefits. And it would recognize that not all kilowatt-hours are created equal. Location, timing and avoided costs matter.

Mr. Speaker, we are all committed to lowering energy costs for Maine families. We are committed to environmental justice. We are committed to an energy transition that is fair, equitable and economically responsible. But if we pass LD 1321 in its current form, we risk abandoning those principles. We risk harming municipalities, schools, working families, small businesses and manufacturing facilities, precisely the groups that are providing value, not driving costs.

I would urge my colleagues to oppose this bill in its current form. Let us consider, rather, a reform that puts energy justice at the center, with protection for those that deserve it, meaningful consideration to those who are already helping us build a more resilient, affordable and equitable energy system for Maine people while addressing the serious costs that this program has borne on us all. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Freeport, Representative Sachs.

Representative **SACHS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be brief, but I will start with the words from the Governor's Energy Office that labeled LD 1231, or described it as 'unacceptably and irresponsibly blunt.' I would agree. I will just briefly highlight a few of the concerns that I have with LD 1321.

Number one, the retroactive changes that are described within the bill. Perhaps the Good Representative from Dexter did have these conversations one-on-one with individual homeowners; not one of them came before the Committee, Mr. Speaker, to say they supported those changes. In fact, we had hours of testimony from small businesses, municipalities, your neighbors, that this level of disruption would be devastating.

Number two, the requirement that all NEB projects sell their renewable energy credits within the State might sound like a small change, but it's really a big deal. As we heard with another bill before us that stripping the owners of their ability to retain their credits or sell them on broader markets, limiting that flexibility potentially violates the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution and depresses the value of all RECs in Maine.

Third, the problematic off-ramp which lets the PUC have a new compensation rate just all of a sudden with a, quote, 'reasonable rate of return' does nothing but inject chaos into a process where there are hundreds of projects with unique owners, with different financing. As those cases proceed, especially for personal rooftop projects, this could lead to ensuing personal default.

And finally, the savings claimed by LD 1321 were never independently verified. Other proposals that will come before us have that independent verification; this one does not. Most remarkably, the nonpartisan Public Advocate's office, who has been critical of NEB program in the past, does not support LD 1321. Colleagues, the changes to the NEB program are needed. The majority of the Committee believes this. But this is not the vehicle. It is overly broad, legally questionable, administratively unworkable and economically harmful. I urge this Body to support the pending motion. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Ought Not to Pass Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 467

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Frost, Gattine, Hall, Lavigne.

Yes, 75; No, 70; Absent, 4; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 70 voted in the negative, with 4 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-676)** on Bill "An Act Regarding the Regulation of Tobacco"

(H.P. 1297) (L.D. 1938)

Signed:

Senator:

INGWERSEN of York

Representatives:

MEYER of Eliot
DEBRITO of Waterville
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth
MCCABE of Lewiston
SHAGOURY of Hallowell
ZAGER of Portland

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

Signed:

Senator:

MOORE of Washington

Representatives:

DAIGLE of Fort Kent
GRIFFIN of Levant
JAVNER of Chester
LEMELIN of Chelsea

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-676)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-676)** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-671)** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Manufactured Housing Communities to Prevent Excessive Rent and Fees Increases" (H.P. 1150) (L.D. 1723)

Signed:

Senators:

CURRY of Waldo
BAILEY of York
BENNETT of Oxford

Representatives:

GERE of Kennebunkport
EDER of Waterboro
GOLEK of Harpswell
JULIA of Waterville
MALON of Biddeford
ROBERTS of South Berwick
WALKER of Naples

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

Signed:

Representatives:

COLLAMORE of Pittsfield
MINGO of Calais

READ.

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

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

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

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

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this bill will expand the Manufactured Housing Board to 13 members from its nine. It will remove the appointment by the Chief Executive and splits it between the Chief Executive and the Senate President and the Speaker. It also removes the Chief Executive's ability to remove a member for cause.

While I'm not opposed to the definitions section that this added, it adds; because I believe we don't do a good enough job having definitions in our Statutes; I am opposed to the appointment changes and to Section 10 of the bill, which I call the 'rent control section.' This will place a 10% limit increase on base rent and a 10% limit base fees increase over a four-year period. And that is the base rent and fees are established on October 1st of this year. So, basically, if the property owner's taxes, utility bills, fees for plowing, sand/salt in the winter or mowing in the summer increases by 20% over a four-year period, they can't simply raise their rent to that 20%; they have to go through an appeal process with the Manufactured Housing Board for permission to increase their rent for those costs that they are losing.

This goes against property owner rights and has so many consequences that were also brought up in our work sessions and during the public hearings, including property owners raising their rent now, so that they can avoid having a low base rent in those areas that they may not be able to keep up with changes from this Body and from municipalities. Also, we also heard that there's potential for this to change the properties to

campgrounds, where they can earn all of their money over the summer and then they don't have to worry about it. There's also a potential for; and they have to file a one-year notice that they're going to change the use; but they could also subdivide all of the property, reducing the amount of homes that are in these communities, so that they can ensure that each has its own lot, own division, and then isn't considered a community and they can raise their rent at will. Personally, Mr. Speaker, what I see happening is more of these Maine-owned companies will be sold to out-of-state companies that can actually eat these costs that rent control will require that they eat.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think that, while well intentioned and we're trying to ensure that these lots are affordable for our citizens, we may be looking at more out-of-state equity companies buying them instead of keeping them Maine-owned. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Harpswell, Representative Golek.

Representative **GOLEK**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. From what I just heard, I think that we're talking about the original bill and not the Amendment that was put in after great collaboration and cooperation from both parties. We came to a bipartisan compromise.

So, I don't know if the Amendment needs to be read or not, but the people that were in the room, anyways, from the Manufactured Housing Board and the Manufactured Housing Association, and I just want to say that the original bill at the public hearing for us who was there for the public hearing, there was overwhelming support for it in its originality. But we compromised. I would like people to look at the Divided Report, so that they could see who supported this on the Committee. But I also want to say that this is a bill that doesn't just affect one town or Democratic town. People who supported this bill signed letters in support, hand signed them: Berwick, 38; Biddeford, 25; Bowdoinham, 45; Brunswick, 233; Norridgewock, 22; Sanford, 51; Wells, 36; Standish, 128; Waterford, 95; Alfred, 186 and Lyman, 85.

This is an extremely important bill. I didn't prepare much more than that, because I didn't think that we would be debating it, where there was so much overwhelming support from both parties for this bill. Thank you.

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

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Looking at the Amended version of the bill and it talks about requests for mediation and if the dollar amount of the proposed lot rent increase is above the allowed lot rent increase or the dollar amount of the proposed fee increase is above the allowed fee increase for the type of fee increase, owners of the manufactured home in the housing community may request the proposed lot rent fee or fee increase be subject to mediation. I'm wondering, since they moved part of the rent control part of the bill, what would be an allowable increase, how is that defined? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Kennebunkport, Representative Gere.

Representative **GERE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And when the Amendment basically requires notice by the mobile home park owner of lot rent increase and if that increase is more than one percentage point above the CPI and if 51% of tenants vote, they can request mediation, which will be paid for by the landlord. A very simple bill and it will really allow some good conversations to happen in these situations. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 468

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eder, Faircloth, Farrin, Foley, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Walker, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Henderson, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Frost, Hall, Hymes, Lavigne.

Yes, 78; No, 67; Absent, 4; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

78 having voted in the affirmative and 67 voted in the negative, with 4 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-671)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-671)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-672)** on Bill "An Act to Ensure Affordability and Stability in Housing for Mobile Home Park Residents"

(H.P. 1184) (L.D. 1765)

Signed:

Senators:

CURRY of Waldo
BAILEY of York
BENNETT of Oxford

Representatives:

GERE of Kennebunkport
EDER of Waterboro
GOLEK of Harpswell
JULIA of Waterville
MALON of Biddeford
ROBERTS of South Berwick
WALKER of Naples

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

Signed:

Representatives:

COLLAMORE of Pittsfield
MINGO of Calais

READ.

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

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

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

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

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this bill as Amended will make it much harder for our manufactured housing communities to obtain their licensure and be able to stay licensed and also increase and decrease their rent, since the new requirements of the application of licensing would require that they list the minimum and maximum lot rental that's in effect when they're applying for the application. So, does that mean they have to reapply for the application every time they increase their rent? Does that mean that they have to amend it, go to the licensing board every time they want to change that? It does make it a little bit more complex, and I think less people are going to be willing to start these manufactured housing communities if we impose something like that. It also will require that they list all of the common expenses, and it doesn't really verify what the common expenses are, except to list pet fees and vehicle fees.

But I'm really concerned, because it's not clear if you're allowed to raise your rent from your license, whether or not they are going to have to reapply for licensure every time they have to change their rent amount. So, it kind of feels like it's a way of doing rent control without doing rent control, and it makes it very uneasy for our manufactured housing communities to even want to continue to expand. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Kennebunkport, Representative Gere.

Representative **GERE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, with all due respect to my Colleague from Pittsfield, LD 1765 really just does two key things. One is that it improves the licensing application process to the Manufactured Housing Board, so that they have all the information they need to know who owns the park, how many lots are licensed, *et cetera*. And it also empowers municipalities by directing the Office of Policy Innovation and the Future to work to create model ordinances and strategies for better governing mobile home parks in their municipality.

So, it really is a great information bill and should give us some really good tools for municipalities moving forward. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 469

YEA - Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eder, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Walker, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Abdi, Frost, Gattine, Hall, Lavigne.

Yes, 75; No, 69; Absent, 5; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 69 voted in the negative, with 5 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-672)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-672)** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting
Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"
(H-678) on Bill "An Act Regarding Speedy Trials"
(H.P. 240) (L.D. 340)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth
LEE of Auburn
O'HALLORAN of Brewer
PUGH of Portland
SATO of Gorham
SINCLAIR of Bath

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

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

BABIN of Fort Fairfield
CARUSO of Caratunk
HENDERSON of Rumford
POIRIER of Skowhegan

READ.

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

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

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

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

Representative **MOONEN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr.
Speaker, Colleagues of the House, I rise today as the Sponsor
of this bill.

The Sixth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution reads as
follows: "In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy
the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the
State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed,
which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and
to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be
confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory
process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the
Assistance of Counsel for his defense." In recent years, this
Legislature has been very focused on efforts to fulfill that last
clause of the Sixth Amendment, which obligates us to provide
an attorney to those who can't afford one, and rightly so. But I
would argue that we are consistently failing to meet our
obligation in the first clause of the Sixth Amendment, the one
requiring a speedy trial.

The right to a speedy trial is in our Constitution because
our nation's founders recognized the fundamental harms
caused by long delays awaiting trial, including harms that come
with long incarceration and the loss of liberty, the breakdown of
families, the ability to support oneself, self-worth, self-
determination. The anxiety and reputational harm of unresolved
charges, even if not incarcerated. The impairment of the ability
to present a defense, including the fading of witness memories.
The impairment of prosecution due to the passage of time, which
can impact their ability to present their case. And pain and

uncertainty for victims who must wait an indeterminable amount
of time for the resolution of a case.

The Maine Constitution mirrors the federal Constitution by
guaranteeing that everyone accused of a crime will, quote,
"have a speedy, public and impartial trial," closed quote.
Unfortunately, the reality is that this is a right on paper, but not
in practice. Because until recently, our State courts had not
found a violation of the speedy trial right since 1960. In fact, our
courts have found delays of even multiple years did not violate
the speedy trial right. This is likely because the constitutional
right to a speedy trial has no specific or enforceable timelines
for trial. As a result, no one is sure exactly what speedy means,
which makes it hard to prove that the State is failing to provide
for a speedy trial.

In order to make sure this constitutional right is more than
just words, we need to pass a Statute that makes it real. The
federal government has done this by enacting the federal
Speedy Trial Act. Forty-one other states have also enacted
state Speedy Trial Acts. Which, of course, means that Maine is
an outlier as one of just nine remaining states with no Statute
defining what constitutes a speedy trial. The Maine Supreme
Judicial Court recognized this problem and invited the
Legislature to fix it in its 2023 decision in the case of *Winchester*
v. State of Maine. Mr. Speaker, we should take action and
provide for enforceable timelines, specific exceptions and bright
line rules for prosecutors and defendants to follow.

The specifics of this bill are based on the best features of
bills from other states as well as the federal Speedy Trial Law.
This bill is also the product of significant work during the 131st
Legislature, when I originally introduced a bill on this topic, and
incorporates all of the compromises made to address
stakeholder concerns. The Chief Justice of the Maine Supreme
Judicial Court took the original bill that I introduced and rewrote
it in a way that would work for the Judicial Branch. I very much
appreciate her work and her support.

The Attorney General's Office expressed concerns last
Session about the time it can take to prosecute murder, and the
bill before you has a longer timeline for prosecuting the most
serious offenses, murder and Class A crimes, than any other
state in the country with a Speedy Trial Law. I just want to
reiterate; if we pass this, we would have the longest timeline in
the country for prosecuting those most serious crimes.

The prosecutors proposed many language changes. The
bill before you reflects the agreement we were able to reach on
most, but not all, of their suggestions. The Maine Coalition to
End Domestic Violence weighed in, and we included their
proposed edits to ensure that victim participation remains intact
in this process. The Criminal Law Advisory Commission
weighed in on the concept, and the bill before you reflects
changes based on their feedback. The Maine Association of
Criminal Defense Lawyers suggested some clarifying language
that we incorporated, though I do understand that they wish for
other changes that we did not make.

Just to break down the timelines a little bit, for the most
serious offenses, murder and Class A crimes, this bill would say
that trial must commence within two years. As I mentioned, this
is longer than any other state in the country allows. For all other
levels of crime, the bill sets out three separate dates at which
the timeline will change to give stakeholders the chance to
gradually ramp up to a final timeline. For those charged with a
Class B or C crime, they must be brought to trial within 15
months of arraignment starting in 2027, within 12 months in
2029 and within nine months in 2031. For those charged with
class D and E crimes, often referred to as 'misdemeanors,' trial
must commence within 12 months of arraignment starting in

2027, nine months in 2029, and six months in 2031. The purpose of these timelines is to ensure that the government does not delay trial, but the bill recognizes that a defendant may seek delays in order to prepare their defense, and this bill does not count delays caused by the defendant against the time that the government is allowed.

Finally, I want to address what might be at the top of mind for many of us as we contemplate this, which is how to deal with something like this while the courts are still facing a backlog of cases. The backlog has come down significantly in the last few years. I know we're all happy about that. There's a little bit further to go to get back to pre-pandemic levels with the backlog, but the courts are certainly on their way. I am hopeful that the additional resources we have provided to them will continue to help make progress on that backlog, but I would also argue that the backlog is exactly why we should be legislating on this issue. People in Maine are waiting years to go to trial, and that is unfair, unconstitutional and unacceptable. The State bears the responsibility of bringing the people it charges to trial speedily, and if it can't do that, it has to reprioritize and reallocate resources. That could mean exercising prosecutorial discretion differently or it could mean putting more resources into prosecution, the courts and criminal defense, but it cannot mean forcing people accused of crimes or their victims to wait years until their cases are adjudicated.

A Speedy Trial Act with concrete timelines will help with this problem. Prosecutors, defense attorneys and the courts will know the required timelines for trial, will know what kinds of delays are excusable and will know the remedy for not meeting the deadlines. This will incentivize courts and prosecutors to prioritize and devote resources to those cases that must be moved and ultimately might result in the dismissal of lower-level cases that are not prioritized. I would just point out that Justice Souter in the U.S. Supreme Court decision in *Doggett v. United States* articulated very well that the government's, quote, "persistent neglect in concluding a criminal prosecution indicates an uncommonly feeble interest in bringing an accused to justice," closed quote.

As things stand now, people are waiting years for their day in court. It's not fair for anyone; not just the defendants, but also the victims and their families, who have to wait years to see that justice is done. It is not an easy thing to produce a bill that satisfies all of the interested parties: the Judicial Branch, the Attorney General's Office, victim advocates, prosecutors, defense attorneys and the ACLU of Maine. This bill does not make everyone completely happy, but it is a middle ground where all sides have given a little in order to see the promises of the Constitution made real. I ask for your support, and I thank you for your time.

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

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

LD 340 imposes stringent timelines for trials. We all know that we don't have enough attorneys in Maine. This haste may result in the overlooking of crucial evidence, the failure to interview key witnesses or the inability to mount a comprehensive defense, all of which are fundamental to ensuring a fair trial.

Maine's public defender system is already under significant strain. The introduction of a rigid trial timeline could exacerbate the issue. Rather than facilitating justice, LD 340 might overwhelm an already overburdened system, leading to burnout among defenders and potentially jeopardizing the quality of defense provided to indigent clients. If proper

representation is not available, accused may never have to answer for their alleged crimes.

While the bill's proponents argue that expediting trials will reduce court backlogs and associated cost, the reality may be a little bit more complex. Implementing the necessary infrastructure to support speedy trial incurs significant expenses, including 12 additional Assistant District Attorneys, two forensic scientists, four DNA forensic analysts, two forensic chemists and even an expansion to the crime lab to accommodate the additional staff and equipment. That equates to over \$10 million out of the General Fund and the Highway Fund in the next four years.

Mr. Speaker, I'm sure that we can all agree that justice should be served quickly and fairly, but this bill isn't the answer. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 470

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lanigan, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Frost, Hall, Lavigne.

Yes, 77; No, 69; Absent, 3; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

77 having voted in the affirmative and 69 voted in the negative, with 3 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-678)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-678)** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-679)** on Bill "An Act to Prohibit Eminent Domain on Tribal Lands"

(H.P. 617) (L.D. 958)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth
CARUSO of Caratunk
LEE of Auburn
POIRIER of Skowhegan
PUGH of Portland
SATO of Gorham
SINCLAIR of Bath

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

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

BABIN of Fort Fairfield
HENDERSON of Rumford
O'HALLORAN of Brewer

Representative DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe - of the House - supports the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-679)** Report.

READ.

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

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

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

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

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the pending motion.

Mr. Speaker, this bill addresses a critical issue, the continual vulnerability of tribal lands to eminent domain actions that can undermine the sovereignty, self-determination and cultural integrity of Maine's tribes. By enacting this legislation, the State of Maine has an opportunity to demonstrate leadership in protecting the rights of Indigenous peoples and upholding commitments made through the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act and the Mi'kmaq Restoration Act.

For the Passamaquoddy, Penobscot and other tribes in Maine, this land is integral to their cultural practices, spiritual beliefs and economic well-being. Any loss of land, whether through eminent domain or other means, not only diminishes their physical presence, but also erodes their ability to practice their traditions and sustain their communities. This bill aligns with the principles of self-determination. The ability to control and protect their lands is a fundamental right to tribal nations. The bill ensures that any actions that may affect tribal land must respect the principles of consultation, consent and compensation. This approach is consistent with federal Indian

law and has been recognized in numerous legal documents that emphasize the importance of trial sovereignty and land management.

Mr. Speaker, the land in this bill is defined; it's not in question. It is a geographical area with known borders. There are roughly 2.6 million acres in our beautiful State. The land defined in this bill is roughly 200,000 acres, less than 0.9% of the State.

In a free society, land is owned by the people, not the government. Ron Paul said, our biggest current battle is to restrain the eminent domain enthusiasts at all levels of government. The Fifth Amendment was written more to assure that land taken by the government was adequately paid for than it was to give the right of the government to confiscate property at will. This assumption was based on the fact that it was known that governments traditionally do take land at will from private owners. But too often, governments didn't pay fair value for it. It's actually impossible to precisely define 'just compensation' as the Constitution requires. Values are established subjectively, not by some estimate made by a government agent based on recent sales in the area or some other scheme. Land or a home may have a special value to its owner. It might've been in a family for a long time. The owners may have emotional attachments to the homes or property for sentimental reasons, and to them it has a value far above what the government decides. Pure and simple, eminent domain is government force used to empower the State or help communities as a whole at the expense of individuals. Motivations are generally well intended to provide road easements, utility easements or parks. Requests for government to pay fair value for land taken date back to the early Roman law that were recognized in the Magna Carta in 1215. Recently, this device has become an instrument not to serve the 'public' but to serve special interests.

It's there that I would pause and say special interests, like maybe perhaps windmill construction, maybe the expansion of a road through a place like Sipayik, so that giant windmills that can fill our beautiful ocean can be driven through with land that the government will seize from the tribes there.

The Fifth Amendment was written assuming the government would take property only for 'public use,' never for someone else's private benefit. Today's corporations and private businesses ask local governments to condemn land in order to resell it to them. The promise is that the land value will go up, the businesses will pay more taxes, the municipality will benefit and the new businesses will earn more money with its new, preferable location. Sounds like a good idea, except for the individual who is forced to sell the land and lose his/her property ownership. This is a modern distortion and abuse of the principle of eminent domain. If anything, we should be moving in the opposite direction which makes it more difficult to impose eminent domain for the purpose of 'public' use. We should not be allowing it for the benefit of some special interests. A clear understanding of the right to own private property is crucial in maintaining a free society. Without this, a free society cannot exist.

Vote in favor of the pending motion, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **FREDETTE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I rise in opposition to the current motion.

And while I respect the good words of the Representative from Winter Harbor, the specific bill before us applies; it's really, it's not just an eminent domain issue; it's an eminent domain issue as it regards to tribal lands. And I think most of us know,

and I certainly don't want to drag on about the right of eminent domain, the processes that we have in our Constitution, in our Statutes to address issues when land can potentially be taken by eminent domain. The issue that I have with this particular bill is that as it relates to specifically to tribal lands.

I have worked in the past with the tribal communities on different projects, different aspects, but as it regards to this specific right and it relates to this specific land, I cannot support this measure, because I believe the issue is an issue to some degree less about eminent domain than it is about tribal sovereignty. And while I respect, obviously, the rights of tribal sovereignty, none of us sort of exist sort of within our construct within this country of absolute sovereignty. Our states are not absolute sovereign from our federal government, our towns are not absolute sovereign from the State and the reality is that the tribes are not absolutely sovereign from the State of Maine. We have this complex, odd relationship, and the reality is, is that to some extent, this bill is a bill in search of a problem.

There's no issue out there today that says we would like to take a piece of land from the Penobscot Nation, and we want to take it by eminent domain. There's nothing out there that's saying this, and so, this bill would create a prohibition when there is no issue, when there is no problem today. And my contention would be, Mr. Speaker, is that what we don't know is what we don't know. What we don't know five years from now, 10 years from now, 30 years from now, we don't know what might happen. What would we as a State, for the best interest of the State, require a sliver of a piece of land? I don't know the answer to that, and I suspect that even if the State were going to attempt to take a piece of tribal land by eminent domain, it would be sufficiently litigated, frankly, for years, before that were to happen. And so, I think this is a bill that's in search of a problem. I don't think that it is good to create a situation where we're creating a sovereign within a sovereign. I think even Quebec, when they even attempted to separate from Canada, sort of created this relationship where they work within each other and recognize the importance of each other's cultures and values.

And so, I don't believe that this is; I don't think that it's the right bill for protecting the rights of Maine people, and I mean everybody that lives in the State, the Native Americans as well as everybody else. And so, I just think it's a bill that's in search of a problem and maybe more about eminent domain. If we don't like eminent domain, we don't like eminent domain, but it exists and there are processes to deal with that.

So, I will be voting against the measure, and I'd ask you to follow my light. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I'll be brief.

To my Colleague from Newport who said that there is no threat to the tribes of eminent domain, I would respond with one word: yet. We have only to look at history to see that that is true.

I rise in support of this bill, because at its core, this bill is about property rights and the proper limits of government power. The right to control your own land free from the threat of government seizure is a principle that most Mainers hold dear. That principle should apply just as strongly to the sovereign tribal nations within our State. These lands are not just legal boundaries, they are cultural, historic and spiritual homelands. The idea that the State could override that through eminent domain runs counter to our shared values of liberty, respect for property and limited government.

This legislation doesn't give anyone special treatment; it simply affirms that sovereign nations should not be subject to the kind of government overreach that many of us would oppose in any other context. So, let's stand for consistency, for fairness and for restraint. I urge a yes vote.

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

Representative **KUHN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to just add to the conversation that this is a protection that is already afforded to almost all other federally recognized tribes, as taking tribal land without consultation is against federal policy. The 1980 Settlement Acts have resulted in the Wabanaki Nations being excluded from these federal protections. This bill ensures fairness, respects sovereignty and prevents future injustices, and it recognizes the fundamental principle that the Wabanaki Nations are sovereign governments with an inherent power to regulate their territories.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from the Passamaquoddy Tribe, Representative Dana.

Representative **DANA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Members of the House. I rise today in strong support of LD 958, a bill that upholds one of the most sacred principles we all value, regardless of party: the right to private property and protection from government outreach.

At its heart, LD 958 is simple. It prohibits the use of eminent domain to seize federally protected tribal trust lands. That means that the State of Maine or any subdivision of it cannot take what little remains of Wabanaki territory under the guise of so-called 'public benefit.' And that principle that the government should not be allowed to take what they do not own is a value I know many of my colleagues here share. It's a Maine value.

For centuries, the Passamaquoddy, Penobscot, Mi'kmaq and Maliseet have watched our lands be stripped away piece by piece through legal maneuvering, broken treaties and unchecked government authority. Today, the Wabanaki people retain only 1.6% of our ancestral lands here in Maine. One point six, Mr. Speaker. And yet, we are still here, still protecting what we have left.

How much more of our traditional lands can be taken from the people in the guise of the greater good? What can 1.6% really do for 1.4 million people during economic disparity? The idea that the State could step in and seize federally recognized trust land is an affront not just to tribal sovereignty, but to the values of limited government and the respect for jurisdictional boundaries that I know many in these Chambers have long stood for.

An argument that was used in opposition of the bill asked about commercial need to benefit Maine's greater good, but eminent domain should never be used for commercial profit. It was meant for true public needs, not to take land rightfully owned for private gain. Protecting against this abuse does not just defend tribal lands; it's a step forward and opens the door to protect all private landowners from government outreach.

Let me say this with clarity: This land is not a surplus, it is not for sale and it is not for taking any longer. All of the other tribal nations' lands in this country are protected from eminent domain under federal law to protect what traditional territories they have left for usage. Yet here in Maine, tribal nations are still treated as wards of the State and are under State of Maine rule rather than sovereign governments. No governments, no counties, no municipalities are subject to the level of oversight and control that we, the Wabanaki Nations, face under current law. That's not equality; that's control, and it's long past time we call it what it is: Un-American. To say the least, Mr. Speaker.

I know many of my colleagues here today believe deeply in the Constitution, in liberty and in local self-governance. That's exactly what LD 958 defends. This bill isn't just about tribal lands, it's about standing up to the unnecessary State authority where it does not belong, and it is about sending a message that here in Maine, we protect the peoples' rights, not government power grabs. We don't have to be; you don't have to be Native to understand this, you just have to believe in fairness, in freedom and the promise that our government should serve the people, not control them. This is the reason why we have a Constitution.

Let's come together not as partisans, but as leaders and do what is right. I ask you to vote yes on LD 958, defend private property, defend limited government and honor sovereign Wabanaki Nations. *Komac woliwon*. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **UNDERWOOD**: I have a question. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a question regarding Native lands. Was the native; all lands north of here, specifically on either side of I-95 or Route 1 in Aroostook County, north or south, are there any lands that these particular highways run through included in the 19; I believe it was 1988 or '89 Land Claims Settlement? If anybody knows of any; what those land claims settlement covered, I'd appreciate it if they could let us know. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from the Passamaquoddy Tribe, Representative Dana.

Representative **DANA**: I'd like to give an answer to that question posed by fellow Representative from Presque Isle.

U.S. Route 1 drives straight through Passamaquoddy lands and was used for eminent domain before the 19; Land Claims Settlement Act. Nothing specifically in the 19 Settlement Act was used for roads or highways, because all the roads and highways here in the State of Maine were already pre-established. U.S. Route 190 runs straight through the heart of our reservation land in Sipayik and as well as the Houlton Band of Maliseets originally was U.S. Route 1 until they were pushed further back into where they are now existing just off U.S. Route 1.

So, and another question that was posed earlier was, when has eminent domain ever been used in current times, but eminent domain was going to possibly be used during current times during; trying to pose where they were going to put the offshore wind project, and that would've been straight through the heart of Sipayik in Eastport-Perry way, which was U.S. Route 190, and they would've had to do some major provisions to that road to make it usable if that site was chosen.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to answer the question from the Representative from Presque Isle.

There are; I-95 does not run through any lands that are in this bill, and all current State road easements that already go through any land that are in this bill remain.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 471

YEA - Abdi, Albert, Ankeles, Archer, Ardell, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer D, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eder, Faircloth, Farrin, Faulkingham, Flynn, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfuls, Hepler, Hymes, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lanigan, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Wood S, Woodsome, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Arata, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Henderson, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P.

ABSENT - Frost, Hall, Lavigne.

Yes, 86; No, 60; Absent, 3; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

86 having voted in the affirmative and 60 voted in the negative, with 3 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-679)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-679)** and sent for concurrence.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will make very clear that I will not discard a vote again. So, when an item comes up on the screen, and if you want to speak to the item, please get in queue. In this case, the Representative from Winter Harbor appeared in queue as I said the word 'open.' I will not discard a vote again. I'm just going to make that very clear. If you want to speak, get in queue.

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-680)** on Bill "An Act to Formalize a Process for Reviewing the Conduct of Judges and Justices"

(H.P. 1211) (L.D. 1810)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth
BABIN of Fort Fairfield
HENDERSON of Rumford
LEE of Auburn
O'HALLORAN of Brewer
PUGH of Portland
SATO of Gorham
SINCLAIR of Bath

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

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

CARUSO of Caratunk
POIRIER of Skowhegan

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-680)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-680)** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Majority Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-677)** on Bill "An Act to Provide Compensation to Individuals with Lived Experience Serving on Advisory Boards, Commissions, Councils and Similar Groups"

(H.P. 1024) (L.D. 1566)

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot
BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook
COPELAND of Saco
FARRIN of Jefferson
MATLACK of St. George
ROLLINS of Augusta

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

Signed:

Senator:

MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

ADAMS of Lebanon
GREENWOOD of Wales
POMERLEAU of Standish
TUELL of East Machias

READ.

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Wales, Representative Greenwood.

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

In this Body, every day, we recognize people for their volunteerism. People enjoy serving, people like being chosen to be on boards and commissions. This is going to change the motivation for service, Mr. Speaker, because it's looking to pay people to do something that currently volunteers do. Now, I have no objection to reimbursing expenses, travel, *et cetera*, but this is going to change the whole dynamic and we're going to lose that whole volunteer service mentality.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition and further request a Roll Call. Thank you.

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

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from East Machias, Representative Tuell.

Representative **TUELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And to add on to what the Representative from Wales said, we have thousands of boards and commissions, and while this; hundreds, I should say; and every Session, we get a big; well, we always used to get a big, thick folder of various boards and commissions. And while this bill, to be clear, doesn't affect all of those, we have a tendency to do onesie-twosies when we bring commissions in and when we deal with the compensation, travel, what have you, amongst them. And I believe that by passing this bill, we're setting us up to only add to that, and we truly need to be; if we're going to have such an arrangement, we're going to need to look at it across all of the boards and commissions that we have, which will come with a huge Fiscal Note, a huge Fiscal Note, we don't even know how much it would be, but it would be monstrous given that we have hundreds; and up to a thousand or more; of these various boards and who's in and who's out and what's what.

I think I would rather see a much more comprehensive look at our boards and commissions and who gets what, rather than do a bill like this which adds just another layer onto it. So, for that reason also, I'll be voting against the pending motion.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Westbrook, Representative Salisbury.

Representative **SALISBURY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, what this bill does is that going forward, if a board or commission is set up and it is indicated in that board or commission that someone with lived experience is to be on that board, they can be compensated. Because what we have found is that typically on boards and commissions, the people that are

listed to be a part of that are people that are getting paid from their current job. And then, if we add someone with lived experience, traditionally they probably aren't coming from a job where they're going to be paid, but their voice on that board or commission is probably one of the most important voice, because their experience, their knowledge and their life is probably going to be affected by the topic at hand.

So, this bill sets up a fund to allow for some compensation, whether it be meals or tolls or child care, something that will allow them to be able to participate on that board. So, it's going forward. I do agree with the Representative from East Machias that we should look at all of our boards, but that's another bill. This bill just says that going forward, if people are listed as being of lived experience, that we should be able to compensate them for that. Thank you.

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

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

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm confused on terminology here. Is this a fund or a bill that will allow people to get paid, or will require them to get paid? Thank you.

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 472

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmiersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Frost, Lavigne.

Yes, 75; No, 72; Absent, 2; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 72 voted in the negative, with 2 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-677)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-677)** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Eight Members of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** report in Report "A" **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Allow School Boards to Expel or Suspend Students Regardless of Grade Level"

(H.P. 98) (L.D. 165)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York

PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

MURPHY of Scarborough

BRENNAN of Portland

CROCKETT of Portland

DODGE of Belfast

MITCHELL of Cumberland

SARGENT of York

Four Members of the same Committee report in Report "B" **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-673)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham

HAGGAN of Hampden

LYMAN of Livermore Falls

One Member of the same Committee reports in Report "C" **Ought to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representative:

CARLOW of Buxton

READ.

Representative MURPHY of Scarborough moved that the House **ACCEPT** Report "A" **Ought Not to Pass**.

Representative LYMAN of Livermore Falls **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** Report "A" **Ought Not to Pass**.

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from East Machias, Representative Tuell.

Representative **TUELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I rise today in strong and respectful support of LD 165, "An Act to Modify Discipline Policies in Maine's Public Schools." And to be clear, I'm referring to the Amendment.

This proposal is not the product of one group or ideology. It is a result of painstaking collaboration between the Maine School Management Association, the Maine Principals' Association, the Maine Education Association and the Maine Directors of Special Education. These are our educators, school

leaders and professionals, and they're on the frontlines every single day, working to keep our schools places of learning and also places of safety, structure and care.

Now, unions and bosses don't always see eye to eye, as we've seen in here on many things this Session, but when a situation in a school such as a kindergartner undressing on the playground and going to the bathroom, or a student intentionally setting a classroom on fire takes center stage, school communities come together and put traditional differences aside. Because, while they may not always see eye to eye, they all share a collective love of the students they serve and want to do right by them.

We've heard powerful testimony from teachers all over the State, from Presque Isle to Portland, telling us that they are under siege in their own classrooms. I, like the Education Committee, sat through four hours of heart-wrenching testimony from all over this State saying the same thing on the day this bill was presented. And it's no exaggeration to say our educators are under siege.

This bill is not about punishment. It's about giving schools the ability to regroup, reassess and restore dignity and learning for every child in a classroom, including the one in crisis. This is compassion, mercy and care. LD 165 meets those lofty goals by crafting a carefully tailored, temporary and limited tool, a last resort for schools to use when all other measures have failed and when staff need just a little more time to develop an appropriate supportive reentry plan for a struggling student.

It is worth noting that the thoughtful and courageous work of the Representative from York, whose recently-signed legislation has made real progress on behavioral supports in schools, and for that, I compliment her in her efforts in getting that; another piece of legislation signed by the Chief Executive. That work laid important groundwork, and I again want to recognize the bipartisan spirit here today, because LD 165 builds upon it, ensuring that when the situation escalates beyond the capacity of immediate classroom intervention, our educators are not left emptyhanded.

Let us be clear-eyed. No one is proposing we suspend kindergartners lightly or without cause. What we are saying, what this Amendment makes clear, is that if a young student poses an imminent danger, or if administrators simply need a day or two to design the right support system, then our schools should be empowered to act responsibly; not punitively, but thoughtfully; not to push a child away, but to prepare the best way to bring him/her back into the classroom.

We talk often in this Chamber about listening to the people of Maine. Well, our teachers have spoken, our principals have spoken, our special education directors have spoken and LD 165 is us finally answering back, we hear you and we appreciate you. Mr. Speaker, we have made good progress this session. Let us take one more step. Let us give our schools one more option. Let us support LD 165. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Scarborough, Representative Murphy.

Representative **MURPHY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Colleagues of the House. I believe the Representative from East Machias and I agree that students and staff need more supports in our schools. That would go a long way to curb negative behaviors, but the research is clear: Punitive measures are ineffective at stopping bad behavior and often are applied inequitably. Suspensions harm students and families and do not make schools safer.

This bill applies to students in kindergarten through fifth grade and would allow them to be suspended for up to five days per incident with no limit on the number of incidents. It also

includes a lower threshold for those students to be suspended in the first place. Five days is three percent of a student's total instructional time for an entire school year. Removing young students from school can immediately damage and hinder their emotional and social development. Suspending or expelling young people dramatically increases their likelihood that these students will drop out before graduating from high school and experience the juvenile justice system. Children of color and those with disabilities are especially vulnerable to inappropriate use of suspensions and expulsions. In the 2021-'22 school year, preschool children with disabilities represented only 23% of enrollment, but accounted for 41% of preschool suspensions.

Behavior is communication that may be born of trauma, abuse, neglect, speech/language disorders, learning disabilities or other physical disabilities. Children experience shame and receive a message that they're unwanted and bad. Time out of school results in significant learning loss and negatively impacts short- and long-term academic success.

There's also significant economic impacts on families. With young children who are suspended repeatedly, parents must stay home from work and miss out on income.

Suspensions and expulsions were once used to address behavior of students that threatened the health and safety of others. It is now often used as a tool to address nonviolent and non-dangerous behavior. Suspensions do little to effectively correct or address the behavior of the student facing punishment. Instead, it isolates and stigmatizes the student, resulting in worsening outcomes long term. Many students at that age might not actually cognitively understand the punishment in relation to the behavior.

Mr. Speaker, punitive measures further isolate and ostracize the students, as I said, and are not effective and do much more harm than good. Thank you.

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

Representative **STROUT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I rise in opposition of the pending motion and in support of LD 165.

Just this morning, a report came out from the 2025 Kids Count data that now has Maine in the bottom 10 states for K-12 education, dropping from 37th a year ago to 41st.

I support this bill not because I want kids to be out of school, but rather I want the kids in school to be able to also receive a good education. When there are children throwing chairs across the classroom and you have to evacuate classrooms once or twice a week, that disrupts 15 kids in the classroom and their ability to learn and their want to go to school and know that maybe that is their safe place, because their home life isn't the safest place and they experience these type of actions at home. Going to school should be a safe place for them to be able to go and get an education and feel like they are doing what they can.

Nobody wants to suspend or expel any students. We would love more support. In rural Maine, we have had, from the school board that I sit on, job postings for social workers for years. We've had any opportunity that anybody wants to come to rural Maine to help fill those positions and help these students. And that's what I would like to see, is the ability for kids to succeed. And sometimes, these suspensions is an opportunity for the classroom, the teachers, the parents and the students to look and take time to find what is going to work best for those students, so everybody can move on and get a fair education. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Hampden, Representative Haggan.

Representative **HAGGAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of this bill due to personal experience.

I think it's a really important bill. I just recently retired this October from 37 years of public education as a classroom teacher and an assistant principal. I just want to assure the Body that this is an approach to keeping our schools safe and having supportive classrooms. There's a real growth lately in behavioral challenges, and as other people have spoken about, it disrupts learning and creates unsafe environments for students.

Everyone should feel safe, as I just heard from my Colleague. And I need to really emphasize: This does not promote punitive discipline. It assures a short-term suspension, but it remains as a last resort. Unfortunately, in my career, I've had to suspend some students, but it was always at the very end result and it actually turned out to be a positive thing for the family and the child, because it allows time for the school to make the best plan for that student, so that they can be successful in school. Sometimes there needs to be a little break for both.

And again, as the first speaker Representative spoke about, the collaboration, this is an amazing thing. This is my first year, and to have all of these education organizations; Maine School Management, Maine Principals' Association, Maine Administrators, Services for Children with Disabilities; all working together with the Sponsor of this bill was an amazing thing. This is such a needed bill that they were willing to come and work with us. So, please support this bill. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Livermore Falls, Representative Lyman.

Representative **LYMAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Members of the House. I guess I had more to say, but I'm just going to add that this really is a common-sense bill. It has educators that are acting thoughtfully and strategically.

We need to listen to the people in the field and the folks that came to us; the superintendents, the principals, the teachers; it was overwhelming testimony that said that this is a necessary tool, and it is based on what is best for the children, all the children, those that are facing the challenge and those that are being impacted by it. Thank you.

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

Representative **BRENNAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. Who benefits when a student is suspended from school? The answer is no one. The student doesn't benefit, the family doesn't benefit and neither does the school.

Several years ago, we spent; the Education Committee; a considerable amount of time looking at this issue related to expulsion and suspension. And we took, I thought, very prudent measures in terms to address some of the issues that administrators, teachers had; and staff; and also to make sure, because one thing everybody wants is to have safe schools. So, I do not support the bill that has been put forward, and I do support the current motion.

I would point out that earlier this year, we received a report from MEPRI, the research institute that advises the Education Committee, and it was about student behavior. And it was very detailed about talking to teachers, talking to families and describing some of the very difficult situations in schools. But there's not once in the report where that they recommend more suspension, expulsions or those type of remedies to address some of the challenging situations in school.

So, while I appreciate the intent behind this bill, it is certainly unwarranted. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of Report "A" Ought Not to Pass. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 473

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, White R, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Dill, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Mastraccio, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Frost, Lavigne.

Yes, 75; No, 72; Absent, 2; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 72 voted in the negative, with 2 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly Report "A" **Ought Not to Pass** was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Nine Members of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** report in Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-681)** on Bill "An Act to Protect Housing Quality by Enacting Mold Inspection, Notification and Remediation Requirements"

(H.P. 1288) (L.D. 1927)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
HAGGAN of Penobscot
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth
BABIN of Fort Fairfield
CARUSO of Caratunk
HENDERSON of Rumford
LEE of Auburn
O'HALLORAN of Brewer

Two Members of the same Committee report in Report "B" **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-682)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representatives:

PUGH of Portland
SATO of Gorham

One Member of the same Committee reports in Report "C" **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "C" (H-683)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representative:

SINCLAIR of Bath

One Member of the same Committee reports in Report "D" **Ought Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representative:

POIRIER of Skowhegan

Representative DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe - of the House - supports Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-681)**.

READ.

On motion of Representative KUHN of Falmouth, Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended** was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-681)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-681)** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(S.P. 358) (L.D. 793) Bill "An Act to Modernize Gaming Revenue Allocations and Increase Efforts to Prevent Gambling Addiction" Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-376)**

(S.P. 463) (L.D. 1135) Bill "An Act to Permit the Use of Oral Fluid Testing in Determining the Intoxication of Drivers, Aircraft Operators and Hunters" Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-377)**

(S.P. 664) (L.D. 1669) Bill "An Act to Establish the Cannabis Advisory Council" Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-375)**

(S.P. 747) (L.D. 1906) Bill "An Act to Improve Accountability and Understanding of Data in Insurance Transactions" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-367)**

(H.P. 1182) (L.D. 1763) Bill "An Act to Regulate Nonwater-dependent Floating Structures on Maine's Waters" Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-684)**

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

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

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

ORDERS

On motion of Representative GOLEK of Harpswell, the following Joint Order: (H.P. 1337)

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that Bill, "An Act to Clarify Licensing Jurisdiction for Manufactured Housing Communities," H.P. 614, L.D. 949, and all its accompanying papers, be recalled from the Governor's desk to the House.

READ and PASSED.

Sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

ENACTORS

Acts

An Act to Improve Notifications Related to Substance-exposed Infants

(H.P. 89) (L.D. 156)
(C. "A" H-650)

An Act Creating and Sustaining Jobs Through the Development of Cooperatives and Employee-owned Businesses by Providing Tax Deductions for Certain Qualified Business Activities

(S.P. 271) (L.D. 756)
(C. "A" S-354)

An Act to Amend the Law Governing Items Identified as Prison Contraband

(H.P. 595) (L.D. 930)
(C. "A" H-653)

An Act to Clarify the Qualifying Use of Tax Increment Financing for Extension of a Development District

(H.P. 673) (L.D. 1044)

An Act to Simplify Regulation of the Adult Use Cannabis Industry

(H.P. 1218) (L.D. 1820)
(C. "A" H-651)

An Act to Increase Child Care Affordability and Early Childhood Educator Stability

(S.P. 763) (L.D. 1955)
(C. "A" S-355)

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

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

An Act to Bring Fairness in Income Taxes to Maine Families by Adjusting the Tax Brackets and Tax Rates

(H.P. 152) (L.D. 229)
(C. "A" H-649)

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

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

Representative RUDNICKI of Fairfield **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

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

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

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, at the high end, regardless of how it affects anything else, this is a tax increase. That's all I want to say. Thank you.

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

Representative **SAYRE**: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, this bill is a tax cut for 95% of Maine households and a tax increase for five percent of Maine households. The five percent of Maine households for which this is a tax increase currently pay less in State and local taxes than the 60% of Mainers in the middle three quintiles of taxes. Those are the people. Middle class Mainers, working class Mainers are receiving a tax cut from this bill, and the wealthiest Mainers are being asked to pay more, so that their amount of

State and local taxation is equal to that of those of us in the middle and working class. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 474

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Frost, Lavigne.

Yes, 76; No, 71; Absent, 2; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

76 having voted in the affirmative and 71 voted in the negative, with 2 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

An Act to Expand the Supervised Community Confinement Program

(H.P. 416) (L.D. 648)
(C. "A" H-652)

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

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

On motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, **TABLED** pending **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED** and later today assigned.

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

(S.P. 660) (L.D. 1666)
(C. "A" S-334)

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

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

On motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, **TABLED** pending **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED** and later today assigned.

An Act to Support Maine's Agricultural Economy by Increasing Revenue from the Corporate Income Tax

(H.P. 1250) (L.D. 1879)
(C. "A" H-571)

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

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

Representative RUDNICKI of Fairfield **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

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

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

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Here we go, it's another additional tax. The tax we just did and then this one and more to come.

The one thing I will say that I will never forget my father saying to me was, 'I've never received a job from a poor man.' And that's what it comes down to. If we keep doing these types of taxes and adding and adding, folks do not have to come to Maine, they do not have to run businesses in Maine and even folks that are wealthy and they're buying homes on the coast, they stay here less than six months, they're not paying income tax in Maine. So, we are taxing people out that it's going to end up trickling down to everyone else.

So, I oppose this bill, and please follow my light.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Warren, Representative Pluecker.

Representative **PLUECKER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This job is going; excuse me; this bill is going to help us keep our dairy farmers in business. We have lost; we are down to I think 172 from having thousands, over a thousand 50 years ago. The dairy sector is producing over \$100 million a year in economic activity in the State as well as thousands of jobs. We need to pass this now, so we can support our dairy farmers and the rest of our hardworking farmers who are feeding us and making us just a resilient and strong State. Thank you so much.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 475

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Bagshaw, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Cooper, Copeland, Crafts, Cray, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hall, Hasenfus, Hepler, Jackson, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lanigan, Lee, Lemelin, Lookner, Lyman, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Schmearsal-Burgess, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Bridgeo, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Henderson, Hymes, Javner, Lance, Libby, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Frost, Gattine, Lavigne, Supica.

Yes, 82; No, 63; Absent, 4; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

82 having voted in the affirmative and 63 voted in the negative, with 4 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

An Act to Promote Responsible Outdoor Lighting

(H.P. 1295) (L.D. 1934)
(S. "A" S-349 to C. "A" H-561)

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

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

Representative TUELL of East Machias **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from East Machias, Representative Tuell.

Representative **TUELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I appreciate the spirited debate on LD 1934, and I want to rise yet again, not to repeat myself, but to add a little 'wattage to the warning.'

Because what I've heard since we first took this up is a lot of 'don't worry, we've got exemptions' and that this is just about sending a 'turn out the lights, the party's over' message to all Mainers regardless of ZIP Code. If the bill's intent is to make Maine one great big HOA, I would agree, it accomplishes that. If its intent is to encourage, quote-unquote, 478 Maine towns and cities to flip the same 'blinded by the light switch' that it doesn't already have, I would also agree it accomplishes that.

But the truth is, this bill isn't just a flashlight in the corner, it's a high beam aimed at rural Maine and it's getting harder and harder to ignore the glare. Let me say this clearly: Rural Maine isn't fighting against light, we're fighting for the right to choose how we use it. And when we hear arguments that we could become a Dark Sky destination with legislation like this, some of us have to wonder if all we're really doing is turning Maine into a scary radio program straight out of the 1930s or '40s called *Lights Out*.

Now, I know some of you think this is about energy efficiency or night skies or model ordinances or increasing tourism, but back home, it sounds a whole lot like Augusta telling the backwoods how bright their barn should be. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, I would be lying if I said I didn't feel a bit of relief the other night when I returned to my lodgings in Winthrop to find the friendly glow of that porch light I left on all day, and not a member of the Winthrop PD hauling me in for being a light trespasser. You might call it responsible lighting or doing the right thing, but to folks I represent, this bill feels a lot more like mandatory dimming.

Mr. Speaker, did you know that red light is about 2000 Kelvin? Do you know what else is red and hot? My phone. Ever since I spoke out against this bill, people are furious. They're asking me whether their flagpole lights are next, whether their church steeples will go dark, whether Misty the British Retriever can take a midnight constitutional without running into Pepe le Pew or Sonic the Hedgehog, or whether Troy Huffman's magical Christmas display, the envy of Hadley Lake, can burst forth with the full glory of the season. And I don't blame them. Augusta has one up on everyone's favorite Christmas character, the Grinch, because once you start measuring light levels on the ground with meters and maps, it doesn't feel like stewardship, it feels like surveillance. It feels like bureaucracy with a night vision scope. And while this bill gives ski resorts a pass, the local snowmobile club might not be so lucky. You do see the divide, don't you? Augusta gets to pick and choose who gets to shine.

I would also like to add, in my neck of the woods, light is safety. It's a motion light that tells you the bear is back. It's the glow from the garage that lets your family know you're home safe. So, let's cut the nonsense and call this what it really is, a mandate in a Carhartt coat. You can dress it up with model ordinances and Department exemptions, but in the end, it's one more thing the State is telling locals how to handle. And if we pass this, I guarantee you we're not going to see darker skies, we're going to see brighter tempers and more town halls packed with people saying, 'what the bleep is Augusta up to now?'

So, I'll say again what I said the first time. "Let there be light," but let it be local. Let's flip this bill off and let common sense light the way. Because if we don't, the State's new slogan will become 'Welcome to Maine, we'll shut the light off for you.' Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **BOYER**: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, as many of you know, I am a fan of lighting it up, but this is just one toke over the line. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The House will be in order. House will be in order. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Madison, Representative Ducharme.

Representative **DUCHARME**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise also in opposition to the Enactment of LD 1934.

You may wonder, why would the Representative from Madison care about the issue of outdoor lighting. Mr. Speaker, it appears that this bill exempts ski areas in winter, sports facilities and similar outdoor recreation. It exempts seasonal lighting for holidays and other celebrations. The bill as presented does not, however, address agricultural concerns or operations.

The town of Madison is home to Backyard Farms. Mr. Speaker, Backyard Farms is the largest greenhouse in the northeast region of the United States. They produce tomatoes year-round that are distributed and sold throughout the Northeast. They have two greenhouses for this operation, with a total of 45 acres under glass. They extend the growing season in Maine by using energy-efficient lighting to provide a longer growing day. Some parts of the year, they must run the lights, due to the natural length of the day in New England, to as late as midnight, and then they come back on at four o'clock in the morning. You can see those lights from as much as 20 miles away. My concern is that, should this bill be Enacted without consideration of the agricultural impact, it could have a negative impact on the jobs and livelihood of the 250 people that work at Backyard Farms.

I would typically oppose a bill like this based on my desire to defend local control. In this case, the economic life of a major employer in Madison, the biggest employer next to the school system, could be at risk. Please follow my light and vote down the pending motion. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Westbrook, Representative Salisbury.

Representative **SALISBURY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. All joking aside, because I think we've talked about this bill quite a bit, both in Committee and several times on the House Floor. And for those of us that believe in climate change and want to do what's right going forward, this bill is not a mandate; it simply provides the opportunity for model ordinances around lighting to be provided to communities.

The other thing, and I wish Backyard Farms would've come to the hearing, perhaps would've had this question answered, but Backyard Farms is on private property, so, therefore wouldn't be affected by this bill, nor would private property in East Machiasport. So, all of those things would not be affected by this bill.

This is a very comprehensive bill that went over many different things to try to be as careful as possible to not impact private property, to not impact ski areas, to not impact businesses that already use quite a bit of lighting. Again, just an opportunity for model ordinances to be provided for those communities that are looking to the future, wanting to create some ordinance around better lighting. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 476

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Dill, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmursal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, Webb, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Frost, Lanigan, Lavigne.

Yes, 74; No, 72; Absent, 3; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 72 voted in the negative, with 3 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE

Bill "An Act to Fund Collective Bargaining Agreements with Executive Branch Employees and Continue the Voluntary Employee Incentive Program" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1335) (L.D. 1987)

Sponsored by Representative GATTINE of Westbrook. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)

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

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

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

Representative GATTINE of Westbrook **PRESENTED House Amendment "A" (H-697)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Westbrook, Representative Gattine.

Representative **GATTINE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to explain the Amendment briefly. In Section 1 of the bill, the very last sentence, there's a date that's incorrect. The date in the printed bill is October 31, 2023. That date should be October 31, 2025, and this Amendment corrects that.

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

Representative **HENDERSON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just say that the board doesn't accurately reflect the title of this bill, and I don't know if it's necessary to have the word 'Executive' in front of 'Branch' in order for it to go through, so, the board might need to be updated.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would inform the Member that because there's a finite amount of space on the board, we have to do what we call a 'short title.'

Subsequently, **House Amendment "A" (H-697)** was **ADOPTED**.

Under further suspension of the rules, the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-697)** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Protect Children's Identification by Requiring Public Schools to Use the Name and Gender Specified on a Child's Birth Certificate"

(H.P. 649) (L.D. 1002)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland

TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth

BABIN of Fort Fairfield

CARUSO of Caratunk

HENDERSON of Rumford

LEE of Auburn

O'HALLORAN of Brewer

PUGH of Portland

SATO of Gorham

SINCLAIR of Bath

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-690)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representative:

POIRIER of Skowhegan

READ.

Representative KUHN of Falmouth moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative LYMAN of Livermore Falls **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Livermore Falls, Representative Lyman.

Representative **LYMAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Members of the House. I rise today in strong support of this bill, because at its core, it preserves one of the most fundamental rights we hold dear: the right of parents to raise, guide and protect their own children. I never would've imagined that in 2025, we would need legislation to clarify that school personnel should not alter or discuss a child's gender identity, pronouns or formal name without direct permission from that child's parent or guardian, but here we are.

This bill is straightforward. It simply says that no public school employee, whether a counselor or a social worker, behavioral specialist or contracted specialist may engage in conversation or decisions about a child's sexual identity or pronouns without the explicit permission of that child's parent or guardian. It is not the role of schools to override or bypass the family. Parents are not optional in the lives of their children; they are primary.

Some have tried to distract from the intent of this bill by asking about nicknames, but let's be honest, this isn't about casual name preferences. This is about protecting parental authority over deeply personal matters. A child's legal name and biological sex as recorded on the birth certificate are given by the parents. That's not a detail; it's a responsibility and a right. This bill does not discriminate, it does not divide, it simply establishes an important boundary, one that keeps parents informed and involved in deeply personal matters concerning their child. Please, let's not make this bill into something it is not. It's about trust, transparency and parental rights.

As you cast your vote, I ask you to consider, if this were your child, would you want to be fully informed? Let your vote stand with parents and with the rights of children to be raised with the support and knowledge of those who love them most. This bill does not target or exclude anyone, it simply draws a clear boundary that parents must be involved. That's not controversial. It shouldn't be. It's fundamental. So, I urge you to follow my light, not to politicize, but to protect. To preserve the rights of parents, to reinforce that in the raising of children, the family must come first. Thank you.

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

Representative **KUHN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This amended bill provides that school personnel must refer to a minor student by the name and gender listed on the official record submitted to the school, unless the minor student's parent or guardian provides parental permission.

This bill may have been intended to do one thing but, in fact, as it's written, it would prohibit a high school senior from asking their teacher to call them 'Bob' instead of Robert or 'Sue' instead of Susan. This is an example of parents seeking to intervene in every even very small interaction between school personnel and students. This bill creates red tape for teachers who I know would rather spend their time teaching the kids. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Brewer, Representative O'Halloran.

Representative **O'HALLORAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in respectful opposition to LD 1002.

This bill requires school staff to use only the name and gender listed on a child's birth certificate unless the parent provides written permission or a legal change is made. While it may seem like a simple administrative rule, it overlooks something fundamental about children: how they come to understand who they are and how names play a big role in that

process. Children explore identity in all kinds of ways through the clothes they wear, the activities they try, the friends they choose and, yes, often through the names they use. A nickname might reflect a child's personality, their heritage, their family or even just how they want to be seen in the world. Think about how common it is for kids to go by nicknames, not because they're rejecting their birth names, but because they're growing into themselves. Nicknames are often deeply personal, and for many children, being allowed to use a chosen name, whether it's a nickname or something else, offers comfort, confidence and even stability during challenging and uncertain times. It's a way of saying, 'this is me, this is how I feel, this is who I am.'

This bill creates unnecessary rigidity in a space where flexible compassion and being accepted are often exactly what children need. It risks sending the message that official records matter more than a student's lived experience, that being seen and accepted on your own terms has to be approved, documented and filed.

I trust our educators. I trust the relationships they build with students, and I believe they deserve the space to honor the names children use in good faith, just as we all hope to be called by the name that feels like our own. And I know I appreciate the ability to use my own nickname. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Ought Not to Pass Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 477

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Frost, Lavigne.

Yes, 76; No, 71; Absent, 2; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

76 having voted in the affirmative and 71 voted in the negative, with 2 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting
Ought Not to Pass on Bill "An Act to Remove Consideration of
Gender Identity from the Maine Human Rights Act"
(H.P. 941) (L.D. 1432)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth
BABIN of Fort Fairfield
CARUSO of Caratunk
HENDERSON of Rumford
LEE of Auburn
O'HALLORAN of Brewer
PUGH of Portland
SATO of Gorham
SINCLAIR of Bath

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought
to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-689)**
on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representative:

POIRIER of Skowhegan

READ.

Representative KUHN of Falmouth moved that the House
ACCEPT the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan **REQUESTED** a
roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to
Pass** Report.

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative
from Phillips, Representative Soboleski.

Representative **SOBOLESKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
This has been a very difficult bill for me to deal with. I put this
bill in.

I started out by saying to myself, is it discrimination to point
out the differences between a boy and a girl? No, it's not; it's
common sense. What do we have to do to ensure that we have
fairness and safety for our students, our girls in our schools?
Nobody cares what an adult does. I don't care if you want to
dress up like a chicken and cluck down the street, I don't care.
But when it comes to our children, that's a whole other story.

For some reason, our children have been wrapped up and
bottled up in this issue. And it's not the children that are
screaming that we want boys to be in our girls' sports, we want
boys to be in our bathrooms. The girls don't say that. They're
the only safe spaces in a school building; the bathrooms, the
locker rooms, the showers are the only safe space a young girl
has in our school districts. And we've taken that away from
them.

Nobody cares about LGB or any of the alphabet that is in
that same slogan or whatever you want to call it. You're a
lesbian? Nobody cares. If you're gay, people got over that
decades ago. Freddie Mercury, Elton John, I mean, nobody's
new at this. Nobody's brave and courageous because they've
come out of the closet. We've been used to it, we've dealt with
it, it's part of society. You know how many people I have in my
family that I love dearly that are gay; lesbian? Many, many,
many. Nobody cares. But this is about children. This is about
dignity, about respect and about fairness.

Title IX was put into place to ensure that we had fairness
for our girls in sports. All of a sudden, along comes the
President Biden amendment to Title IX, 13988, added sexual
orientation and gender identity to Title IX, and look what's
happened since then. It has completely changed how we; not
only nationwide, but in our State; treat our children and look at
our children. When President Trump was elected, one of the
first things he did was rescinded that Executive Order, which any
President is allowed to do; rescind, revoke, appeal a previous
Executive Order; and he did that to reset us back to where we
were prior to the Biden Executive Order. We didn't move. We
didn't move back. We didn't go back and say, 'our girls are now
protected under Title IX.' We've said, 'no, federal law doesn't
matter. The supremacy clause of the Constitution doesn't
matter.' When State law and federal law conflict, federal law is
the supreme law of the land, but we didn't go back; we kept
pushing forward. And every time we do, Mr. Speaker, we double
down and double down and double down.

A number of bills have come forward. A number of
arguments have come forward. How do we fix this? How do we
give decency, respect back to our girls in our school districts?
We keep throwing things up against the wall to see if it'll stick.
Nope, that's not going to work, that's not going to work. It doesn't
matter what it is, that's not going to work. In the State of Maine,
in our beautiful State here, I believe it was the Nicole Maines
case out of Orono, 2014-ish, I think, that a young boy, raised
from real, real young as a girl went to court to be able to use the
facilities, the girls' facilities. The district had provided a separate
facilities for that young man. But he wanted to be called a girl,
and he wanted to use the girls' facilities. In court, the decision
by the Court was based on a medical diagnosis of gender
dysphoria, so, they allowed it. But a fraction of our State, or a
part of our State has said that that's settled law that any boy can
become a girl, and that's not true.

It's heartbreaking, Mr. Speaker, to know there's nothing we
can do to protect these girls. It's heartbreaking to watch them
not stand on the top of a podium when they're the best girl in the
sport, when they've won and they've become a champion.
Taking and stripping that away from them, what does it tell them
about life and about the future? What's it tell them about what
to look forward to? Is there going to be a level playing field for
them? No. They're going to get beat up over and over and over
again.

I put this bill in in an attempt to try and reset the Maine
Human Rights Act back to where it was prior to the Biden
Executive Order, and that failed. It failed by quite a bit in the
Committee. Then I put an Amendment on it. That didn't work.
I've also come up with a Floor Amendment and have gone to a
Member of the Judiciary Committee and said, 'look, if you take
this Floor Amendment, if you pass my bill, the Ought to Pass
Amendment, if you pass my bill and put this Amendment on it,
all the Amendment does is it affects our schools. It protects our
girls' sports, our girls' bathrooms, locker rooms and showers.
And it says that differentiating between a boy and a girl in K-12
is not discrimination.'

Please consider this. It's simple. It's a surgical approach
to this problem, and it corrects this and gives our girls back some
dignity. No, we're not going to do that, either. It doesn't appear
that we're going to be able to do anything at this point unless
another bill is passed, which I don't have much hope for, to
protect and save our girls. I implore my colleagues in this
Chamber to think about these children. Think about the little girl.
Right now, if a little girl is in a shower in a sports club, 10- or 12-
year-old girl at a sports club anywhere in our State, an adult 50-
year-old man can walk into the shower with her and stand there.

That's amazing to me that we allow that, that we've given that right, as well as what we've done in our school. We need to find a way to fix this and give our children back their dignity. Show the love, kindness and respect for these little girls that they deserve. They're one of the most precious things that we have, our little girls. But what are we treating them like? Like they're nothing. Like they mean nothing to our society, nothing to our heart, nothing to our soul, nothing to the heartbeat of our State and who we are.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I would like to ask my colleagues here in this Chamber to please take action, protect our girls and ensure that we have safety and fairness in our school system. Thank you.

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

Representative **MOONEN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Colleagues of the House, I always try to find points of common ground, so, I guess I will start by saying I, too, love Elton John and Freddie Mercury. Other than that, I don't know what quite to say in response to what was just said.

You know, this is not a sports bill. We're about to get to those bills shortly. This bill is about removing gender identity altogether from the Maine Human Rights Act. And I want everyone to understand what that means. That means legalizing employment discrimination, legalizing housing discrimination, legalizing discrimination in public places, in credit; and I'm missing one; oh, yeah, education. That is a wild, extreme overreach.

The Maine Human Rights Act was updated to include both sexual orientation and gender identity by the Legislature in 2005. That bill was signed by the Chief Executive. A People's Veto was filed to try and overturn it and the voters voted by a strong majority to keep that law in place. That is the law we are talking about here. Not something narrow, not something that's going to be debated in another bill later. The entire law of the Human Rights Act.

This bill is one of the most extreme I've ever seen. The contents of the bill don't match anything that was just said in the speech before me. I urge people, even if they have points of genuine disagreement on the issue of sports, to recognize this bill for how bad it is and how horrifying it would be to go back to legalizing employment discrimination and housing discrimination and on and on. Please join me in voting Ought Not to Pass.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Phillips, Representative Soboleski.

Representative **SOBOLESKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Briefly. Evidently, the Representative didn't understand what I said. I amended the bill and used a scalpel-type approach to just have it affect K-12. I asked the lead Chair from the House of the Judiciary Committee to please take a look at it, pass my bill, Ought to Pass bill, on the floor and amend it with this new Amendment, and that was rejected. So, the bill would not contain anything that the Representative just mentioned, it's solely about K-12 is what I proposed amendment. Thank you.

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

Representative **KUHN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to bring us back quickly just to the bill we are actually voting on. This bill seeks to amend the Maine Human Rights Act. The Amendment adds the term 'gender identity' to the definition of sexual orientation and strikes other references. I think the intent was to eliminate gender identity as a protected status, but it in fact does not do that. The majority of the Committee voted Ought Not to Pass to preserve the more clear and concise

language of the Act as it currently exists and to ensure that Maine's prohibitions on discrimination persist. Thank you.

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

Representative **SKOLD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Colleagues of the House. I hesitate to rise, because I don't want to prolong our day too much. In fact, I'm hoping we get out at a reasonable hour, because I have a date tonight. And at the risk of perhaps needing to text that person and let them know that I'll need to reschedule, I'm just going to proceed with a little bit of my story.

So, in 2005, Maine voters affirmed at the ballot box a bill that had been signed by the Legislature and the Chief Executive. A bill that added sexual orientation and gender identity to the Maine Human Rights Act. Now, at the time, I was a junior at Freeport High School. And though I and many of my classmates were too young to vote at that time, my social studies teacher did give us the space to have a classroom discussion and debate on the matter. And at the time, my 16-year-old self was actually uncertain about this idea and more of the position that we should not be giving the same explicit legal protections from discrimination that history has shown we need for race, color, national origin and religion and sex. In fact, part of my hesitation at that time related to my perception of a disagreement or some space between the ideas of sexual orientation and religion. At the time, I was a very earnest 16-year-old believer in a particular branch of Christianity and was, in fact, attending the same church as my friend, the Good Representative from Auburn.

And now, I'm turning 36 this year, Mr. Speaker, and a lot has happened in my life over the last 20 years, including learning to understand and embrace my family members and friends who have come out publicly in their sexual orientations, learning to understand and embrace my friends and family who have come out in their gender identities and learning to understand and embrace myself, my own authentic self as a queer, gay man. In those last 20 years, I have come to see the wisdom of that 2005 vote. And I believe the people of Maine have come to see the wisdom of their decision as well. Over the years, gay and trans Mainers have thrived in this State, free from discrimination, and they have made our State better. They have made our State better not just through their own accolades and contributions to our communities, but also because protecting everyone from discrimination protects us all.

Now, I could go more into my own long and circuitous story of how I changed, Mr. Speaker, and how I learned to understand my authentic self, but if I did that, we'd be here for a few hours longer, and I would definitely miss my date tonight. So, I will just say that I am grateful for that journey and the freedom that it has brought me. I am grateful for the ability that people can change. I am grateful for the Mainers since 2005 and long before who have fought for protections from discrimination for all. I am grateful to live in a state where my freedom to thrive is not hampered by the gender of the person I hope to spend time with tonight. And I am proud to stand here with the people of Maine to make sure that the same freedom from discrimination is afforded to all the people of Maine, regardless of their gender.

And though I am not a Christian anymore, I sometimes still find wisdom in some of the recorded sayings of Jesus. When He was asked about the law, which is the greatest commandment in the law, this was His response: 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and all your soul and all your strength.' This is the greatest and first commandment, and; and a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Ought Not to Pass Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 478

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Babin, Beck, Bell, Boyer D, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Carlow, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Foley, Fredette, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Campbell, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmiersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Frost, Henderson, Lavigne.

Yes, 81; No, 65; Absent, 3; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

81 having voted in the affirmative and 65 voted in the negative, with 3 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Prohibit a School Administrative Unit from Adopting a Policy That Allows a Student to Use a Restroom Designated for Use by the Opposite Sex" (H.P. 1139) (L.D. 1704)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth
LEE of Auburn
O'HALLORAN of Brewer
PUGH of Portland
SATO of Gorham
SINCLAIR of Bath

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-694)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

BABIN of Fort Fairfield
CARUSO of Caratunk
HENDERSON of Rumford
POIRIER of Skowhegan

READ.

Representative KUHN of Falmouth moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

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

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

Representative **SMITH**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and Members of the House, I rise to oppose this motion.

We can no longer exist in the gray. It is the gray that is dividing this State, and it is this division that brings us to the moment of absolutely needing to make a decision regarding boys' and girls' spaces and, with this bill, specifically their bathrooms. We need to exist in the black and white with this issue, and it's going to take all of us here to be the adults in the room and make hard decisions that seem to some people seem to be uncomfortable making. The black and white is that biological boys do not belong in girls' bathrooms. Hard stop, end of story.

I've talked to young girl after young girl, and they say the same thing to me: they want privacy. This isn't necessarily about fear of an assault, as some people will try to say, no one is saying at all that a boy identifying as a girl goes into the girls' bathrooms to do that, though it has happened in some instances. What girls are saying is that they want a space of their own. They want a space to go ahead and change a tampon on their own. We're all adults here, these things happen. They sometimes are in messy situations, nerve-racking for a young girl that needs to have her private space. And it is the girls that need to be comfortable. I am not here, we should not be here to make the very few who want to go into a girls' bathroom be comfortable. We need to listen to these girls, it is their decision and we need to respect that. Girls want to have a place not only to take care of these issues but to go in and have a giggle or a cry with their girlfriends. This is that space. Bathrooms create that space for them.

Can a woman not have anything of their own anymore? We've come so far, we cannot go back. Everything women fought for throughout decades of struggle has seemingly vanished. Our safety, our privacy, our dignity. Enough is enough. We need to stand up and protect girls and their mental health today. Now. We cannot sacrifice the many for the few who are struggling with identity. I am not here to stand against anyone, but I absolutely am going to stand for girls each and every day, and they are asking us to give them their private spaces to make sure that bathrooms are solely reserved for our girls. Thank you.

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

Representative **KUHN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to clarify that the question of bathroom use has been settled law in Maine since at least 2014, when the Law Court ruled that a school district in Orono violated the Maine Human Rights Act when it did not allow a transgender girl to use a bathroom consistent with her gender identity. I would also add that data show that in fact it is transgender people who are more in danger in bathrooms and locker rooms, not their cisgendered peers.

This bill seeks to impose restrictions that are in conflict with an inclusive school environment, in violation of current law and will undoubtedly subject Maine to costly litigation. I urge the Members to support the pending motion.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Ought Not to Pass Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 479

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Arford, Frost, Lavigne.

Yes, 74; No, 72; Absent, 3; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 72 voted in the negative, with 3 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Amend Certain Laws Regarding Gender-affirming Health Care Services" (S.P. 145) (L.D. 380)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth
LEE of Auburn
O'HALLORAN of Brewer
PUGH of Portland
SATO of Gorham
SINCLAIR of Bath

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-370)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

BABIN of Fort Fairfield
CARUSO of Caratunk
HENDERSON of Rumford
POIRIER of Skowhegan

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

READ.

Representative KUHN of Falmouth moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

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

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

Representative **SMITH**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't expect to be rising so quickly, but I wanted to go ahead and oppose this motion.

Throughout this Session, all I've heard from the other side is that minors' brains are not developed. Not developed enough for gun ownership, not for marriage and not for a punishment that should fit their crime. But we come back to this issue that says 16- and 17-year-olds should be able to choose, without parental approval, hormone replacement therapy. And so, at 16 and 17, we're now seeing that they can choose to destroy their fertility, change the entire trajectory of their life, have an increased risk of strokes, their bone health will deteriorate with constant pain and it will impact their brain development.

The UK has stopped this as of March of last year. They have said no more minors with hormone therapy. We are behind the times in keeping this legislation. If we've listened to de-transitioners at all and the story they've told, we need to put brakes on this, we need to stop from encouraging this with kids who are still developing. They can make these decisions later in life, but continuing gender-affirming care for 16- and 17-year-olds does no one any good, except maybe the people who are making the money off of it.

So, I urge you to vote down this motion. Thank you.

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

Representative **KUHN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This amended bill seeks to repeal legislation from the 131st Legislature which created a pathway for certain gender-affirming care for 16- and 17-year-olds.

That law was very carefully considered and drafted to include very specific parameters on when this care is available. The individual must be at least 16 years of age and must be diagnosed with gender dysphoria by a qualified health care professional. In the opinion of the health care professional, the minor has to be experiencing harm from not receiving gender-affirming care. The minor must inform the health care professional that they have sought their parents' permission and the parent refused to support the treatment. Written consent from the minor must include giving the circumstances that the minor must be physically and mentally capable of consent. The health care professional must tell the minor that they can withdraw the decision to commence therapy at any time. The health care professional must clearly and fully explore with the minor alternative choices available for treating gender dysphoria. Health care professionals must explain the psychological effects and possible consequences of gender-affirming therapy and follow-up care, including psychological consequences. The health care professional must discuss the possibility of including the minor's parents in the minor's decision making, and the health care professional must provide the minor sufficient time to ask any questions and receive explanations of the effects and possible negative consequences of the treatment.

This law expressly recognizes that it is best when young people are able to confer with adults in their life about important health care decisions. Yet as we learned in the Committee in the 131st Legislature, for some people, that is not a safe thing to do and, in fact, can result in abuse, neglect, even being forced into homelessness. It was for this very small group of young people that this law sought to provide a pathway for help. Because for these kids, gender-affirming care can literally be life-saving, and the repeal of this law would put those kids at risk. I urge the Members to support the pending motion.

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

Representative **HENDERSON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I know that the temperature in here today is a little elevated, and I know that these are issues that are really important, I would say, to all of us in this room. Even though we find ourselves on different sides, they are things that we're very passionate about and we care deeply about. So, I'm going to do my best to share my thoughts in a respectful and compassionate manner.

But this bill is a repeal of a bill that passed in the 131st Legislature. I did serve on the Judiciary Committee the two years prior to this one, and we worked the concept of this bill at length, and it was actually introduced by; how I remember; your predecessor from Biddeford, Representative Sheehan, and although, I know, I think you were her predecessor before she was your predecessor. But she introduced LD 535, and it was educational for me and it was kind of eye-opening as far as gender-affirming care, whether, you know, the surgical side of it, the hormone replacement therapy. And I tried to dive into the subject matter just to understand how the process worked. And I'm no expert by any means, but I did find that I learned a lot during the process of that debate. And although I did oppose LD 535 in the 131st Legislature, it did end up becoming law. And that current law states that a minor, 16 or 17 years old, can

receive gender-affirming care without parental consent, and that gender-affirming care being hormone replacement therapy.

What we did learn; some of the things we learned; in Committee last year is that the effects of HRT, while in some may take longer, the physical effects can be irreversible in just a few months. You know, we heard some pretty heartbreaking stories of de-transitioners that came to testify, and I actually had a pretty unique opportunity the night before the public hearing to sit down with a nationally known de-transitioner named Prisha Mosley. And I spent about three hours with her, me and a couple other colleagues. She had an incredibly powerful and moving story, very real, she's an incredible individual just in general. But her story was very moving. But the de-transitioners who spoke to the Judiciary Committee, they were allowed and encouraged to transition in their teens, just realized later that they'd made a great mistake.

Prisha Mosley, who I just mentioned, shared a heartbreaking story of how she started testosterone at just 17 years old and had a double mastectomy a year later. And in her early 20s, she began de-transitioning. She's been quoted to say; "I decided that I didn't want to be a woman before I ever had experience in being a woman. I had no idea what being a woman was like, because I was a child. Now I feel like I will never entirely know. I just took the cure that was handed to me," she said through sobs. "I just don't want anyone else to feel this way. I lost my voice, I lost my chest, I don't know if I'm going to be able to have kids. I feel like no one wants to date me or love me because I'm ruined." A quote from the *New York Times*, she says, I could go on and on how tremendous the weight is, but what's worse is that it can happen to other people. The pain of imagining that someone else could feel or experience what I'm experiencing makes the pain of being a public case study numb. It doesn't compare. No one came and saved me when I was little. No one told me the truth. The *New York Times* goes on to say, sadly, Mosley knows what the truth is, and it hurts. Her body has been ravaged. She said her liver is big, her insulin is high, her uterus, bladder and vagina had atrophied.

Now, I understand that this is just the story of one de-transitioner, one brave enough to step forward and share the intimate details of her physical health. A bravery that many of us in this room would be too ashamed to share. And while I recognize that this may not be the path for every person struggling with gender dysphoria, I also recognize that gender dysphoria is legitimate and a very real struggle for a rising number of youth in our State. The feelings of anxiety, the feelings of internal disunity. And at face value, my vote on these issues don't entirely tell the whole story, don't really tell a story of the true love and compassion that I have for people in that community or the true love and compassion that I have, especially for young people who are struggling not just in this manner but in struggling in general. But, Mr. Speaker, love and compassion is truth.

I told a story earlier this week on how I got a chance to run through mud puddles with my little niece. Well, we were next to the main road right there in Mexico, Maine, and I held her hand. I didn't hold her hand because I hated her, I held her hand because I loved her and I didn't want her to run into traffic. We don't tell our kids that they can or can't do things because we hate them or because we're scared of them, we set boundaries for them because we love them, and the love and the truth that I have for these young people who are struggling with this is what forces me to stand and rise today and say that there is another option.

And right now, to allow 16- and 17-year-olds without any guidance to just go and do things that are going to permanently change their lives, like what we just heard from Prisha Mosley, who she began her own transition at 17 and then just a few years later realized, what have I done, but her body's permanently changed. The good part of the story is she just went on last year and she did have a child; she gave birth. But I would strongly encourage Members of this Body to go read that article that I quoted from the *New York Times* that talked about the physical agony that she went through, because her hips had narrowed, her body wasn't fit to carry a child, that she lays her healthy son on her chest and she doesn't feel anything because her skin is numb. That her milk is coming in, but her milk has become hard rocks in her chest that are incredibly painful, because there's no nipple there for the milk to come out of.

We have young people in our State who are struggling, they're in anguish, they're hurting, they're broken internally and we need to make sure that we're pointing them in the right direction, so they're not making these life-altering decisions that permanently change them. I'm not saying this because I hate them or I'm transphobic; I'm saying this because I love them. I don't want them to scar themselves and change themselves and mar themselves and rob themselves of a perfectly healthy sex life or marriage or a family or children. And this is a real reality.

I had a lot more to say, and I think I said more than I intended. I guess that's what happens when your heart takes over. But I will say that there have been many sentiments shared in this last week about the brain development of young people and how they don't make decisions, they don't make the best decisions when they're younger. And I will quote one thing. This was a quote that was made by a Representative that actually introduced the bill LD 1113, An Act Regarding Fairness in Sentencing for Persons Under 26 Years of Age, and that Representative quoted 'the transformative potential of young people is undeniable. Given that their brains are still developing, they are capable of profound positive change and can overcome their past actions to lead healthy, productive lives. Other states have led the way in this area;' that's in reflection to the criminal record side of things; and I know that many of the sentiments that that Representative gave in introducing LD 1113 in the Judiciary Committee, have been echoed in this Chamber. And I would just urge my colleagues; although, I hate the term 'urge my colleagues;' I would urge my colleagues to stay true to logical consistency and please, please vote down this measure.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Ought Not to Pass Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 480

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gere, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Frost, Lavigne.

Yes, 75; No, 72; Absent, 2; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 72 voted in the negative, with 2 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Six Members of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** report in Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-362)** on Bill "An Act to Prohibit Males from Participating in Female Sports or Using Female Facilities" (S.P. 461) (L.D. 1134)

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

BABIN of Fort Fairfield

CARUSO of Caratunk

HENDERSON of Rumford

O'HALLORAN of Brewer

POIRIER of Skowhegan

Six Members of the same Committee report in Report "B" **Ought Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland

TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth

PUGH of Portland

SATO of Gorham

SINCLAIR of Bath

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

READ.

Representative KUHN of Falmouth moved that the House **ACCEPT** Report "B" **Ought Not to Pass**.

Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** Report "B" **Ought Not to Pass**.

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

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

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this bill is pretty straightforward. It is a common-sense approach to protect our girls and women in their athletic activities and their female-designated private spaces.

The first part of this bill rectifies the injustice of girls being displaced by and competed against by biological males in athletic programs and activities. Mr. Speaker, a young lady in my district has been a driving force behind my support for this form of legislation. I could give you the scientific specifics about the emotional and physical differences between biological males and biological females. Instead, I want to give you an actual example of this travesty playing out in our State and the impact on a girl from my district.

Last year, Natalie Johnson placed second behind a biological male in the girls' Class C State Championship for the 800-meter run. Our community supported her after the disappointing loss of the rightful position that was denied her. She handled herself with grace and dignity under a devastating political climate that saw her victory tainted and diminished. But what a difference a year can make. By chance, she was not a senior and was able to return to the State Championships this year, competing against only biological females. The biological male who won last year chose not to compete in the event this year. Natalie is now our definitive State Champion in her event. The smile on her face was joy-filled and redeeming. She is worthy of our support, as are all the girls and young women in our State. This is a real-time example of why this bill is so important. It reinforces the fact that female accomplishments should never be determined by whether or not a male chooses to compete against them.

Now, Mr. Speaker, let's address the second part of this bill. What can happen when we allow males into specifically female-designated spaces? Why is this conversation necessary? What dangerous situations that we were told never happen, the ones so flippantly dismissed, do happen when we allow men and boys into women's and girls' private and often isolated spaces? Sexual assault. According to the *Associated Press*, "Alexandria, Virginia; a teenager and her parents have filed a \$30 million lawsuit against a northern Virginia school system, saying the district failed to adequately investigate and tried to cover up her sexual assault by a male student in a high school bathroom." The details of the assault, "the attacker was wearing a skirt in a women's bathroom," leads to the debate over allowing biological males to use the bathrooms and private spaces of our vulnerable girls. The attacker, who was under 18 at the time, was convicted as a juvenile for the crime of forcible sodomy. He has since been released from a residential facility. I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, regardless of the age of that perpetrator, the girls were no less traumatized. At school, no less. Law enforcement did not protect the girls. The school administration did not protect the girls. Instead, the offending student was transferred to another school after the first assault, where he then sexually assaulted another girl.

Another unintended consequence of our current policy is that it opens our communities to financial devastation from potential lawsuits that taxpayers will be responsible for. In the case I mentioned, it is a lawsuit for \$30 million. For me, the chance of a lawsuit pales in comparison to the suffering of this girl and her family, but taxpayers should be aware of the consequences of our actions.

Mr. Speaker, it is beyond my comprehension that we are not concerned that this can happen in our State. It never happens, until it does. Those girls must still live with the consequences of their school district not providing protection and justice for them. Our State is knowingly putting girls and women in jeopardy. Mr. Speaker, can you guarantee the safety of our women and girls? Maine girls and women must live out the consequences of our action or, depending on our vote, our inaction. Please join me in truly supporting Maine women in their most basic form, their womanhood, in both their athletic forms and their private spaces. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my Mom and Judy Taylor were really good friends, and if you grow up in a very small town, we all know what that means. Judy's kids were like my siblings, and Judy got to tell me to eat my vegetables.

Judy's kid, Tom, and I grew up together and graduated from New London Spicer High School at the very same time. Over the course of our adulthood, though, it became clear that we had differing political beliefs, and I may or may not have to mute him on social media during election season. Tom, if you're seeing this, I'm really sorry if this is news to you. When I saw that this bill was coming up for a vote, I reached out to him, and I wanted to hear his perspective. You see, Tom, though we do have differing political beliefs, he has a trans child and he also has a daughter that was a Division 1 athlete. I found his response very interesting. My friend, my Republican, Catholic, military veteran, law enforcement friend; and I mention that only to underscore just how different the two of us are; said, 'interestingly enough, my youngest was a Division 1 athlete, I asked her this question, because I was interested in her take;' and here's where I'll break to give a disclaimer, this is his daughter's views, not mine nor Tom's. 'She said, those who are worried are not that good to begin with. She doesn't have a filter either, LOL.' And then Tom goes on to say, 'I'm against any laws that target one group just because they're different. As a veteran, it also upsets me that trans soldiers, airmen, sailors and Marines are being excluded from service.'

I'm grateful to Tom that he felt comfortable enough with me to share his thoughts, because it's easy for me to assume that this is a partisan issue. Mr. Speaker, I do not assume that anymore. Trans girls are not a threat to high school sports, they're not a threat to anyone, they're children who want to play, who want to compete, who want to be part of a team. And if you've ever loved a child, Mr. Speaker, you should understand how essential that feeling is, the feeling of being included, of being seen, of being safe.

So, I'd like to call this what this is: unscientific, unconstitutional and a cruel attempt to fix a problem that does not exist. This bill isn't about protecting girls, it's about policing them. Policing their bodies, policing their identities. We're talking about teenagers; children, really; and yet, here we are debating a piece of legislation that would empower adults to scrutinize, interrogate and exclude young women from their own school community simply for being who they are.

We've seen what happens when fear gets a platform. It doesn't stay confined to floor debates, it spreads. It leaks into headlines, oozes into Facebook comment sections and fuels mobs of strangers who suddenly feel entitled to dissect and shame a handful of kids just trying to survive. There's a word for that kind of behavior, and I won't say it here, because my mom and Judy Taylor taught me better. But we know the word. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Orono, Representative Osher.

Representative **OSHER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Colleagues of the House. I rise in support of the pending motion.

Schools, including school sports, should be a supportive environment that gives every student the opportunity to grow and learn while feeling safe. The proposal before us today would undermine that goal not just for trans students, but for all girls. Bans against trans kids playing sports create an environment where any girl's gender can be questioned, an environment which promotes bullying and harassment based on girls' physical appearance.

I'd like to read a passage from the testimony of Adelle Welch in opposition to this bill. Adelle said, 'I worry that these bills will harm all girls and all teenagers; trans and cis; as they become subject to not only their own teenage judgment of their changing bodies, but also subject to policing and surveillance of their bodies by their peers, mentors, coaches, teachers, parents and the government. Just this past weekend, a cis woman in Boston was accosted in the bathroom by a hotel security guard, and her gender identity was questioned. By enforcing strict and false definition of gender, we're subjecting kids to harmful questioning and judgment for being too tall, too short, too hairy, too muscular or simply not feminine enough. I found self-confidence through sports, and I know we want to raise our kids to be proud of their strength and accepting their bodies. These bills introduce unnecessary surveillance and harm to kids and all people of Maine.' I share Adelle's words because they capture so well the atmosphere of anxiety and fear this proposal would create.

Participating in school sports can be an empowering experience for young people, boosting confidence and fostering perseverance in the face of challenges. I know that was certainly the case for me when I was a student athlete. Participating in these experiences is an opportunity that should be available to everyone, including trans girls and any girl who under policies like these might be able to feel that they do not belong on the field alongside with their classmates. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Paris, Representative Lance.

Representative **LANCE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Members of the House. I would like to look at it from a different angle, if I may, and share a lived experience, I guess.

So, for 30 years, I was a high school football coach, and for two of those years, I went from high school football to girls' basketball. And I thought that first year, piece of cake, go from one locker room to another. Boy, was I wrong. I learned right away, you could not barge into a girls' locker room because you were unhappy with practice. I discovered that I couldn't do that. Instead, my captain came out and said, 'Coach Lance, you have to knock, and we'll receive you.' Well, that takes away your thunder when you want to express your anger at a practice.

But one other thing I've noticed and a couple of things I noticed those couple years I went from one to another is girls had a ferocity about their identity and their team that the guys never had. They never had that. And that always struck me as being unique to those girls and those teams. So, I just thought I would share that to you. Thank you.

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

Representative **FOSTER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Early on in my time here in the Legislature, I met the late and great and Honorable Lois Reckitt.

Now, we happened to end up in the hall waiting for a presentation, we got there early, and we got chatting and found out we had some things in common, and that mostly was about the fact that her daughter had married a young man that lived in my area. As a matter of fact, his mother and I were in school together. Now, our politics differed a lot, but we found that commonality and many times we had discussions about who best to get for our furnace repairman in that area and other things. One time here on the House floor early on, one thing we both did agree on, we both stood up to celebrate the anniversary of Title IX, and she greatly appreciated that law taking effect, federal law, and so did I. And during my floor speech on that issue, acknowledging that anniversary, I mentioned the fact that my mother, who played basketball, she was a tall young lady in Hartland Academy building, she played defense because when she started playing sports, girls couldn't run as much, they couldn't do this and that, and so, she just could only play in the partial court defense. A few years later, when I was in high school, I was on the basketball team, I tried, and quite often, the boys, we would have to wait for our practice time, because the girls were having their high school basketball game at three o'clock in the afternoon. No night sports for them. And I remember watching Ginny Martell, two or three years ahead of me in school, she was quite an athlete. She could've played pretty much anywhere, I think, in a small school, at least, college, post-secondary school in the State and maybe New England. Ginny went into the Army, went on in the career, retired, had some great accolades as I read in her obituary; she passed away just a few years ago. She never had the chance, even though we were in high school at the same time, to play a game on a Friday night or to play in a game at the Bangor auditorium during the tournament. But only a couple years later, Mr. Speaker, that changed. I was fortunate enough when my daughter was of age to play basketball, she played all the way up through from peewees right till she was a senior in high school and was part of the first team in Dexter to win the Eastern Maine Championship. And more importantly, my mother was there to watch all of that. And that Title IX law made all of that possible.

Mr. Speaker, I just want to say in regards to being in opposition to the pending motion, I am so because when my daughter was playing on that team, they had one of the best teams in the State, but I can tell you right now, my son, who was on a team a couple years ahead of her, most of the guys that were sitting the bench and most of the guys that were on the JV team that were playing at the same time as my daughter, they could've replaced most of that girls' team. And I don't think that's what Title IX had in mind. I think Title IX was designed specifically to get those biological female girls a chance to participate in the same type of opportunities that the boys had and still have today. And I don't think it's fair that we take away that opportunity for any girl. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

As I've said before, I'm a Maine girl Dad, I'm a Maine girl Papa, I'm a Maine girl uncle, I'm a Maine girl cousin, I'm a Maine girl son, I'm a Maine girl son-in-law, I'm a Maine girl nephew and a Maine girl brother. I'm a Maine girl friend and a Maine girl husband. And today, I stand as a Maine girl legislator.

I never thought that I'd be in the middle of this type of discussion/disagreement/persuasion. But in my high school that I represent, Hermon High School, Olivia Hunsinger was on the far right of that podium that got my seatmate censured. She

should've been one more over, in her mind. I went with her to the Hermon Town Council meeting where she spoke. I went with her to the Herman School Committee meeting, where she spoke. She spoke about girls' rights, girls' rights to their sports.

Today, I don't stand in front of you to talk about Olivia Hunsinger. Today, I stand in front of you because I got a phone call this week from Mikelle Verrill's grandfather. Mikelle had an assignment in school. They had various topics that they were going to pick. The topic that Mikelle picked was biological males in girls' sports, and she chose that one. On March 24th, she submitted a paper that she thought was going to be submitted to me, her State Representative. This week, on June 10th, is when I received the call from her grandfather, and she forwarded me the letter.

"Dear Mr. Thorne,

"My name is Mikelle Verrill. I am a student athlete at Hermon High School. I was talking to several of my friends about trying out for spring sports. One of them said to me, 'I don't want to compete against a male during the season. So what's the point in trying out?' Instantly, I thought of how a talented athlete is being discouraged for competing because of the possibility of transgenders participating in her sport. Do you think girls/women should be scared to try out for a sport because of a transgender male being in that sport?

"I am writing to you because I believe that it is unfair for biological men to participate in women's sports. I would like to see the Maine Legislature pass legislation preventing men who identify as women from participating in opposite genders sports. This topic has received a lot of attention across the country and currently is affecting Maine students. I have a personal interest in this topic because I am a member of the Hermon Varsity Softball team. I have outlined my position, supported by evidence below. I look forward to your response.

"Studies show that men and women are different in many ways but one big thing is hormones. During puberty males develop denser, stronger bones, tendons and ligaments. According to "Battle of the Sexes," men have more testosterone, which results in more muscle mass and bone density. This is a strong physical advantage over women. According to *Alliance Defending Freedom*, 'you'll notice that all these athletes have one thing in common: they are all males competing in women's sports. It's not often that you hear of a controversy involving female athletes competing in men's sports. And the reason for that is simple and obvious: Males have a physical advantage over females in most athletics.' Men are a lot stronger physically than women. It would be very unfair if I went up against a biological male in softball. He would be able to throw harder, hit farther and lead the team. Women's sports are separate to make sure that the playing field is fair and equitable.

"Payton McNabb was a 19-year-old girl that was struck by a volleyball in the face by a transgender woman and now is suffering a traumatic brain injury. When she was hit, she blacked out for 30 seconds and was helped off the court. Payton was diagnosed with a concussion, neck injury and two black eyes while being on the court. A couple weeks after she was diagnosed with traumatic brain injury, brain bleeding, partial paralysis and loss of peripheral vision on her right side. Payton still suffers from headaches and anxiety. According to NCAA recent policy changes, 'men's category open to all eligible student-athletes, women's category restricted to student-athletes assigned female at birth, schools directed to foster welcoming environments on all campuses.' Riley Gaines is an advocate against transgender athletes in women's sports. According to Riley Gaines, 'after Riley directly experienced competing against a man in a women's sport, being forced

without warning or consent to undress before the fully intact male and subjected to discrimination by the NCAA, she became one of the most powerful voices to speak out against the injustice, challenging the rules of the NCAA, USA Swimming, International Olympic Committee and other governing bodies.'

"Males have an unfair advantage over females, the work required isn't as much as women. According to *Alliance Defending Freedom*, you don't really see women transfer to men's sports to be in a better position. But men are coming into women's sports and taking places on podiums and teams which are making women very upset and not wanting to compete anymore. Soon enough, biological women aren't going to want to try to become the very best if biological males are taking over podiums and spots.

"There are claims that banning transgender athletes from participating in women's sports is a form of exclusion. However, I believe that allowing transgenders to participate in women's sports puts women at a physical disadvantage. It is unsafe for women and robs women of scholarships and recognition. According to whitehouse.gov, men in women's sports is demeaning, unfair and dangerous to women and girls, and denies women and girls the equal opportunity to participate and excel in competitive sports.

"Sincerely,

"Mikelle Verrill."

She's a junior at Hermon High School and she just made the All-Penobscot Valley Softball Team. Mr. Speaker, these are not my words, these are the words of a very diligent young lady who's a junior in high school that worked very hard to make this paper to send it to me, her Representative, so that her words could be shared. I asked her if it would be okay if I shared this. Her and her family agreed. She said, 'I hope it works.' Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Brewer, Representative O'Halloran.

Representative **O'HALLORAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise as a freshman legislator to speak on an issue of growing interest: how do we define fairness and inclusion in all-girls' sports teams? But before I get to my speech, I would like to acknowledge my views are not popular in my party, and I want it to be known that I have always been a strong advocate for empowerment of women and girls. And to the Representative from Bangor, whatever that word may be that your Mom and Judy Taylor would not want you to say, I am not it. At all.

I am a proud Mom of two talented and hardworking daughters who thankfully were provided an opportunity to compete on all-girls' sports teams starting in grade school. Through travel teams, middle school, a lot more travel teams, high school and beyond, they have learned leadership, the meaning of camaraderie, and a life skill of pushing far beyond their physical limits. My girls and their amazing teammates and opponents have suffered tough losses, major injuries and the opportunity to celebrate hard-fought victories. They relished every chance to compete against other exceptional, tough and talented female athletes to improve their own games. Mr. Speaker, I say to you this, this is the purest form of an experience that you can get in competitive athletics, right there.

And I would like to say compassion without wisdom is just as dangerous as wisdom without compassion. Mr. Speaker, we do not yet know, as I think all of you must admit, to say without learning more about the effects of transgender girls in all girls' sports to be fair to all participants. My position is based on fundamental fairness, not bias. I believe all parents want to see their children play high school sports to the best of their abilities.

The reality is that very few athletes make varsity teams or get those opportunities. Very few.

Mr. Speaker, clearly, in many sports, there are physiological advantages to males competing with females. I think this is reality. We collectively do not know enough of the effects of trans medically and scientifically to balance the effects of trans girls in sports. It is not biased. Trans girls competing in male sports have been shown to be considerably, considerably less successful than they do in female sports. This is a fairness issue, Mr. Speaker.

And to be clear, I have no tolerance for bullying and hate or exposing children to public ridicule and harm, particularly athletes that are following the rules that are currently in place. It is unacceptable and reprehensible. This is not a question of denying anyone's identity or dignity. Every child deserves to be supported and respected. Mr. Speaker, I absolutely support the right to transition with proper guidance, but we also need to recognize that allowing trans athletes on all-girls' sports teams gives trans athletes an advantage that they would not otherwise have. And to me, to me this is not fair.

Mr. Speaker, I am standing before you to ask my fellow legislators on both sides of this aisle, Republican and Democrat, to not take away the hard-fought gains our girls and women have made in athletics and to not take away the opportunities and fairness that Title IX provides to girls and women in athletics. The fairness that women have fought for, Mr. Speaker, for over 55 years. Fifty-five years. And I'll say it again, 55 years, and we're finally, finally making some competitive gains, but we still do not have parity. Thank you.

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

Representative **KUHN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to address the Committee process and in reviewing this and some other bills related to sports teams.

We received an abundance of testimony on a wide variety of topics, and it was clear to me that it was not our role or our responsibility to try to figure out what the right rules might be for college sports or professional sports or international competition, events reported on social media from other states, even trans-internationally, all of which we were exposed to in the course of our public hearing. As a legislator in Maine, I thought that our job was to evaluate the position of this issue relative to K-12 kids here in our State. Through that lens, the evidence was overwhelming. We heard from educators and administrators, pediatricians, psychologists and other stakeholders who all pointed us to the following considerations.

First, it's evident that this issue is limited in scope. The MPA has reported that there are approximately 45,000 high school athletes in Maine. Of those, there's somewhere between two and four girls, transgender girls, who are participating on girls' teams. That is about 0.006% of high school athletes. That is what I would call 'targeted legislation,' a law meant to apply to less than a handful of teenagers.

Second, I think it's important to recognize the history with respect to transgender girls participating in Maine sports. There is nothing new to see here. Since 2014, the MPA has allowed trans athletes to participate in sports aligning with their gender identity so long as they pursued an application process initially. In reality, all of the applications submitted were approved. So, this has been the express practice in our State for many years. And I would further submit that it appeared for a long time to proceed without any real discord.

Third, when it comes to creating a school environment where all kids can thrive, targeting a small group, who oftentimes are already marginalized and subject to harassment, is harmful

to every student. This kind of targeting behavior, especially when it's sanctioned by adults, creates an environment where no student feels safe. It undermines their sense of safety and belonging and distracts them from learning. We heard a story from a cisgendered girl who was bullied in her locker room, because the other girls didn't think she was feminine enough, and that was painful, because I think a lot of us can recognize that the pressure of conformity to a feminine ideal is already something that girls and women have to deal with their whole lives, and legitimizing that expectation in schools from an early age sets a harmful precedent.

Finally, the lack of any parameters on implementation of this bill will result in increased body scrutiny for all kids. What if a student presents with a birth certificate that says female, but someone's notion of femininity or someone's memory suggests otherwise? How will schools determine that conflict? Will the school nurse get involved? Will there be blood tests? Will there be hormone tests? Will there be body checks? This is why in communities that have laws like this, student participation is lower, because all kids are afraid of that kind of body scrutiny, especially at that age when they already feel vulnerable about their size and their shape and their body composition.

In summary, looking at this issue from the lens of school and student safety, the evidence was overwhelming. Inclusion of all kids, so that they feel welcome and supported, is the right path forward for all of our kids, which is why I will be supporting the pending motion. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Kennebunkport, Representative Gere.

Representative **GERE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I have struggled over this bill and some of the other bills that we are dealing with today. I've actually had sleepless nights, including last night. And really thinking about how we balance these issues that impact girls, both those assigned female at birth and those who transition, all of whom I believe we all value and love, to the Good Representative from Rumford's point.

Mr. Speaker, the Maine Human Rights Act prohibits discrimination by both sex and gender identity, and students in both those groups should have the ability to participate in competitive sports. The challenge that I've been rolling around and around in my head is, what about the places where the protection of the rights of both groups intersect and/or conflict? The bill before us doesn't deal with that. It simply proposes a blanket ban. It doesn't deal with many things. It doesn't deal with sport-specific considerations that might be different if it's an individual sport or a team sport. It clearly doesn't deal with the differences by age or grade in school. For example, should requirements around these issues be the same for students in elementary school as for high school students after puberty has kicked in.

And Mr. Speaker, in other states, it appears; and I by no means am any expert in this; that the school sports governing body for the state as a whole is able to take a role in determining policies and ways to accommodate trans girls while also preserving fairness for girls assigned so at birth. Mr. Speaker, since 1972 when Title IX went into effect; before 1972, about 30,000 women played college sports in the U.S. And since then, in today's world, we have seen an explosion of girls being able to really excel in sports and compete at a high level, as well as now, I was sitting in a bar the other night and on the TV was a women's softball game. And we're just hearing now about a women's softball league actually being formed. And I think we can all celebrate that, and I think that we all will be very happy when we see more and more of that in our world.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know the path forward on these issues, but I do know that the approach proposed in LD 1134 of a blanket ban is not the way to go. My preference would be for a process that would really do a sport-specific analysis about the best ways to accommodate and deal with both the issues of fairness and safety that I believe are legitimate concerns in many places, especially in looking at the high school years and above and at the competitive Championships that occur around the State and around the country. So, I don't know the path forward, but I do know that I will be supporting the pending motion on the bill for those reasons. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **SMITH**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to rise and speak to several things said by the Representative from Falmouth.

One, I really do have to take objection to the word 'targeting.' We are not targeting anyone. We are standing for another group of individuals, for the girls. We have never said that we have any hatred or despise in any way the other people who are participating in girls' sports, the people who identify as girls, but we are not targeting anyone.

The second thing I have to say is that when one transgender individual competes in girls' sports, they are disenfranchising hundreds of other girls. When that one person stands on that podium, they have pushed every girl down and taken their spot. The high percentage of Championships that they have taken from girls is much more than just several boys.

And regarding body scrutiny: how do you think a girl feels being naked in a locker room with a boy? Whatever he identifies at, whatever process he's gone through with hormones to call himself a girl. You don't think a girl feels that she's being scrutinized when she's naked, with a boy there, who she's always; maybe always known as a boy, maybe since they were kindergartners together, and he's just transitioned. That's body scrutiny, and that is wrong. Thank you.

Representative MOONEN of Portland inquired if a Quorum was present.

The Chair ordered a quorum call.

More than half of the members responding, the Chair declared a Quorum present.

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

Representative **MOONEN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Colleagues of the House, I rise in support of the pending motion.

I just want to say that almost every single piece of debate that we've heard on this bill so far has been about sports. I want to make sure that people understand that the bill in front of us is much broader than sports. There are other bills coming later that are only about sports. We have already had debates about bathrooms and other facilities of public accommodation. We've heard about the Maine Supreme Court case with Nicole Maines from over a decade ago. I urge us to focus on what is all of the content that is in this bill and recognize that the sports debate can continue in other bills. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would disagree with the Good Representative. I believe my speech was very clear in speaking to the entire bill. Just to reiterate, the using of female facilities and when I discussed the consequences in which two girls were raped at school. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of Report "B" Ought Not to Pass. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 481

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmiersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Bell, Frost, Lavigne, Lee.

Yes, 73; No, 72; Absent, 4; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

73 having voted in the affirmative and 72 voted in the negative, with 4 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly Report "B" **Ought Not to Pass** was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Six Members of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** report in Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-691)** on Bill "An Act to Ensure Equity and Safety in Athletics, Restrooms, Changing Rooms and Housing at Elementary, Secondary and Postsecondary Schools" (H.P. 554) (L.D. 868)

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

BABIN of Fort Fairfield

CARUSO of Caratunk

HENDERSON of Rumford

O'HALLORAN of Brewer

POIRIER of Skowhegan

Six Members of the same Committee report in Report "B" **Ought Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland

TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth

PUGH of Portland

SATO of Gorham

SINCLAIR of Bath

READ.

Representative KUHN of Falmouth moved that the House **ACCEPT** Report "B" **Ought Not to Pass**.

Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** Report "B" **Ought Not to Pass**.

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

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Caratunk, Representative Caruso.

Representative **CARUSO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It's my honor to support LD 868, which is An Act to Ensure Equity and Safety in Athletics and Safe Private Spaces.

Before I start speaking about the bill, I just want to just share that, you know, it really saddens my heart to hear the pain that we've heard all morning and afternoon. It saddens me to walk down the halls and see people holding signs thinking that, you know, I or someone here is against them. And, you know, my heart has always been that I care about all kids passionately. And my heart is that all kids will know that they are loved and seen, that they are accepted, no matter what they're going through, no matter what they look like, no matter where they're from; regardless. Every child is a gift, every child is valuable and precious. And I just before we start talking about my bill, I just want that to be clear, because the heart behind this bill is that all kids get to play, they get to have fun and they get to be safe. And they get to be accommodated for. And as a high school three-letter varsity athlete, two-letter varsity athlete in college, I care deeply not just about kids, but about making sure that everyone has opportunities to enjoy and to have fun and to get all the benefits that competitive sports brought to me.

And so, I just, I wish we could all just like wash ourselves and start over. You know, I know that many of our youth are going through many challenges, whether it's emotionally, mentally, physically, physiologically. And I believe that Maine can absolutely provide compassion, safety and support for our students, including those who are struggling with identity, and still preserve the privacy and equal athletic opportunities for all

our kids. And I believe that LD 868 can do this. I tried really hard, I searched hard for vetted language that would provide safety and clear direction for the State of Maine to move forward from the situation that we're finding ourselves in.

You know, gender identity may be neutral in many or most areas of school life, but when it comes to physical sports and private spaces, sex matters. Even Justice Ginsburg in a 1996 Supreme Court case wrote about the inherent physiological differences between males and females. I won't go into; I have it and maybe at some other point, it can come up, but I won't go into it. But this is a recognized fact. By denying the physical advantage of males over females and ignoring Title IX protections, Maine has denied equal athletic opportunities for Maine girls. It's not just unfair; it's discriminatory.

The reality is that girls' sports will not be sustainable if this continues. You see, because as soon as one male has a spot on a female team, it's no longer a female team, it's co-ed and the girls have lost Title IX opportunities. There is nothing also holding back every position on the girls' team from going to a male. As soon as one male can use the girls' locker room to change his clothes, the girls' room has become co-ed and the girls have lost their privacy, their private spaces that Title IX created for them. Maine girls should never be forced by their school to give up their privacy and feeling of safety. I don't know of any parent who would force their daughter to strip or expose herself to a male against her will, or a parent who would force their daughter to be exposed to a male against her will, and surely the Maine government shouldn't, either. I have heard from plenty of parents who agree.

Now, I'm saying this, I'm not; let there be no confusion; I am not saying that a high schooler who is transitioning or wants to change his identity is someone that I'm necessarily afraid of, this is opening a door to adults. In the Judiciary, we heard enough about the horrors of sexual assault victims and how prevalent crimes are against our youth. The State of Maine should never have policies which could further traumatize our youth, including girls who have been victims of sexual assault or trafficking, or create an open door of opportunities for new harm. I heard from DAs, prosecutors and law enforcement, even from Southern Maine, that this legislation is critical to protect our girls from sexual predators posing as transgender imposters just to get into girls' restrooms and locker rooms. That's why LD 868 accommodates the needs of all students. It maintains separate private spaces and allows for schools to offer single-user options to any student who, for whatever reason, is uncomfortable using changing rooms of their sex. And it happens. High schoolers; we've all been there.

With regards to LD 868 and how it differs from all the other sports bills that have come before the Chamber, LD 868 treats all athletes the same. It sees all athletes the same, so, there isn't discrimination. It provides a clear eligibility standard based on sex for teams and spaces. Now, sports have always been organized through eligibility criteria, whether it's weight, sex or age. For example, in wrestling, a 180-pound wrestler doesn't compete against a 120. An 18-year-old high-schooler doesn't compete against a junior high. You know, even in older divisions of sports, you don't have a senior class against a 20-year-old. And men don't compete against girls unless it's co-ed, due to physical advantages.

A student's sex is not going to be determined by surveillance, so, let's just clear that up. A student's sex is easily determined by their doctor's sports athletic form, which is already required in order for any athlete to compete in school sports. It is filled out by a doctor. There is no inspection; there is no surveillance. That would be horrific.

Now, what's so great about LD 868 is that every child gets to choose between two teams that they can play on. So, it treats everyone the same. You can either play on the team of your sex, whether it's male or female, or you can play on a co-ed team. Everyone gets the same two options. The schools and the MPA can create a separate standing or league for fair competition and for the purposes of listing competition results in a just and fair manner. They do this. Just a couple years ago, they created an eight-person boys' soccer team and an eight-person girls' soccer team. So, this is something that they are able to do, and they do do. Everyone gets to run, swim and jump, you just don't have to put the scores of a biological male in the girls column. That's all.

LD 868 provides for sex-designated bathrooms, locker rooms and the option for housing for when teams are traveling. So, a girl doesn't have to share a hotel room or even, you know, a dorm space with a boy if she doesn't want to. It's an option. It covers every athlete K through college. All the way up. It protects schools and colleges from retaliation, and it provides a legal remedy for students.

LD 868 brings Maine into compliance, and it ensures federal funding. It will eliminate the chaos that Maine's current policy has inflicted on our schools' boards and school budgets. It will ensure that federal funding gets to our schools. And it brings Maine into alignment with Title IX, federal antidiscrimination laws, the Executive Order and the NCAA policy that only females can play on female teams. We heard a little bit about that before. But just to go further, the NCAA stated, quote, "we strongly believe that clear, consistent and uniform eligibility standards would best serve today's student-athletes instead of a patchwork of conflicting state laws and court decisions."

Not only is 868 in 26 states already in the United States, but it will make sure that our school competitions are consistent with the NCAA policy and prepares Maine girls to have proper standing when they are applying for college; when they are being looked at by recruiters. If other states are only allowing girls to compete, then our girls will be at a disadvantage if they are in the number two spot instead of the number one spot and they're trying to get onto that Div 1 or Div 2 or Div 3 college team. So, this brings Maine girls into comparable standing across the country. And keep in mind, college scholarship may be the only way a Maine girl can afford to go to college.

Now, if anyone thinks discrimination against women hardly ever occurs, it's growing. Worldwide, Maine athletes have won more than 4,100 victories, over 7,000 top three finishes in female competitions, impacting more than 13,000 competitions. According to the UN and multiple scientific papers, quote, "current evidence indicates that identifying as transgender; with or without the use of puberty blockers, testosterone suppression and/or cross-sex hormones; does not erase the inherent male athletic advantages." In my testimony, I had all the quotes, it was very lengthy and I'm not going to take the time. I just want you to know that I have citations for anything that I'm saying and quoting.

Speaking of the UN, in 2024, the United Nations General Assembly report titled "Violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences," found just a couple things I'm going to point out. One is that females are more likely to sustain injuries when playing against males, citing instances of broken bones, concussions, knocked-out teeth, skull fractures and brain damage in volleyball, basketball and soccer. I think we heard a little bit about some injuries earlier today. And that number two, this is their report, that men are taking awards, trophies, roster

spots, playing time, resources and opportunities from women every day.

It is not just a couple of athletes in the State of Maine, it's just we're not hearing about as much, because people are afraid to talk about it, but there have been injuries on soccer teams in southern Maine with males playing on the girls' team. We heard testimony from girls in P.E. classes with boys coming into the girl locker room, 13 years old, eighth grade. This is happening more than we know, and it's just becoming more and more prevalent in terms of there are more and more students who are looking to change their identity. And so, I'm only saying that because it's not what I heard earlier today, just two athletes. So, and I'm saying it because we want to be proactive. We want to have Maine have a path forward to make sure that there is safety and equity across the State as things progress.

Mr. Speaker, Maine can do better for our athletes. The overwhelming majority of Mainers across the State are asking us to act to bring common-sense legislation. This is fair, it's safe, it's about safety and opportunities. Passage of LD 868 ensures that Maine students, including those who are transitioning, are protected and accommodated and that fairness, opportunities, privacy and safety are preserved for all athletes on and off the field. It also provides clear direction and guardrails to our local schools, while ensuring their federal funding is provided. One thing that we heard from the schools and the association is they are looking for clarity. They don't want confusion, they want clear direction from us and I believe that 868 brings that. It is; like I said; it's enacted in 26 states, it's been vetted and I believe it's a clear path forward. I encourage the Body to vote yes. Thank you.

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

Representative **MOONEN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to say again that most of this debate has been about sports and we have yet to reach the sports-only bill and want to remind everyone that this bill is much broader than sports. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of Report "B" Ought Not to Pass. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 482

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Bell, Crockett, Frost, Lavigne, Lee.

Yes, 72; No, 72; Absent, 5; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

72 having voted in the affirmative and 72 voted in the negative, with 5 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly Report "B" **Ought Not to Pass** was **NOT ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, Representative MOONEN of Portland moved that the Bill be **TABLED** until later until later in today's session pending **ACCEPTANCE** of either Report.

Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **TABLE** the Bill until later in today's session pending **ACCEPTANCE** of either Report.

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 483

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Bell, Frost, Lavigne, Lee.

Yes, 73; No, 72; Absent, 4; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

73 having voted in the affirmative and 72 voted in the negative, with 4 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Bill was **TABLED** pending **ACCEPTANCE** of either Report and later today assigned.

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Maine Bail Code to Eliminate the Class E Crime of Violation of Condition of Release"

(H.P. 112) (L.D. 179)

Signed:

Senators:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

CURRY of Waldo

CYRWAY of Kennebec

Representatives:

ARDELL of Monticello

BUNKER of Farmington

LAJOIE of Lewiston

MCINTYRE of Lowell

NUTTING of Oakland

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-685)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representatives:

HASENFUS of Readfield

ABDI of Lewiston

LOOKNER of Portland

MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

READ.

Representative HASENFUS of Readfield moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative NUTTING of Oakland **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

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

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority Ought Not to Pass Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 484

YEA - Adams, Albert, Arata, Archer, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Brennan, Bridgeo, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Crafts, Cray, Daigle, DeBrito, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Farrin, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Geiger, Gere, Gifford, Graham, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lance, Lanigan, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Macias, Malon, Mason, Mastraccio, McCabe, McIntyre, Meyer, Mingo, Mitchell, Montell, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Osher, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pluecker, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Rudnicki, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Schmearsal-Burgess, Shagoury, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Stover, Strout, Swallow, Terry, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, Warren, Webb, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Abdi, Ankeles, Beck, Boyer M, Bunker, Copeland, Crockett, Dhalac, Faircloth, Friedmann, Gattine, Golek, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Julia, Kessler, Lookner, Mathieson, Matlack, Milliken, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Pugh, Rana, Roeder, Rollins, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Sinclair, Supica.

ABSENT - Bell, Frost, Lavigne, Lee, Skold.

Yes, 112; No, 32; Absent, 5; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

112 having voted in the affirmative and 32 voted in the negative, with 5 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-686)** on Bill "An Act to Allow Residential Use Development in Commercial Districts"

(H.P. 644) (L.D. 997)

Signed:

Senators:

CURRY of Waldo
BAILEY of York
BENNETT of Oxford

Representatives:

GERE of Kennebunkport
EDER of Waterboro
GOLEK of Harpswell
JULIA of Waterville
MALON of Biddeford
MINGO of Calais
ROBERTS of South Berwick
YUSUF of Portland

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

Signed:

Representative:

COLLAMORE of Pittsfield

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-686)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-686)** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Require Radon Testing for Certain Commercial and Residential Construction"

(H.P. 807) (L.D. 1232)

Signed:

Senators:

CURRY of Waldo
BENNETT of Oxford

Representatives:

GERE of Kennebunkport
EDER of Waterboro
GOLEK of Harpswell
JULIA of Waterville
MALON of Biddeford
MINGO of Calais
YUSUF of Portland

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-687)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representative:

COLLAMORE of Pittsfield

READ.

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

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(H.P. 6) (L.D. 42) Bill "An Act Regarding the Bind-over and Detention of Juveniles" Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-695)**

(H.P. 1303) (L.D. 1944) Bill "An Act to Protect Children and Adults from Technology-facilitated Sexual Abuse" Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-696)**

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

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

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

SENATE PAPERS

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Prohibit the Sale of Items Intended to Be Used to Inhale Nitrous Oxide for Recreational Purposes"

(S.P. 489) (L.D. 1200)

Minority (1) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** **READ** and **ACCEPTED** in the House on June 11, 2025.

Came from the Senate with that Body having **INSISTED** on its former action whereby the Majority (11) **OUGHT TO PASS** **AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-340)** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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

Representative NUTTING of Oakland moved that the House **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

Representative MOONEN of Portland **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 485

YEA - Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bishop, Blier, Campbell, Caruso, Chapman, Collamore, Cray, Drinkwater, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Graham, Greenwood, Guerrette, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Kessler, Lance, Lyman, Mason, McCabe, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Shagoury, Simmons, Soboleski, Strout, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome, Zager.

NAY - Abdi, Adams, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Bagshaw, Beck, Boyer D, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Carlow, Cimino, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collins, Cooper, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, Daigle, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Ducharme, Eder, Faircloth, Farrin, Faulkingham, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Gramlich, Haggan, Hall, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lanigan, Lemelin, Libby, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Paul, Pluecker, Pugh, Quint, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Sinclair, Skold, Smith, Stover, Supica, Swallow, Terry, Wadsworth, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Mr. Speaker.

ABSENT - Bell, Frost, Lavigne, Lee.

Yes, 55; No, 90; Absent, 4; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

55 having voted in the affirmative and 90 voted in the negative, with 4 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR FAILED**.

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

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 198)

STATE OF MAINE

CLERK'S OFFICE

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

June 13, 2025

Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Fecteau:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the following Joint Standing Committee has voted unanimously to report the following bills out "Ought Not to Pass:"

Judiciary

L.D. 1104 An Act to Limit the Liability of Persons Who Provide Firearm Hold Agreements

L.D. 1379 An Act to Require Public Health Warnings to Be Posted and Provided by Firearm Dealers and Gunsmiths

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(H.P. 64) (L.D. 99) Bill "An Act to Clarify Information Sharing Between the Department of Health and Human Services and Schools with Respect to Investigations of Child Abuse or Neglect" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-700)**

(H.P. 613) (L.D. 948) Bill "An Act to Reduce Administrative Burdens and Expand Access in the Laws Governing Cannabis" Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-699)**

(H.P. 1238) (L.D. 1854) Bill "An Act to Require the Board of Counseling Professionals Licensure, Board of Dental Practice, Board of Speech, Audiology and Hearing and Board of Occupational Therapy Practice to Obtain Fingerprint-based Federal Bureau of Investigation Criminal Background Checks for Initial Applicants and Licensees Seeking Compact Privileges" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-698)**

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

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

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

ENACTORS

Emergency Measure

An Act to Establish the Alamoosook Lake Watershed Management District

(H.P. 348) (L.D. 529)
(C. "A" H-670)

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

Emergency Measure

An Act to Establish the Toddy Pond Watershed Management District

(H.P. 350) (L.D. 531)
(C. "A" H-669)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 121 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

An Act to Stabilize Residential Treatment Capacity for Children and Youth in Maine

(H.P. 1163) (L.D. 1745)
(C. "A" H-674)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 109 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

Resolve, Requiring the Department of Health and Human Services to Study Options for Allowing Children in the Department's Custody to Receive Federal Benefits

(H.P. 16) (L.D. 52)
(C. "A" H-667)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 107 voted in favor of the same and 2 against, and accordingly the Resolve was **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Acts

An Act to Require the Maine State Police to Create a Statewide List of Missing Persons and Study Improvements for Investigating Missing Persons Cases

(H.P. 105) (L.D. 172)
(H. "A" H-654 to C. "A" H-634)

An Act to Limit the Liability of Gun Shops That Provide Firearm Hold Agreements

(H.P. 779) (L.D. 1174)
(C. "A" H-661)

An Act to Ensure Ongoing Access to Medications and Care for Chronic Conditions by Changing Requirements for Prior Authorizations

(H.P. 980) (L.D. 1496)
(C. "A" H-666)

An Act to Expand Direct Health Care Service Arrangements

(H.P. 995) (L.D. 1511)
(C. "A" H-668)

An Act to Implement Additional Criteria and Processes for the Supervised Community Confinement Program

(H.P. 1119) (L.D. 1684)
(C. "A" H-665)

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

Resolve

Resolve, Directing the Attorney General to Update Rules Relating to the Disposition of Forfeited Firearms

(H.P. 265) (L.D. 411)
(C. "B" H-658)

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

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Report

Majority Report of the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-295)** on Bill "An Act to Respond to the Housing Affordability and Accessibility Crisis in Maine"

(S.P. 157) (L.D. 365)

Signed:

Senators:

CURRY of Waldo
BAILEY of York
BENNETT of Oxford

Representatives:

GERE of Kennebunkport
EDER of Waterboro
GOLEK of Harpswell
JULIA of Waterville
MALON of Biddeford
YUSUF of Portland

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

Signed:

Representatives:

COLLAMORE of Pittsfield
ROBERTS of South Berwick
WALKER of Naples

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-295)**.

READ.

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

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

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

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

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this bill as amended has a new title. It's called "An Act to Establish a Moratorium on the Sale of Mobile Home Parks."

This bill is yet another attempt to tell mobile home park owners what they can and cannot do with their property. In this case, the amended version of this bill prevents mobile home park owners from selling their property within 90 days of the adjournment of the First Special Session of the 132nd Legislature. It does not take into consideration that property owners may be selling because they can no longer afford to operate or they are retiring or any other reason that a property owner may want to sell their property. It does exempt the purchase of parks by resident co-ops and the transfer of property to family members. Basically, we are telling property owners that it's okay for the State to stop you from selling your property to whomever you choose.

Mr. Speaker, we've worked together on property owner rights bills together in the past. I feel that this bill goes against the good-faith work that we and others in this Body have done to ensure that property owners have the right to expand their property or transfer their property to somebody else. Please help protect those rights and vote against the pending motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Kennebunkport, Representative Gere.

Representative **GERE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, LD 365 is an emergency bill because, Mr. Speaker, we have an emergency. While we are working on policies to preserve affordable housing in mobile home parks, peoples' homes are at risk right now. In one park, almost 300 households have formed a cooperative association to purchase their park. They've worked together to form their co-op, elect officers, learn about and execute the process and complete the required documents. They've met all the deadlines, but the clock is against them and their time may run out.

Our colleagues at MaineHousing and the Genesis Fund are aware of other parks that are also under threat. LD 365 will pause the sale or transfer of large communities for 91 days to allow new protections to be considered and enacted on. Without these protections, consequences may come to pass that are all too predictable, and none of us want to see these for residents. And it's important to note that LD 365 exempts sales or transfers to family members from the moratorium.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is an important measure that the Legislature can take to help ensure we don't lose another 300-plus affordable homes and at least one mobile home park, if not more. Mr. Speaker, I had the great pleasure to attend the ribbon cuttings in both Brunswick and in Bangor, and it was such a great pleasure to see the enthusiasm with which those resident cooperatives were purchasing their parks and charting their own future, and we need to buy some time here for others to be able to do the same. I urge my colleagues to support the pending motion on LD 365. Thanks very much.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 486

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Jackson, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pomerleau, Quint, Roberts, Rudnicki, Schmursal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Bell, Frost, Lavigne, Lee, Poirier.

Yes, 73; No, 71; Absent, 5; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

73 having voted in the affirmative and 71 voted in the negative, with 5 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-295)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-295)** in concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

ENACTORS**Emergency Measure**

An Act to Fund Collective Bargaining Agreements with Judicial Branch Employees

(S.P. 794) (L.D. 1986)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 102 voted in favor of the same and 34 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Emergency Measure

Resolve, to Establish the Working Group to Review and Update the Laws Governing Harness Racing

(S.P. 358) (L.D. 793)

(C. "A" S-376)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 114 voted in favor of the same and 2 against, and accordingly the Resolve was **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Acts

An Act Regarding Large Recovery Residences

(H.P. 138) (L.D. 215)

(S. "A" S-369 to C. "A" H-645)

An Act to Establish the Cannabis Advisory Council

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

(C. "A" S-375)

An Act to Improve Accountability and Understanding of Data in Insurance Transactions

(S.P. 747) (L.D. 1906)

(C. "A" S-367)

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

Resolves

Resolve, to Convene a Working Group to Study the Use of Oral Fluid Testing in Determining Intoxication of Drivers, Aircraft Operators and Hunters

(S.P. 463) (L.D. 1135)

(C. "A" S-377)

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

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(H.P. 115) (L.D. 182) Bill "An Act to Require the Department of Health and Human Services to Establish MaineCare Reimbursement Rates for the Maine Veterans' Homes on a Per Resident Basis" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-702)**

On motion of Representative TUELL of East Machias, was **REMOVED** from the First Day Consent Calendar.

The Committee Report was **READ**.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from East Machias, Representative Tuell.

Representative **TUELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I'm going to ask for the Roll Call right off the bat, and I'll explain why in a minute.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on **ACCEPTANCE** of the **Unanimous Ought to Pass as Amended Report**.

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

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **TUELL**: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I rise today in strong support of LD 182, which at its core affirms Maine's commitment to those who have given their best years in defense of our nation, at home and abroad, by providing a stable, steady source of funding for the six Maine Veterans' Homes in our State. One of those homes happens to be in neighboring Machias, which until redistricting a few years ago was part of my district and is now ably represented by the Representative from Harrington. Because of that, Maine Veterans' Home Machias in particular and Maine Veterans' Home in general has always held a special place in my heart. I've always worked across the aisle to give the residents, their families and the staff, who compassionately care for and love them as if they were their own parents or guardians, a voice here in Augusta.

We've debated many contentious issues this Session, even a few today, but we also have gone through what I consider to be a lot of trivial and superfluous bills. But it is bills like this to ensure Maine Veterans' Homes can stay open, serving our small rural communities and those veterans who have retired there for the rest of their days, which is why we're really here.

I first visited Maine Veterans' Home Machias back in 2014 and have kept going back time and again. My church goes there every Christmas to sing carols to the residents. Our local elementary school, which teaches kids about the area's rich tradition of alewife harvesting, takes a fresh batch of smoked fish to the residents for lunch at least once a year. And I've been there for countless functions honoring the residents in the facility for all they've given.

But Maine's Veterans' Home is in trouble and has had come back to the Legislature every year since I've been here to ask for badly needed funding, just so they can keep providing the quality elder care our veterans and their families have come to expect. We were warned five years ago that the homes in Machias and Caribou were on the brink and would have to close without help. That request was pushed to the side until, nearly two years later, the homes started the process of shutting down and shipping veterans out of the places they'd called home. The Legislature responded with funding in a bipartisan way. And while I had some reservations about that legislation at the time, the Legislature made a commitment that no veterans' home in Maine would close without our consent.

We passed that law, and we are obligated to follow through for the veterans of Aroostook and Washington Counties, and those who are served by each of the other homes for those who live in central, western and southern Maine. We said that no veterans' home would close on our watch and we owe that to those who gave it all for our freedoms to follow through. It's that simple, and it's why I commend my friend from Bangor in putting this legislation forward. Regardless of what happens with the budget, this, to me, is a must. Two or three weeks from now, when we are all home, marching in our Fourth of July parades and enjoying the summer, a budget will be enacted. Whether we voted or we didn't, whether we support that or we don't, we

all should agree that Maine Veterans' Homes and keeping them whole must be a top funding priority.

As I close, Mr. Speaker, my first eight years in this building involved fighting to keep our Downeast correction facility open. I daresay I gave the Representative from Newport a good bit of grief pushing for that and would do so again. I don't bring that up to open up old wounds, but to say that I have and will continue to fight for the survival of things in our county and resources in our county like the veterans' homes as long as I'm here. I just hope that this is the last year we have to keep coming back, hat in hand, for the funding needed to keep them from shutting their doors and denying our most faithful, selfless defenders the care that they need in their sunset years.

I will hold my head high at the Fourth of July parade in Lubec this year, the parade in Pembroke and the parade in Machias, because I will be supporting the men and women who fought for our liberty. I will go to the Lubec Lions chicken barbecue and see my friend Bubba Eaton, who asks every chance he gets about the future of the veterans' home and what we're going to do to keep it open. And I hope I'll be able to tell him and the many like him that we have lived up to our commitment and funded the place so many of our veterans call home. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **SUPICA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will be brief, and I just am rising to thank the Good Representative from East Machias for his kind words and to say that I stand as the Chair of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee, and I think I could safely say that I could speak for all the Members of the Veterans and Legal Affairs Committee this session and past sessions to say that this is an important institution in our State, and so, we appreciate him drawing attention to the issue of the Maine Veterans' Homes and the continued funding, so that they can stay open. Thank you.

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

Representative **STROUT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. As the Good Representative from East Machias stated, the Machias Veterans' Home is in my district, and I'm honored to have it there. They do a wonderful job taking care of our veterans, they involve them in the community, they allow their families to be close to them.

We have several veterans through the history of Washington County that have given back to make sure of what we have today. And I know funding is always an issue, and I can't think of anything better than to spend it on those that have given so much, so we can stand here and have our debates today. So, I hope when the appropriations goes through, they look and they remember that even though we don't know them all, we owe them all. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Unanimous Committee Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 487

YEA - Abdi, Adams, Albert, Ankeles, Arata, Archer, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Bagshaw, Beck, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Copeland, Crafts, Cray, Crockett, Daigle, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faircloth, Farrin, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Friedmann, Geiger, Gere, Gifford, Golek, Graham,

Gramlich, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Hasenfus, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lance, Lanigan, Lemelin, Libby, Lookner, Lyman, Macias, Malon, Mason, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, McIntyre, Meyer, Milliken, Mingo, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Morris, Murphy, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Osher, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pluecker, Pomerleau, Pugh, Quint, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Rudnicki, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Schmearsal-Burgess, Shagoury, Simmons, Sinclair, Skold, Smith, Soboleski, Stover, Strout, Supica, Swallow, Terry, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, Warren, Webb, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - NONE.

ABSENT - Bell, Frost, Gattine, Lavigne, Lee, Poirier.

Yes, 143; No, 0; Absent, 6; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

143 having voted in the affirmative and 0 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the **Unanimous Ought to Pass as Amended Report** was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-702)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-702)** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Report

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-688)** on Bill "An Act to Enhance Businesses' Understanding of Labor Standards and Grow Maine's Energy Economy Through a Training Program"

(H.P. 1166) (L.D. 1748)

Signed:

Senators:

TIPPING of Penobscot

RAFFERTY of York

Representatives:

ROEDER of Bangor

ARCHER of Saco

BECK of South Portland

GEIGER of Rockland

MACIAS of Topsham

SKOLD of Portland

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

Signed:

Senator:

BRADSTREET of Kennebec

Representatives:

COLLINS of Sidney

DRINKWATER of Milford

SOBOLESKI of Phillips

READ.

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

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

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 488

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmiersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Adams, Bell, Frost, Lavigne, Poirier.

Yes, 75; No, 69; Absent, 5; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 69 voted in the negative, with 5 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-688)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-688)** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

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

HOUSE DIVIDED REPORT - Report "A" (6) Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-691) - Report "B" (6) Ought Not to Pass - Committee on JUDICIARY on Bill "An Act to Ensure Equity and Safety in Athletics, Restrooms, Changing Rooms and Housing at Elementary, Secondary and Postsecondary Schools"

(H.P. 554) (L.D. 868)

Which was **TABLED** by Representative MOONEN of Portland pending **ACCEPTANCE** of either Report.

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

Representative MOONEN of Portland **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended**.

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

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

Representative **MOONEN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We've already debated this one once today, so, I will just say again that this bill is far broader than sports, and that's pretty much what the entire debate was about, but we have another bill coming that's only about sports, and I hope that we can all reject a bill that is overreaching. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 489

YEA - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmiersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

NAY - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

ABSENT - Bell, Crockett, Frost, Lavigne, Lee, Poirier.

Yes, 71; No, 72; Absent, 6; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

71 having voted in the affirmative and 72 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended** was **NOT ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, Representative KUHN of Falmouth moved that the House **ACCEPT** Report "B" **Ought Not to Pass**.

Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** Report "B" **Ought Not to Pass**.

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

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of Report "B" Ought Not to Pass. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 490

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Bell, Crockett, Frost, Lavigne, Lee, Poirier.

Yes, 72; No, 71; Absent, 6; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

72 having voted in the affirmative and 71 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly Report "B" **Ought Not to Pass** was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Reports

Six Members of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** report in Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-693)** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Maine Human Rights Act Regarding Female Athletes and Safety in Women's Single-sex Shelters"

(H.P. 872) (L.D. 1337)

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

BABIN of Fort Fairfield

CARUSO of Caratunk

HENDERSON of Rumford

O'HALLORAN of Brewer

POIRIER of Skowhegan

Six Members of the same Committee report in Report "B" **Ought Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland

TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth

PUGH of Portland

SATO of Gorham

SINCLAIR of Bath

READ.

Representative KUHN of Falmouth moved that the House **ACCEPT** Report "B" **Ought Not to Pass**.

Representative HENDERSON of Rumford **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** Report "B" **Ought Not to Pass**.

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Caratunk, Representative Caruso.

Representative **CARUSO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd just like to speak on my other bill. The purpose of LD 1337 as amended is simple. It amends the educational portion of the Maine Human Rights Act to reflect and defer to Title IX where the two conflict. That's all it does in the amended fashion.

Under Title IX, 'sex' did not mean gender identity. Title IX was based on biological sex and designed to stop discrimination against females. It created space specifically for women and it provided the same protections as men and delivered equal athletic opportunities for women like me. Unfortunately, by now allowing males to compete in female sports, Maine is reversing nearly 50 years of advances for women.

Some background. Title IX requires schools and colleges to provide female athletes with equal treatment and equal access to the benefits and opportunities that flow from sports. It does this by allowing separate categories. Immediately following the Title IX passage, the Supreme Court characterizes 'sex' as, quote, "an immutable characteristic determined solely by the accident of birth." The U.S. Supreme Court has also recognized that there are, quote, "inherent differences" between men and women in the case *United States v. Virginia*. Justice Ginsburg wrote that once women were admitted into; the subject of the case was the Virginia Military Institute, female students would, quote, "undoubtedly require," end quote, separate physical fitness standards precisely because of the, quote, "physiological differences" between male and female individuals.

Other federal courts have explained that, quote, "commingling of the biological sexes in the female athletics arena would significantly undermine the benefits," unquote, that separate sports teams afforded to female student athletes. This is from an 11th Circuit case in 2022 against the Board of St. Johns County. And earlier this year, a federal district court in Kentucky issued a decision in *State of Tennessee v. Cardona* that blocked the Biden Administration's unlawful attempt to change the meaning of sex in Title IX, a federal law designed to create equal opportunities for women in education and athletics to include, quote, "gender identity." The district court ruled that, quote, 'when Title IX is viewed in its entirety, it is abundantly clear that discrimination on the basis of sex means discrimination on the basis of being male or female,' end quote. There is nothing in the text or statutory design of Title IX to

suggest that discrimination on the basis of sex means anything other than that, the basis of being male and female.

The Maine Human Rights Act as originally enacted was meant to protect the categories long established in constitutional case law: race, color, sex, age, religion, ancestry, national origin. And these are immutable characteristics that cannot be altered. When gender identity was added to the Maine Human Rights Act, it was not intended to apply to school athletics. Gender identity, like I said before, may be neutral in many areas of school life, but when it comes to sports, sex matters.

Passage of LD 1337 will bring Maine into compliance with not only Title IX, but also federal anti-discrimination laws, the NCAA policy that only females can play on female teams, the President's Executive Order and then ensure that our schools receive federal funding. And it had support from Maine's superintendents. Together, Title IX and LD 1337 protect women and girls from discrimination and ensures that all students have equal opportunities in education, especially athletics. I respectfully ask the Body to vote Ought to Pass, as it is the simplest path for Maine students and schools to move forward. Thank you.

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

Representative **KUHN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Twenty years ago, the Maine Legislature prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation in the Maine Human Rights Act. Included in the definition of sexual identity was gender expression. Importantly, the same year, the Maine people upheld the law in a Citizens' Initiative, supporting these rights by a strong majority.

There has not been another time in Maine law when long enjoyed civil rights have been rescinded. There's no case for it, and it sets a dangerous precedent. I urge the Body to reject this proposal and support the pending motion.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of Report "B" Ought Not to Pass. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 491

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmiersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S.

ABSENT - Bell, Frost, Lavigne, Lee, Poirier, Woodsome.
Yes, 73; No, 70; Absent, 6; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

73 having voted in the affirmative and 70 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly Report "B" **Ought Not to Pass** was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Six Members of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** report in Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-692)** on Bill "An Act to Prohibit Biological Males from Participating in School Athletic Programs and Activities Designated for Females When State Funding Is Provided to the School"

(H.P. 156) (L.D. 233)

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

BABIN of Fort Fairfield

CARUSO of Caratunk

HENDERSON of Rumford

O'HALLORAN of Brewer

POIRIER of Skowhegan

Six Members of the same Committee report in Report "B" **Ought Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland

TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth

PUGH of Portland

SATO of Gorham

SINCLAIR of Bath

READ.

Representative KUHN of Falmouth moved that the House **ACCEPT** Report "B" **Ought Not to Pass**.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Orrington, Representative Campbell.

Representative **CAMPBELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. We all know the process here. I just want to recall to you the process of my submission of this bill.

Long before the issues that we've been discussing all day today, it came to my attention by request to put this bill in. And it was a bill from a lady in my district that has been involved with sports through her family, major, major support of athletics at the University of Maine, and we've all watched and we've heard today about the 55 years that women have been working very hard on Title IX. We heard from a young lady who wrote a letter to her Representative. We heard from a mother. And this is an issue that isn't going to go away.

So, if you read my title, it's pretty simple. If I'd known then what I know today, it probably would've been even more simple, but I submitted it to the Committee and as we all know, once you submit your bill, your title to the Committee, it's no longer yours. So, it was my hope that once this fine Committee had received the title, understanding the major issue that we've all come to sit through all day today, that they could've done something with this.

There is a solution. I don't know what it is. I was hoping the Committee in their wisdom would know or could work to the solution. It is a major problem. My hope was that that Committee could create another division. Maybe just eliminate all of the divisions and let everyone compete together. This Legislature, the 132nd is in its First Regular Session, we've got another two years before the unlimited titles can come back. Two years of this issue to fester is not good for the State of Maine. It's not good for the young ladies coming up through this system. And as we've heard today, it's not good for the transgender. But this Legislature, the 132nd Legislature, should be able to address this issue. I don't have the solutions. But together, we ought to be able to come up with one.

So, I feel it's unfortunate that this, the simplest of the titles, can't at least be passed, so we can amend it to do what's necessary for all the citizens of Maine. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Jefferson, Representative Farrin.

Representative **FARRIN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to talk about my experience with coaching, mostly high school softball.

I have two kids, one boy and one girl, who were both very active in sports, now they are ages 30 and 28. I coached them both in younger grades in four different team sports. Then, I coached my daughter for two years in junior high softball. Then onto high school for four years with her and an additional four more years as assistant varsity coach. So, here we are, this very passionate issue we have in front of us on a local, State and at a federal level.

I believe that at a high school level, allowing transgender girls on a girls' sports team should be on a case-by-case basis. This should be decided on with some cooperation with superintendents, principals and even the Maine Principals' Association. I have talked to some of my coaching colleagues and had numerous conversations with my constituents. Overwhelmingly, they are against having biological males play on girls' sports teams. The biggest issues are fairness and safety. On fairness, high school individual long-time records could be shattered by a trans girl in her early stages of her transition. High school team sports and/or Championships could also be made with the benefit of a trans girl in the early stages of her transition.

On safety, I know softball, so, I will use a softball analogy. What if a stronger trans girl turns on an inside fastball and drives a ball at a third baseman playing in close, closer than usual, thinking of a possibility of a bunt and this breaks the third baseman's jaw or worse. Maybe that causes multiple surgeries or a lifetime of pain. I go back to my original statement. I believe that at a high school level, allowing transgender girls on a girls' sports team should be on a case-by-case basis. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Lewiston, Representative McCabe.

Representative **McCABE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, and Honorable Colleagues of the House, I'm standing against this bill, because I cannot in good conscience be an obstacle to any young person's participation in school sports.

Since I was a kid, playing sports has been an important part of my life, as many of us in this room can likely agree. Initially, I felt that playing with transgender women would've been unfair, but over time and upon much reflection and listening, my opinion has changed. I didn't change my opinion because it is easy or because I have no concerns left about the question of fairness. I changed my opinion because of these bans are ultimately not about fairness. These bans are about

an erosion of rights for transgender people. They send harmful messages about who deserves the right to live as they are without interference.

Growing up, the teams that I was a part of and the coaches who guided me provided respite from the trials and tribulations that every young adult endures. It doesn't take much; for me, at least; to remember the feelings of insecurity that I had as a teenager. But I'm lucky that I'm equally able to conjure memories of security, joy, camaraderie that I felt when surrounded by my teammates. For the more than 45,000 Maine youth who participate, athletics can provide that protective factor so important to one's mental health and very survival. Teams provide a sense of belonging, of mattering. Only as an adult have I fully realized the privilege this was and the greater meaning of these experiences. To that end, I do not believe that any of us in this Chamber have the right to tell a child that they don't belong in youth sports, because it isn't true. Youth sports are meant to cast a wide net and offer a safe, supportive place for all kids.

From what I have witnessed, adults are the ones who tend to emphasize winning at all costs over the more important reasons why we come together to play a game. In my decade-plus teaching, I have coached many seasons of soccer and basketball, and I can't tell you how often I cared more about losing than the girls I coached. The kids on my team just wanted to play, get better, have fun with their friends and feel affirmed by the adults in their lives for their efforts. It seems to me that these bills are simply vehicles to project adults' distorted values about what youth sports are onto kids. When instead, what we should be doing is allowing every young person to fully be themselves and serving not as their condemner but as their cheerleader.

The school where I work has taught me a lot over the years. One of the most important lessons has been that we should teach for the most vulnerable kid in the classroom. And I implore my colleagues to keep that in mind as we take this vote. Please consider how your vote might impact some of the most vulnerable kids among us, and do the right thing by ensuring that Maine youth sports accept all students with open arms. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Harpswell, Representative Golek.

Representative **GOLEK**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We have an issue here before us today that I think is not easy on any of us. And I know that we stand here and we try to debate policy. Sometimes, policy becomes personal, and that's the sad truth, no matter how we try to keep it out of this Chamber. The policy that we have before us is personal to not only many of us in this room, but to many of our constituents.

So, I'm rising today not only as a lawmaker, but as someone who is a part of the LGBTQ+ community and who has close family members in the community as well. I will be brief in my remarks, but I want to express my strong opposition to this bill before us. With days left in the Session, we should not be wasting our time on floor debates on bills that target children. And I can't help but think through all the debate of all the bills that we've had today of a quote that just sticks in my head by Robert Jones, Jr: "We can disagree and still love each other unless your disagreement is rooted in my oppression and denial of my humanity and right to exist." The bill before us does just that. It targets a single population and denies them their humanity and right to exist as their true selves.

As a parent, I know how important it is to support your child as they grow and learn and discover who they are. Let's not legislate and police identities. A bill that subjects kids to scrutiny

over their gender identity is not about fairness. Let's be really honest, it's not. It's about control. Let us give our kids the space to grow, discover who they are and who they want to be without government interference and surrounded by love and support for who they are.

I urge this Body to reject this measure and hope that we choose a path forward that supports our children rather than trying to tear them down simply for being who they are, because that's what the bill before us, Mr. Speaker, does.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from North Yarmouth, Representative Graham.

Representative **GRAHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, and Honorable Members of the House, I stand in support of the pending motion, because this bill unfairly targets a small group of student athletes. They are children. They are young teens. It undermines their rights and their safety.

Every kid in Maine deserves to go to school, to be safe and to have the opportunity to participate in sports with their friends. Young people who are transgender are already at high risk for anxiety, depression and suicide. But there is clear direct evidence linking participation in school-based activities like sports with improved social and emotional well-being. Banning transgender athletes from sports risks further isolating these kids.

Right now, there are less than five transgender athletes competing in Maine out of more than 45,000 student athletes. Less than five. As a mother, I can't even begin to fathom how the parents of the kids, this particular kid, feels right now, knowing that we might pass a law that specifically discriminates against their child. So, to all in this Body, I want to ask one simple question as we consider this motion. How would you feel if it was your child being targeted? Again, Mr. Speaker, if it was your child, how would you feel if your child was being targeted? Please keep this in mind as you vote today. All Maine children have a right to be happy, to spend time with their friends, to play sports and to live their lives without interference from politicians here in Augusta. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Augusta, Representative Rollins.

Representative **ROLLINS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand tonight in front of the House really not clear in understanding where we are and how we got here.

When I grew up, it was very clear that there were levels of sports that you could participate in. Some of us loved competitive sports, we wanted to play against the best, we wanted to test ourselves to the maximum of our ability and against the like. And others wanted to participate and play, and there were intramural programs. And others, even a lower level of competition, and there were recreational programs. And that all made sense. And now, it seems to me that we're putting everything all into one basket, and it's got to; the athletic competition starting in the youth ages and going up through where it starts getting more competitive in middle school and clearly more competitive in high school and really competitive in college have got to answer all those levels of sports needs. And it's very confusing. It's confusing to me, and I hear you say we're targeting transgender women, but I also look and are we not targeting girls' sports?

And so, everybody is in flux trying to figure this out. Nobody doesn't want; let me say that right; nobody doesn't want kids participating in extracurricular activities. They're vital to the educational experience. Whether it be sports, music, dance, drama, we want them participating. And we want to find a place for all athletes. But this right now is shocking society. We're shocking our communities. One side of it feels targeted; the

other side feels targeted and we need to do more work on this subject. I agree with the Good Representative, the Sponsor, Representative Campbell, that we have work to do on this. We don't have a lot of athletes participating from the transgender side yet, and it's summertime coming up upon us. Hopefully, whatever we do here tonight will motivate leaders in the communities, leaders in the sports field to come together and get a very serious summit, meeting, whatever we want to call it, together and start addressing this, because there's a lot of nuance. And I hate to see people lining up against each other and saying, 'I'm right and you're wrong,' because there's not a clear right and wrong here.

So, I just want to encourage us all to listen. It's a very serious matter. There's a lot of self-esteem and growth involved in this, and I'm going to support this. I'm going to say let's take pause, let's shock the world if we have to, but let's get together and figure out a place and a placement and what can be allowed and what can't be allowed for the betterment of all of us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There's a line from the movie *Cool Hand Luke*, and it goes, "what we have here is failure to communicate."

Mr. Speaker, the definition of 'gaslighting' is a form of psychological manipulation where a person subtly tries to make another person doubt their own sanity, perception of reality or memories. It's a tactic used to gain control and power over someone by undermining their confidence and making them question their own judgment.

Mr. Speaker, I have two granddaughters that play in high school sports. One plays soccer; one plays lacrosse. The other movie I'll mention is *Miracle on 34th Street*, and there's a scene where the judge has his two grandkids, and he says, 'give Grandpa a hug,' and the kids run by him. Why? Because he's got Santa Claus on trial, and their perception is, we're not going to care for you if you're going to try to prosecute Santa Claus. Well, in this story, Santa Claus is out of 45,000 high school-aged children and there's five, we're going to make those 45 bend to the will to make sure those five are not offended.

Mr. Speaker, I opt to oppose the Ought Not to Pass. This ought to pass. I urge my colleagues to vote no and "yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus."

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Gorham, Representative Sato.

Representative **SATO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are many reasons why I rise against this bill and in support of the pending motion.

The first is, I don't think offended covers it. The recent report from the Trevor Project from 2024 that specifically relates to Maine has shown that 42%, 42% of transgender and nonbinary young people here in Maine have seriously considered suicide, and 18% of transgender/nonbinary young people have attempted suicide. And when I think about this issue, and I think about how important it is for all of our students to have the ability to access protective factors, that includes mental; you know, feeling safe, mattering, family support and inclusion in sports; all of our students deserve to have that opportunity, so that we are making sure that our students are not growing up dealing with these thoughts of suicide and anxiety and depression that is an epidemic right now in our State.

But for me in this issue, it's not just about trans girls, because this bill and the bills that we've heard today won't just hurt trans girls. It will hurt trans girls immensely and it will be

devastating, but it will hurt cis girls as well. And I think that what I've heard throughout the debate of today is that there's this inherent assumption that women and girls are weak, that we can't take it, that if we try to do sports, we have to be protected in some way, need to be bubble wrapped in order to play sports. I vehemently disagree with that on a fundamental level. And I think that there actually have been instances in history where that has actually not been the case. The first one that comes to mind to me is Billie Jean King beating Bobby Riggs in the 'Battle of the Sexes' in the iconic tennis game. There's also Eri Yoshida, who was drafted into the U.S. male professional leagues in baseball. There was Jackie, who was a boxer and defeated Larry Rodania and she was dubbed the 'female Muhammad Ali.' I mean, I could go on. There are many instances in history where women have played; cis women have played in men's sports with cis men and have --

Representative **BAGSHAW**: Point of Order, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Member will defer. The Chair will inquire as to why the Representative from Windham rises.

Representative **BAGSHAW**: I'm reading the bill text and the Amendment, and this is not in it. We're just saying biological males can't participate in sports in school.

On **POINT OF ORDER**, Representative BAGSHAW of Windham asked the Chair if the remarks of Representative SATO of Gorham were germane to the pending question.

The SPEAKER: The Chair; first of all, the pending question is related to the bill itself, because the question of Adoption of Committee Amendment "A" would come later if Committee Amendment "A" were before the Body, and from what I gather from the Member's comments thus far, she is referring to, as most folks have today, about participation of folks in sports generally. The Chair's been giving pretty good latitude to that point.

The Chair advised that the remarks of Representative SATO of Gorham were germane to the pending question.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **SATO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And what I'll share is I'm speaking to the unintended consequences of this legislation and how I believe it will impact all girls in our State.

But I'll continue on. Because I'm also; I've read the bill. I mean, I was on the Committee, I'm a Member of Judiciary Committee, and there are no guardrails and there's no guidelines for enforcement mechanism in this bill. And which means that I have deep concerns about what will happen when a certain athlete is in dispute, that their gender is in dispute. That their doctor's note, that their annual physical is in dispute, because we've heard that that will be the defining documentation that will declare a student's sex. And I have deep concerns about what that impact will have on girls who are cis girls, but are suspected of being trans girls. Because we live in an age, and I think it goes much farther back than 55 years, which has been the number that's been cited thus far, about what a woman looks like and what a girl looks like and what a man looks like and what a boy looks like. And I think that that is much broader, and those definitions are very restrictive to either sex and gender. And so, there have been instances in the past that we've seen already of cis women being suspected of being trans women. And I'm concerned that we're going to see that *en masse* across the State, in every county and in every school if this bill passes. And I've already cited the statistics of the mental health crisis that is dominating in the trans community right now --

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Point of Order.

The SPEAKER: The Member will defer. The Chair would inquire as to why the Representative from Milford rises.

Representative **DRINKWATER**: I appreciate all the testimony, but I'd like to call the Question. We have a lot of work to do.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will inform the Member that a Member cannot request that the Question be Moved while another Member is in the middle of speaking. The Member may proceed.

Representative **SATO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm almost near the end of my remarks, anyway. But I would just like to end on a personal story that I, as a ballet dancer, would scrutinize myself in the mirror every single day and that I would hate parts of my body, because I had to look at myself every day and criticize my own body every day. And for athletes that are in sports, cis girls and trans girls, this epidemic that already exists will only get worse.

And so, I'll end with that; this bill, I don't believe this bill protects Maine girls, I think it hurts Maine girls, cis and trans. Thank you.

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

Representative **SOBOLESKI**: Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would inquire as to why the Representative from Phillips rises.

Representative **SOBOLESKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to Move the Question, please.

Representative SOBOLESKI of Phillips **MOVED THE PREVIOUS QUESTION**.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would inform the Body that there are three Members in queue. We've had, obviously, a long debate today, but I do wonder; well, now there are four members in queue; but I do wonder if we might give folks the opportunity to provide their remarks and move forward in our work. There are now six members in queue, making the incentive to vote for Moving the Previous Question greater.

The Chair will remind the Body that "Rule 504. Previous Question. When a motion for a previous question is made, the consent of one third of the members present is necessary to authorize the Speaker to entertain the motion." So, a motion being made to Move the Previous Question, the Chair needs express consent of one-third of the Members present by signifying in the usual manner.

Fewer than one-third of the members present expressed a desire that the **MAIN QUESTION BE PUT NOW**, and accordingly the motion to **MOVE THE PREVIOUS QUESTION FAILED**.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Sidney, Representative Collins.

Representative **COLLINS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to take a brief moment to speak for my constituents who have reached out to me and asked that sports be fair. And they don't see that it's fair that a biological male is competing against a woman.

When I gave testimony before the Judiciary Committee, I made note that I'm a Strongman athlete, and in that sport, we lift the Atlas Stone. In the best weight of my life, I've been able to compete for the fourth stone being 150 pounds and picked that stone up and put it on the platform. A man is the same weight as me, his starting weight is over 200 pounds. And in some competitions, his starting weight would be over 300 pounds. I don't see that that's equitable or fair, and I see that this bill is an opportunity for us to try and help our constituents work their way through these problems. We shouldn't just dump it back on the

school system. We should be trying to do something here as legislators and not rushing the process.

I know it's going to be a long night, but clearly, this side wants to speak, as so do we. We just want to do what's right for our constituents, Sir. And, you know, surveys were done after the Executive Officer was in a disagreement with the President, and the surveys indicated that Mainers and people in the United States do not want to see transgender athletes competing in women's sports. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **CROCKETT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A very somber day. I will be supporting the pending motion, because this bill as presented unfortunately is unacceptable. But I really, really believe it's a lost opportunity. This bill is the only bill we've talked about today that --

The SPEAKER: The Chair will remind the Member to address his comments through the Chair.

The Chair reminded Representative CROCKETT of Portland to address his comments toward the Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **CROCKETT**: Mr. Speaker, this is the only bill that we've talked about today that is solely focused on the issue of trans girls participating in girls' sports. I do agree with the Representative from Orrington, and I was hopeful that maybe we would be able to come out of Committee with a bill that addresses all sides of the issue; maybe a pending Amendment could get us there but if not, it's just kind of sad how the day is evolving.

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

Representative **KUHN**: Mr. Speaker, I wanted to express appreciation to the sentiment in this Chamber to commit to working towards fairness and equity for Maine girls. And I want to invite those advocates to take up the hard work, the real work of advancing gender equality in our State by doing things like providing access to reproductive and sexual health care, supporting pay transparency to promote equal pay for equal work and supporting paid Family and Medical Leave. These are real policies that help women and girls in our State lead good lives.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Scarborough, Representative Murphy.

Representative **MURPHY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, and Esteemed Colleagues, I rise today as the House Chair of Education and Cultural Affairs Committee in support of the pending motion and in strong support of the rights of transgender girls to participate in high school sports consistent with their gender identity.

The heart of our work in education is a simple, essential promise. Every student in Maine deserves to feel safe, valued and supported in their learning environment. That promise must extend to our playing fields, because school sports are not just extracurricular. They are places where young people find connection, learn discipline and develop confidence. This can be especially beneficial for our transgender students, who are too often marginalized, misunderstood or excluded.

We cannot ignore the data. According to the 2023 Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey, over 58% of transgender and gender-diverse high school students in Maine reported seriously considering suicide in the past year. That's nearly three times higher than the rate for their cisgender peers. More than 40% reported attempting self-harm.

These risks are not because of who they are, but because of how they are treated. Excluding transgender girls from school sports only compounds these risks. It isolates young people who are already vulnerable, sends a damaging message that they do not belong and undermines the inclusive values we work so hard to instill in our schools. Participation in sports builds confidence, strengthens social connection and creates a sense of belonging. For many students, it's a lifeline. And for transgender girls, being allowed to compete as their true selves sends a clear message: you are valued, you belong, you matter.

Opponents of inclusion often cite fairness as their concern, but fairness must apply to all students, not just some. We can't call it fair to deny a group of students access to the benefits of athletic participation simply because of who they are. That's not fairness, that's discrimination. Many school districts across Maine have already adopted inclusive policies that respect the rights of transgender students. These policies have worked, not only without disruption, but often with pride and support from coaches, teammates and families. Our educators and athletic leaders are showing us what's possible when we lead with trust, evidence and compassion.

We cannot legislate these young people out of existence. What we can and must do is support policies that promote mental health, belonging and opportunity for every child in Maine. Please reject any policy that would ban transgender girls from fully participating in school sports. Instead, let's affirm the well-being, humanity and equal opportunity for all Maine students. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bridgton, Representative Cimino.

Representative **CIMINO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll make this very brief. The Representative from Falmouth has mentioned that over 58% of transgenders have considered suicide. I'd like to put that figure into just perspective. According to the Williams Institute, which is a thinktank out of UCLA, conducts rigorous research on sexual orientation. According to them, only 1.6% of Maine high school students identify as transgender. That means that 98.4% of high school students do not identify as transgender students.

So, if you're looking at 58%, we are talking; well, 58% sounds like a lot and, of course, we don't want any suicides, but 58% of 1.6% is very marginal and to talk about fairness, you don't push fairness on; in order to make it fair for 1.6%, you don't do it by discriminating against the other 98.4%. Thank you.

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

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I agree with many of my colleagues that youth sports should include all youth. Co-ed sports do include all youth. However, girls' sports should include only girls.

I have heard many in this Chamber speak about their experiences from their own childhoods and the great impact that sports have had. How many of you had biological males participating as females when you were participating in sports? How many of you were displaced? The reality for the girls of today is knowing that no matter how hard they try, that a biological male can choose at any time to compete or not. A small minority is disproportionately winning champion State titles. How is this fair or equitable? Girls in this State are impacted greatly and have experienced emotional harm. We cannot overlook our girls due to the emotional upheaval. Some local school boards have adopted their own policies; they are out of compliance with the State, but are in compliance with the federal government. We as a legislative Body need to provide clarity for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **HASENFUS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I understand that this is a very hard decision to make, and I've been thinking about it for a long time and I do think that, you know, with elite competition, there may need to be, you know, some analysis done, but the question before us really is a blanket prohibition on all levels of sports; you know, intramural college sports, high school, middle school, grade school. I mean, I've coached all of those levels of sports, you know, I've coached middle school, high school, grade school and I plan to coach for a long time. Actually, I hope we can get out of here on time, so I can go, you know, continue my coaching. And for me, when I was growing up playing sports, the friend group I made was the most long-lasting transformational thing in my life. I still have those friends today. It just, it made me who I am, it was part of my identity.

And as a coach, I'm wondering, you know, like, I don't know what's going to happen in the future, what the teams will look like, but I can imagine coaching a softball team, and perhaps there's some girls on the team who are very friendly and perhaps there's a transgender girl as part of that friend group. And I know how important it is for those friends to stay together and play together and coaching middle school, if those girls came up to me and said, 'coach, we all want to play on your team,' what, what am I supposed to say?

Representative **FAULKINGHAM** of Winter Harbor **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** Report "B" **Ought Not to Pass**.

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

The **SPEAKER**: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of Report "B" **Ought Not to Pass**. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 492

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Bunker, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Farrin, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pomerleau, Quint, Rollins, Rudnicki, Schmiersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S.

ABSENT - Bell, Frost, Lavigne, Lee, Poirier, Woodsome.

Yes, 70; No, 73; Absent, 6; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

70 having voted in the affirmative and 73 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly Report "B" **Ought Not to Pass** was **NOT ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, on motion of Representative **KUHN** of Falmouth, Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended** was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-692)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-692)** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Nine Members of the Committee on **TAXATION** report in Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-389)** on Bill "An Act to Expand the Dependent Exemption Tax Credit"

(S.P. 524) (L.D. 1294)

Signed:

Senators:

GROHOSKI of Hancock
BICKFORD of Androscoggin
TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:

CLOUTIER of Lewiston
CROCKETT of Portland
FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor
MATLACK of St. George
SAYRE of Kennebunk
WHITE of Ellsworth

Three Members of the same Committee report in Report "B" **Ought Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representatives:

LAVIGNE of Berwick
QUINT of Hodgdon
RUDNICKI of Fairfield

One Member of the same Committee reports in Report "C" **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (S-390)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representative:

SWALLOW of Houlton

Came from the Senate with Report "A" **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-389)**.

READ.

Representative **CLOUTIER** of Lewiston moved that the House **ACCEPT** Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended**.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on her motion to **ACCEPT** Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended**.

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 493

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arata, Archer, Arford, Babin, Beck, Bishop, Blier, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Carlow, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Cooper, Copeland, Crafts, Cray, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eder, Faircloth, Farrin, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Fredette, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Greenwood, Guerrette, Hall, Hasenfus, Henderson, Hepler, Jackson, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lanigan, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mason, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mingo, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Parry, Pluecker, Pomerleau, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Simmons, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Strout, Supica, Terry, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, Warren, Webb, Wood S, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Ardell, Bagshaw, Boyer D, Campbell, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collins, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Haggan, Hymes, Javner, Lance, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, McIntyre, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Paul, Perkins, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmearsal-Burgess, Smith, Soboleski, Swallow, Thorne, Underwood, White J, White R, Wood P.

ABSENT - Bell, Frost, Lavigne, Poirier, Rollins, Woodsome.

Yes, 103; No, 40; Absent, 6; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

103 having voted in the affirmative and 40 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended** was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-389)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-389)** in concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Majority Report of the Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-708)** on Bill "Act to Create a Working Group to Support Tax Expenditure Evaluation Efforts"

(H.P. 726) (L.D. 1107)

Signed:
Senators:

GROHOSKI of Hancock
TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:

CLOUTIER of Lewiston
CROCKETT of Portland
FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor
MATLACK of St. George
SAYRE of Kennebunk

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

Signed:

Representatives:

LAVIGNE of Berwick
QUINT of Hodgdon
RUDNICKI of Fairfield
SWALLOW of Houlton
WHITE of Ellsworth

READ.

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

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

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Freeport, Representative Sachs.

Representative **SACHS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I reluctantly rise because I was asked to just explain what this bill does. This is my bill. This bill was brought to me through the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability, OPEGA, who submitted a report to GOC; a lot of acronyms on a Friday night. It addresses two areas. It updates the timeline and processes for tax expenditures to better align them with the workflow of the Legislature, per their recommendations.

The second establishes OPEGA's recommended incentive data task force to address accessibility, quality and transparency. So, it is this bipartisan task force. It's a centralized and standardized tax expenditure and data to identify barriers to make it more accessible to the public, supporting transparency and informing the decisions that we make here in the Legislature. Other states have done so, from Iowa to Texas to Massachusetts. I urge this Body to accept the pending motion to continue that positive bipartisan and nonpartisan work. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 494

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski,

Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S.

ABSENT - Bell, Frost, Golek, Lavigne, Moonen, Poirier, Rollins, Underwood, Woodsome.

Yes, 71; No, 69; Absent, 9; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

71 having voted in the affirmative and 69 voted in the negative, with 9 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-708)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-708)** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-346)** on Bill "An Act to Require Hospitals and Hospital-affiliated Providers to Provide Financial Assistance Programs for Medical Care"

(S.P. 755) (L.D. 1937)

Signed:

Senators:

INGWERSEN of York
NANGLE of Cumberland

Representatives:

MEYER of Eliot
DEBRITO of Waterville
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth
MCCABE of Lewiston
SHAGOURY of Hallowell
ZAGER of Portland

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

Signed:

Senator:

MOORE of Washington

Representatives:

DAIGLE of Fort Kent
GRIFFIN of Levant
JAVNER of Chester
LEMELIN of Chelsea

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-346)**.

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-372)** on Bill "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study Emergency Medical Services in the State" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 111) (L.D. 245)

Signed:

Senators:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox
CURRY of Waldo
CYRWAY of Kennebec

Representatives:

HASENFUS of Readfield
ABDI of Lewiston
BUNKER of Farmington
LAJOIE of Lewiston
LOOKNER of Portland
MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

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

Signed:

Representatives:

ARDELL of Monticello
MCINTYRE of Lowell
NUTTING of Oakland
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-372)**.

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-372)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-372)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Require a Blood Test for Drugs for Drivers Involved in a Motor Vehicle Accident That Results in Serious Bodily Injury or Death"

(S.P. 703) (L.D. 1815)

Signed:

Senator:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representatives:

HASENFUS of Readfield

ABDI of Lewiston

BUNKER of Farmington

LAJOIE of Lewiston

LOOKNER of Portland

MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-371)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senators:

CURRY of Waldo

CYRWAY of Kennebec

Representatives:

ARDELL of Monticello

MCINTYRE of Lowell

NUTTING of Oakland

PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

Came from the Senate with the Minority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-371)**.

READ.

Representative HASENFUS of Readfield moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative NUTTING of Oakland **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

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

The **SPEAKER**: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 495

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Boyer D, Boyer M, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Faulkingham, Friedmann, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Quint, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Eder, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pomerleau, Rudnicki, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S.

ABSENT - Arata, Bell, Blier, Brennan, Cloutier, Dhalac, Ducharme, Fredette, Frost, Gattine, Lavigne, Poirier, Rollins, Stover, Underwood, Woodsome.

Yes, 71; No, 62; Absent, 16; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

71 having voted in the affirmative and 62 voted in the negative, with 16 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-345)** on Bill "An Act Regarding Superintendent Agreements for Transfer Students" (S.P. 672) (L.D. 1719)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York

PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

MURPHY of Scarborough

BRENNAN of Portland

CROCKETT of Portland

DODGE of Belfast

MITCHELL of Cumberland

SARGENT of York

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

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham

HAGGAN of Hampden

LYMAN of Livermore Falls

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

READ.

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

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

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 496

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Babin, Beck, Bishop, Boyer M, Bridgeo, Bunker, Carlow, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Cray, Crockett, DeBrito, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Foley, Foster, Friedmann, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Jackson, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lanigan, Lee, Lookner, Lyman, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pomerleau, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Supica, Terry, Tuell, Warren, Webb, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Ardell, Bagshaw, Boyer D, Campbell, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Daigle, Drinkwater, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Javner, Lance, Lemelin, Libby, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmiersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Wadsworth, Walker, White J.

ABSENT - Arata, Bell, Blier, Brennan, Cloutier, Dhalac, Ducharme, Fredette, Frost, Gattine, Lavigne, Poirier, Rollins, Stover, Underwood, Woodsome.

Yes, 83; No, 50; Absent, 16; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

83 having voted in the affirmative and 50 voted in the negative, with 16 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-345)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-345)** in **NON-CONCURRENCE** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Update the Statutory Definition of 'Machine Gun' and Prohibit Possession of a Rapid-fire Device"

(S.P. 292) (L.D. 677)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland

TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth

LEE of Auburn

PUGH of Portland

SATO of Gorham

SINCLAIR of Bath

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

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

BABIN of Fort Fairfield

CARUSO of Caratunk

HENDERSON of Rumford

O'HALLORAN of Brewer

POIRIER of Skowhegan

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

READ.

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

Representative HENDERSON of Rumford **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report.

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

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

Representative **KUHN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm just going to speak very briefly on this legislation. This bill would protect Mainers by updating the statutory definition of 'machine gun' to address devices and alterations to semi-automatic firearms that have developed since our current law was enacted back in the 1970s.

Regulation of civilian possession and use of machine guns began in the 1930s, in the gangster era. Think of Al Capone in a shootout with the G-men. Most recently, and in response to a mass shooting in Las Vegas, where an individual used a bump stock to kill 60 people and injure 500 others by shooting from his 32nd-floor window, President Trump issued a directive to adopt regulations banning all devices that turn legal weapons into machine guns. Last summer, however, the U.S. Supreme Court issued a decision in *Garland*, striking those regulations, holding that ATF had exceeded its authority by classifying a bump stock as a machine gun.

LD 677 seeks to lawfully address this gap and do so in the context of an increasing threat. The prevalence of these devices, along with the Supreme Court's decision in *Cargill*, ending federal regulation of bump stocks, adds urgency to this legislation. Passage is critically important to protecting the safety of Mainers. State laws are now the only means to uphold the longstanding public safety policy of regulating or prohibiting automatic weapons or their equivalents, which has been federal law for 90 years.

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

Representative **HENDERSON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I didn't have much to say yesterday when it came to a number of the gun bills, so, I do have a few remarks today. I should be 20, 25 minutes tops, I guess. I have just a few remarks --

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed. I don't know what the Point of Order was, but the Member may proceed.

Representative **HENDERSON**: If that was a motion to move the order, I would vote in favor of it; or move the vote, I would vote in favor of it.

LD 677 is basically a backdoor firearm ban that would widely broaden the scope of 'machine gun' to encompass many commonly owned semi-automatic firearms and their firearm

parts. Although, yes, these parts would include bump stocks, it also encompasses any modification to a semi-automatic firearm, including competition triggers, muzzle devices for recoil control and changes to assist disabled shooters, because they can materially increase the rate of fire.

I would note just kind of a history of the language in front of you. A similar bump stock ban bill, LD 1340, was voted down the First legislative Session in 2023. LD 2086, a mirror image of what the bills is front of us, was vetoed and sustained in the Second legislative Session in 2024. There are a number of major concerns, I'm happy to share any of them with you afterwards. I highly anticipate a stampede of people coming to talk to me about a machine gun bill.

In *Cargill v. Garland*, SCOTUS held a 6-3 decision that bump stocks are not machine guns for the purpose of the NFA, vacating the ATF rule and finding that the ATF exceeded its statutory authority. Thank you.

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

Representative **PUGH**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you to the Good Representative from Rumford and Falmouth for framing this issue. I'll be brief.

I don't want to speak to the technical elements too much, but what this bill is seeking to address is really a functional question. The question is, can someone with a little bit of money and a little bit of time assemble a device that is capable of killing potentially hundreds of people in a short amount of time. There's a lot of technicality, but that is the core ethical question that this bill seeks to address, and that is why you have organizations like the Maine Medical Association, Maine Public Health Association, American Academy of Pediatrics and many faith leaders coming out in support of this legislation, because they recognize the urgency of the issue. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 497

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Osher, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Bunker, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Dill, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Farrin, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pluecker, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, Webb, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S.

ABSENT - Bell, Frost, Lavigne, Poirier, Rollins, Underwood, Woodsome.

Yes, 67; No, 75; Absent, 7; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

67 having voted in the affirmative and 75 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report was **NOT ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, on motion of Representative KUHN of Falmouth, the Minority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-704)** on Bill "An Act to Clarify the Rights of Crime Victims and Witnesses Regarding Professional Investigator Communications"

(H.P. 353) (L.D. 534)

Signed:

Senators:

CURRY of Waldo

CYRWAY of Kennebec

Representatives:

HASENFUS of Readfield

ABDI of Lewiston

ARDELL of Monticello

BUNKER of Farmington

LAJOIE of Lewiston

MCINTYRE of Lowell

NUTTING of Oakland

PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

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

Signed:

Senator:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representatives:

LOOKNER of Portland

MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-704)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-704)** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-705)** on Bill "An Act to Improve Interagency Coordination on Renewable Energy Construction Projects"

(H.P. 1234) (L.D. 1850)

Signed:

Senators:

LAWRENCE of York
GROHOSKI of Hancock

Representatives:

SACHS of Freeport
GEIGER of Rockland
KESSLER of South Portland
RUNTE of York
WARREN of Scarborough
WEBB of Durham

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

Signed:

Senator:

HARRINGTON of York

Representatives:

FOSTER of Dexter
MCINTYRE of Lowell
PAUL of Winterport
WADSWORTH of Hiram

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-705)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-705)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Establish a Statewide Transportation Project Selection Prioritization Process"

(H.P. 1174) (L.D. 1756)

Signed:

Senators:

NANGLE of Cumberland
FARRIN of Somerset
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

CRAFTS of Newcastle
ALBERT of Madawaska
ANKELES of Brunswick
BISHOP of Bucksport
EATON of Deer Isle
MASON of Lisbon
PARRY of Arundel
RAY of Lincolnville
WHITE of Guilford

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-706)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representative:

MONTELL of Gardiner

READ.

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

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

ENACTORS

Emergency Measure

An Act to Regulate Nonwater-dependent Floating Structures on Maine's Waters

(H.P. 1182) (L.D. 1763)

(C. "A" H-684)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 70 voted in favor of the same and 47 against, and accordingly the Bill **FAILED PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

On motion of Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick, the House **RECONSIDERED** its action whereby the Bill **FAILED PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

Representative **BOYER**: Point of Order.

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

Representative **BOYER**: Is the Member on the prevailing side?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would answer in the affirmative. The Member voted on the prevailing side, red.

On motion of Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick, the House **RECONSIDERED** its action whereby the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-684)**.

On further motion of the same Representative, the House **RECONSIDERED** its action whereby **Committee Amendment "A" (H-684)** was **ADOPTED**.

The same Representative **PRESENTED House Amendment "A" (H-711) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-684)** which was **READ** by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from South Berwick, Representative Roberts.

Representative **ROBERTS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This removes the emergency.

Representative BOYER of Poland **REQUESTED** a roll call on **ADOPTION of House Amendment "A" (H-711) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-684)**.

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

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Adoption of House Amendment "A" (H-711) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-684). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 498

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Boyer M, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Foster, Friedmann, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mason, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Perkins, Pluecker, Pugh, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Strout, Supica, Terry, Thorne, Tuell, Warren, Webb, Wood S, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Swallow, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P.

ABSENT - Arata, Bell, Blier, Brennan, Cloutier, Dhalac, Ducharme, Fredette, Frost, Gattine, Lavigne, Poirier, Rana, Rollins, Stover, Underwood, Woodsome.

Yes, 75; No, 57; Absent, 17; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 57 voted in the negative, with 17 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly **House Amendment "A" (H-711) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-684) was ADOPTED.**

Subsequently, **Committee Amendment "A" (H-684) as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-711) thereto was ADOPTED.**

The Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-684) as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-711) thereto in NON-CONCURRENCE** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Act

An Act to Expand Access to Justice in Rural Maine by Incentivizing Attorneys to Practice in Underserved Areas
(H.P. 1126) (L.D. 1691)
(C. "A" H-325)

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

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(S.P. 408) (L.D. 981) Bill "An Act to Provide Electronic Notification to Victims of Crimes" Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-384)**

(S.P. 624) (L.D. 1540) Resolve, to Direct the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of MaineCare Services to Create the Complex Care Assistant Training Program (EMERGENCY) Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-394)**

(S.P. 772) (L.D. 1965) Resolve, to Establish a Task Force to Create a Court Navigation Program Plan (EMERGENCY) Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-383)**

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

There being no objection, the Senate Papers were **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended** in concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Repeal the Laws Providing for the Construction of a Connector to Gorham and to Resell Land Taken Under Those Laws to Previous Property Owners"

(S.P. 437) (L.D. 1020)

Signed:

Senators:

NANGLE of Cumberland
FARRIN of Somerset

Representatives:

CRAFTS of Newcastle
ALBERT of Madawaska
BISHOP of Bucksport
MASON of Lisbon
PARRY of Arundel
RAY of Lincolnville
WHITE of Guilford

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-366)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representatives:

ANKELES of Brunswick
EATON of Deer Isle
MONTELL of Gardiner

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

READ.

On motion of Representative CRAFTS of Newcastle, the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Majority Report of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Provide Opportunities and Sustainable Revenue for Maine Farms, Agricultural Fairs, Wabanaki Tribes and Veterans' Homes"

(S.P. 721) (L.D. 1838)

Signed:

Senator:

TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin

Representatives:

SUPICA of Bangor

BOYER of Poland

CHAPMAN of Auburn

FAIRCLOTH of Bangor

FROST of Belgrade

GRAHAM of North Yarmouth

HYMES of Waldo

MALON of Biddeford

TERRY of Gorham

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-359)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senators:

HICKMAN of Kennebec

DUSON of Cumberland

Representative:

FREDERICKS of Sanford

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

READ.

On motion of Representative SUPICA of Bangor, the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-380)** on Bill "An Act to Address Student Hunger and Nutrition Through Expanded Access to Free Milk in Schools"

(S.P. 258) (L.D. 577)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York

PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

MURPHY of Scarborough

BRENNAN of Portland

CROCKETT of Portland

DODGE of Belfast

MITCHELL of Cumberland

SARGENT of York

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

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham

CARLOW of Buxton

HAGGAN of Hampden

LYMAN of Livermore Falls

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-380)**.

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-380)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-380)** in concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Majority Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-381)** on Resolve, Requiring the Commissioner of Administrative and Financial Services to Conduct a Study of the State's Grant, Contracting and Procurement Practices

(S.P. 590) (L.D. 1449)

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook

ADAMS of Lebanon

COPELAND of Saco

FARRIN of Jefferson

GREENWOOD of Wales

MATLACK of St. George

POMERLEAU of Standish

ROLLINS of Augusta

TUELL of East Machias

UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (S-382)** on same Resolve.

Signed:

Senator:

MARTIN of Oxford

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-381)**.

READ.

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

The Resolve was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-381)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Resolve was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-381)** in concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

SENATE PAPERS

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act Regarding the Energy Policy of the State"

(S.P. 694) (L.D. 1792)

PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-357) in the House on June 12, 2025.

Came from the Senate with that Body having **INSISTED** on its former action whereby the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-357) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-373)** thereto in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-703)** on Bill "An Act to Require Police Departments to Publish and Make Accessible Their Policies and Procedures and Require Training of Officers" (H.P. 1195) (L.D. 1784)

Signed:

Senators:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox
CURRY of Waldo

Representatives:

HASENFUS of Readfield
ABDI of Lewiston
BUNKER of Farmington
LAJOIE of Lewiston
LOOKNER of Portland
MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

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

Signed:

Senator:

CYRWAY of Kennebec

Representatives:

ARDELL of Monticello
MCINTYRE of Lowell
NUTTING of Oakland
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

READ.

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

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

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 499

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmiersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S.

ABSENT - Bell, Frost, Lavigne, Poirier, Rollins, Underwood, Woodsome.

Yes, 73; No, 69; Absent, 7; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

73 having voted in the affirmative and 69 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-703)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-703)** and sent for concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-356)** on Bill "An Act to Advance a Clean Energy Economy by Updating Renewable and Clean Resource Procurement Laws"

(S.P. 738) (L.D. 1868)

Signed:

Senator:

LAWRENCE of York

Representatives:

SACHS of Freeport

GEIGER of Rockland

KESSLER of South Portland

RUNTE of York

WARREN of Scarborough

WEBB of Durham

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

Signed:

Senators:

GROHOSKI of Hancock

HARRINGTON of York

Representatives:

FOSTER of Dexter

MCINTYRE of Lowell

PAUL of Winterport

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-356)**.

READ.

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

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

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Lowell, Representative McIntyre.

Representative **McINTYRE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, start the clock, less than 60 seconds.

This legislation would add to an already enormous, stranded costs for Maine ratepayers and are burdened by and would do so in a haphazard, unplanned fashion. We can no longer support a movement to zero carbon that is not carefully planned, fully understood and which does not create a fair and equitable ratepayer path to zero carbon. In simpler words: It's time to stop digging a deeper hole for ratepayers while wearing a blindfold to economic reality.

Mr. Speaker, I came down here with a self-imposed mandate to follow the golden ratio; two ears, one mouth, listen more than I speak; so, I realize the irony of what I'm doing right now. Those words came from one of the most influential environmentalists in Augusta. They realize it's time to turn this ship around.

Ladies and Gentlemen, we are trying to reduce stranded costs, this bill will do the opposite. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Freeport, Representative Sachs.

Representative **SACHS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will strive to match my Colleague's brevity.

This bill simply continues Maine's leadership in transition to clean energy. Our renewable portfolio standard wants to be at 90% by 2040, and this simply creates a complementary 10% which in practical terms just means that we are hoping to achieve reliable and affordable clean energy solutions on the horizon, being technology-neutral, being ones that set rigorous emissions standards by the Department of Environmental Protection. This bill was supported by diverse Maine organizations, such as the 39 organizations in Maine's Environmental Priorities Coalition, the Maine Forest Products Council, businesses like ReGenerate Energy Holdings in Stratton.

LD 1868 gives Maine the tools we need to stay on track without compromising affordability, reliability or the environment. It is forward looking, it is balanced and it is necessary. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 500

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeon, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S.

ABSENT - Bell, Frost, Lavigne, Poirier, Rollins, Underwood, Woodsome.

Yes, 74; No, 68; Absent, 7; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 68 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-356)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-356)** in concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

By unanimous consent, House Rule 501 was suspended until 9:30 p.m. for the purpose of remaining in session.

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Standardize the Laws Regarding the Carrying of Concealed Handguns in State Parks" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 356) (L.D. 829)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth
LEE of Auburn
O'HALLORAN of Brewer
PUGH of Portland
SATO of Gorham
SINCLAIR of Bath

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-363)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

BABIN of Fort Fairfield
CARUSO of Caratunk
HENDERSON of Rumford
POIRIER of Skowhegan

Representative DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe - of the House - supports the Minority **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-363)** Report.

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

READ.

Representative KUHN of Falmouth moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

Representative HENDERSON of Rumford **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

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

The **SPEAKER**: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Acceptance of the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 501

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre,

Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S.

ABSENT - Bell, Frost, Lavigne, Poirier, Rollins, Underwood, Woodsome.

Yes, 74; No, 68; Absent, 7; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 68 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Majority Report of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-333)** on Bill "An Act to Modify Ranked-choice Voting with Regard to Candidates Who Withdraw from an Election"

(S.P. 401) (L.D. 911)

Signed:

Senators:

HICKMAN of Kennebec
DUSON of Cumberland

Representatives:

SUPICA of Bangor
FAIRCLOTH of Bangor
FROST of Belgrade
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth
MALON of Biddeford
TERRY of Gorham

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

Signed:

Senator:

TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin

Representatives:

BOYER of Poland
CHAPMAN of Auburn
FREDERICKS of Sanford
HYMES of Waldo

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-333) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-378)** thereto.

READ.

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

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

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 502

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S.

ABSENT - Bell, Frost, Lavigne, Poirier, Rollins, Underwood, Woodsome.

Yes, 74; No, 68; Absent, 7; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 68 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-333)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

On motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, the House **RECONSIDERED** its action whereby **Committee Amendment "A" (S-333)** was **ADOPTED**.

Subsequently, **Senate Amendment "A" (S-378)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (S-333)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-333) as Amended by Senate Amendment "A" (S-378) thereto was **ADOPTED**.

The Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-333) as Amended by Senate Amendment "A" (S-378)** thereto in concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-385)** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Crime of Endangering the Welfare of a Child"

(S.P. 276) (L.D. 592)

Signed:

Senators:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox
CURRY of Waldo

Representatives:

HASENFUS of Readfield
ABDI of Lewiston
BUNKER of Farmington
LAJOIE of Lewiston
LOOKNER of Portland
MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (S-386)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

CYRWAY of Kennebec

Representatives:

ARDELL of Monticello
MCINTYRE of Lowell
NUTTING of Oakland
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-385)**.

READ.

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

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

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 503

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pomerleau, Quint,

Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S.

ABSENT - Bell, Frost, Lavigne, Poirier, Rollins, Underwood, Woodsome.

Yes, 74; No, 68; Absent, 7; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 68 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-385)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-385)** in concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

Majority Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-368)** on Resolve, to Establish the Blue Ribbon Commission to Study the Operations of the Legislature (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 657) (L.D. 1649)

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot
MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

ADAMS of Lebanon
GREENWOOD of Wales
POMERLEAU of Standish
ROLLINS of Augusta
UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

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

Signed:

Senator:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook
COPELAND of Saco
FARRIN of Jefferson
MATLACK of St. George
TUELL of East Machias

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OULD TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-368)**.

READ.

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

The Resolve was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-368)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Resolve was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-368)** in concurrence.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH** with the exception of matters being held.

BILLS HELD

SENATE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (10) **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-158)** - Minority (2) **Ought Not to Pass** - Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** on Bill "An Act to Protect the Right to Harvest Wildlife"

(S.P. 559) (L.D. 1343)

- In Senate, Majority (10) **OULD TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-158) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-184)** thereto.

- In House, Reports **READ** and the Bill and accompanying papers **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

HELD at the Request of Representative MOONEN of Portland.

On motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, the House **RECONSIDERED** its action whereby the Bill and all accompanying papers were **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

On further motion of the same Representative, the Bill and all accompanying papers were **COMMITTED** to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** in **NON-CONCURRENCE** and sent for concurrence.

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

SENATE PAPERS

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Mandatory Parking Space Minimums in State and Municipal Building Codes"

(H.P. 281) (L.D. 427)

Minority (3) **OULD NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT READ** and **ACCEPTED** in the House on June 10, 2025.

Came from the Senate with the Majority (9) **OULD TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-456) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-348)** thereto in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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

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

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 504

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Boyer M, Brennan, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Bridgeo, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S.

ABSENT - Bell, Frost, Lavigne, Poirier, Rollins, Underwood, Woodsome.

Yes, 72; No, 70; Absent, 7; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

72 having voted in the affirmative and 70 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the House voted to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

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

On motion of Representative ARCHER of Saco, the House adjourned at 9:20 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Monday, June 16, or until the call of the Speaker of the House.