

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
9th Legislative Day
Tuesday, March 4, 2025

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

Prayer by Pastor Justin Thacker, Praise Assembly of God, Rumford.

National Anthem by Hannah Thacker, East Andover.

Pledge of Allegiance.

The Journal of Tuesday, February 25, 2025 was read and approved.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 79)

STATE OF MAINE

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

February 26, 2025

To Robert B. Hunt, Clerk of the House, in the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature:

I, Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State, pursuant to the provisions of Title 3 MRS, Section 1, hereby certify that the following is the name and residence of the Representative-elect to the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature, in accordance with the tabulation submitted to the Governor on February 26, 2025:

DISTRICT 24 Sean Faircloth, Bangor

In Testimony Whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be affixed, given under my hand at Augusta this twenty-sixth day of February in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-five.

S/Shenna Bellows

Secretary of State

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 80)

STATE OF MAINE

DEPARTMENT OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

I, the Secretary of State of Maine, certify that according to the provisions of the Constitution and Laws of the State of Maine, the Department of the Secretary of State is the legal custodian of the Great Seal of the State of Maine which is hereunto affixed and that the document to which this is attached is a true copy from the records of this Department.

In Testimony Whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State of Maine to be hereunto affixed. Given under my hand at Augusta, Maine, on the twenty-sixth day of February in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-Five.

S/Shenna Bellows

Secretary of State

State of Maine

Office of the Secretary of State

February 26, 2025

I, Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State, in accordance with the provisions of the proclamation issued by the Governor on December 19, 2024, calling for a Special Election to be held on February 25, 2025, to elect a State Representative in District 24 and having tabulated the returns of the votes cast;

REPORT AS FOLLOWS: In accordance with Title 21-A MRS Section 711, having tabulated the total number of state ballots cast, the number of voters participating in this election is 2,002; and that Sean Faircloth of Bangor, having received a plurality of

the votes cast, appears to have been elected a State Representative in the 132nd Legislature in District 24:

Faircloth, Sean, Bangor (Democratic) 1,431

Fish, Carolyn A., Bangor (Republican) 567

I, Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State, hereby certify that the foregoing report is a true tabulation of the votes cast at the Special Election, as reported to me on the returns from the municipalities of Bangor, Brewer, Orono and Veazie.

S/ Shenna Bellows

Secretary of State

Received by the Governor on February 26, 2025

READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

At this point, the Speaker announced the presence in the Hall of the House of Representative FAIRCLOTH of Bangor.

Pursuant to his authority under House Rule 401.1, the Chair assigned Representative FAIRCLOTH of Bangor to seat 10.

At this point, Representative FAIRCLOTH of Bangor was added to the roll of the First Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature.

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 324)

JOINT RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE

THE 125TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE POEM

“LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING”

BY JAMES WELDON JOHNSON

WHEREAS, James Weldon Johnson was a novelist, poet, songwriter, educator, attorney, journalist, diplomat and civil rights leader; and

WHEREAS, Johnson's gifts in poetry and music led him to join his younger brother's popular music trio in New York City in 1901, where he helped to write many of the trio's songs; and

WHEREAS, Johnson became a key artistic figure in the Harlem Renaissance in the 1920s, continuing to publish notable collections of poems and spirituals, and is known in particular for writing the poem "Lift Every Voice and Sing," which he wrote in 1900 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation; and

WHEREAS, the poem, written from the perspective of African Americans in the late 19th century, includes imagery that evokes the biblical Exodus from slavery to freedom and is an exhortation to all to become active participants in the struggle for freedom; and

WHEREAS, "Lift Every Voice and Sing" was converted into a song by James Weldon Johnson's brother John Rosamond Johnson and became known as the Black National Anthem due to its enormous importance to African Americans; and

WHEREAS, embedded within its lyrics are stories of triumph, struggle and freedom that resonate deeply for African Americans, especially during the reconstruction and civil rights eras, and the lyrics of "Lift Every Voice and Sing" serve as a reminder for Black Americans that each generation has had to lift their voices, along with those within their community, to demand and protect their human rights; and

WHEREAS, the song was performed for the first time on February 12, 1900 in Jacksonville, Florida by 500 school children in celebration of President Abraham Lincoln's birthday; and

WHEREAS, at the turn of the 20th century, Johnson's lyrics eloquently captured the solemn yet hopeful appeal for the liberty of Black Americans, and, set against the religious invocation of God and the promise of freedom, the song was later adopted by the NAACP and prominently used as a rallying cry during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s; and

WHEREAS, the song includes the lyrics "... Let our rejoicing rise / High as the list'ning skies / Let it resound loud as the rolling sea / Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us / Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us / Facing the rising sun of our new day begun / Let us march on 'til victory is won..."; and

WHEREAS, not only do the lyrics reflect how violence has been inflicted on the Black community, but it affirms and encourages the Black collective to remain faithful in its vision despite the struggles it has endured over the centuries; and

WHEREAS, the core message of the poem is that, through strong faith and solidarity, the Black community can move forward and reimagine a world where true liberty is achievable; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, take this occasion to recognize the 125th anniversary of "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

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

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 332)

**JOINT RESOLUTION HONORING THE LIFE AND WORK OF
FREDERICK DOUGLASS**

WHEREAS, Frederick Douglass was born Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey into slavery in February 1818 in Talbot County, Maryland. As a young man, while still enslaved, Frederick taught himself how to read and write. At 15, he educated other enslaved individuals and attempted to gain his freedom through fighting back against a "slave-breaker," but was unsuccessful. His enslaver then sent him back to Baltimore, where he met a young free black woman named Anna Murray. Murray would later become his wife, and she risked her own security to buy Douglass the train ticket that brought him to freedom in New York City; and

WHEREAS, in the same year that Douglass got his freedom, he married Anna Murray. To get further away from the danger of re-enslavement, they moved to New Bedford, Massachusetts, adopting the last name Douglass. It was here that Douglass began addressing abolitionist meetings and quickly gained a reputation as an orator. He was soon being paid to speak by the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society, which took him on speaking tours across the North and Midwest. His fame as a speaker increased, and so did the risk of his being caught and re-enslaved, especially after 1845, when he published his first autobiography detailing his time as a slave. In order to avoid this danger, he took his tour overseas to England, Ireland and Scotland for 2 years, until abolitionists bought his freedom, which allowed him to return back to the United States as a legally free man; and

WHEREAS, after his return to the United States, he continued his work by helping those on the Underground Railroad, supporting anti-slavery political parties and, during the

Civil War, helping to ensure that emancipation would be the outcome of the war, even meeting with President Lincoln to advocate on the behalf of black troops who were not receiving the same pay and treatment as white troops. He also ran his own newspaper, The North Star, and in 1855 published his second autobiography; and

WHEREAS, after the end of Reconstruction, Douglass served under five presidents as United States Marshal for the District of Columbia from 1877 to 1881, the district's Recorder of Deeds from 1881 to 1886 and Minister Resident and Consul General to Haiti from 1889 to 1891. In addition to his federal work, Douglass continued on a speaking tour schedule giving speeches for racial equality and women's rights; and

WHEREAS, Douglass's speaking engagements also brought him to Maine multiple times, both before and after the Civil War. He spoke in Bangor and Waterville in 1855, Augusta in 1857, Waterville again in 1864 and Lewiston in 1873. Douglass came to Maine in 1877 as a guest of the veterans of the First Maine Cavalry, a famous Civil War unit, at their annual reunion in Old Orchard Beach. He appreciated the progress made on race relations that enabled him to enjoy "a game of croquet with ladies and gentlemen of a different race right out in front of the hotel"; and

WHEREAS, Douglass also maintained a lifelong friendship with the founder and first president of Bates College, Oren Cheney, who was a fellow abolitionist and activist, and used his home as a stop for the Underground Railroad, helping those escaping slavery reach Canada; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this occasion to honor the life and work of Frederick Douglass.

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

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 333)

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF
BAYARD RUSTIN AND HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT**

WHEREAS, Bayard Rustin was born in West Chester, Pennsylvania on March 17, 1912. From his grandparents, Janifer and Julia Rustin, he took his Quaker values, which, in his words, "were based on the concept of a single human family and the belief that all members of that family are equal," according to Jervis Anderson in Bayard Rustin: Troubles I've Seen; and

WHEREAS, Rustin began advocating for desegregation when he was a football player in high school. Lore has it that he staged an impromptu sit-in at a restaurant that would serve his white teammates but not him. He continued his activism by protesting racial segregation in the United States Armed Forces throughout college; and

WHEREAS, Rustin was a member of the pacifist Fellowship of Reconciliation as well as the Congress on Racial Equity. He spoke and engaged in advocacy throughout the country, but his actions and his open embrace of his gay identity resulted in him being arrested multiple times. He even had to resign from the Fellowship of Reconciliation board; and

WHEREAS, in 1956, Rustin met Martin Luther King, Jr. Rustin helped introduce King to the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi. He worked with King to organize the Southern Christian Leadership Conference in 1956 and 1957. King and Rustin parted ways in 1960, but their paths would cross again; and

WHEREAS, Rustin was one of the key organizers of the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. He started planning it in 1962, with the goal of uniting the large civil rights organizations of the time. Given his past and the recognition of his homosexuality by other leaders of the movement, he was forced to serve mostly behind the scenes as deputy director, but that did not diminish his enthusiasm. Rustin and his team coordinated much of the logistics for the march, down to the manual used by bus captains to know how they should set up transportation to and from Washington; and

WHEREAS, the March on Washington was a great success. As many as 300,000 marchers showed up, and many of the great speeches of the Civil Rights Movement were given on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. Bayard Rustin was in the wings making sure everything went smoothly, and he read the marchers' demands to the assembled demonstrators; and

WHEREAS, from 1965 to 1979, Rustin served as the head of the A. Philip Randolph Institute, the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations' African American constituency group. Serving alongside A. Philip Randolph until his passing in 1979, Rustin worked to racially integrate unions and promote unions among African Americans; and

WHEREAS, Rustin served on several humanitarian missions to Vietnam, Cambodia and Haiti during the 1970s and 1980s. In the 1980s, he became an advocate for people with HIV/AIDS and he no longer hid his sexual orientation from others. Because same-sex marriage was not officially recognized at the time, Rustin and Walter Naegle undertook to solidify their partnership and protect their union legally through adoption: in 1982 Rustin adopted Naegle, 30 years old at the time. Other couples followed suit; and

WHEREAS, in 1986 testimony on behalf of New York State's Gay Rights Bill, Rustin stated that "gay people are the new barometer for social change." He felt that injustice everywhere should not be tolerated and must be protested. He died August 24, 1987, as a result of a perforated appendix; and

WHEREAS, President Ronald Reagan issued a statement on Rustin's death, praising his work for civil rights and "for human rights throughout the world." He added that Rustin "was denounced by former friends, because he never gave up his conviction that minorities in America could and would succeed based on their individual merit"; and

WHEREAS, on August 8, 2013, Rustin was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama, the highest civilian award in the United States. The citation in the press release stated: "Bayard Rustin was an unyielding activist for civil rights, dignity, and equality for all. An advisor to the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., he promoted nonviolent resistance, participated in one of the first Freedom Rides, organized the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, and fought tirelessly for marginalized communities at home and abroad. As an openly gay African American, Mr. Rustin stood at the intersection of several of the fights for equal rights"; and

WHEREAS, at the White House ceremony on November 20, 2013, President Obama presented Rustin's award to Walter Naegle, his partner of 10 years at the time of Rustin's death; and

WHEREAS, Rustin's life and legacy live on today on the big screen in the 2023 film Rustin, which was nominated for many awards, including two Golden Globes and an Oscar. Actor Colman Domingo played Bayard Rustin, a role which earned him Golden Globe, British Academy of Film and Television Arts and Academy Award nominations for Best Actor, making him the

first openly gay American actor nominated for an Oscar for playing a gay character; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize the life of Bayard Rustin, his fight against injustice and his extensive contributions to the civil rights and equal rights movements.

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

Bill "An Act to Support the Maintenance, Preservation and Promotion of State Historic Sites" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 320) (L.D. 761)

Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** suggested and ordered printed.

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

On motion of Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** in **NON-CONCURRENCE** and sent for concurrence.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.P. 503)

**STATE OF MAINE
CLERK'S OFFICE**

**2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002**

February 26, 2025

Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

132nd Legislature

Honorable Matthea Daughtry

President of the Senate

132nd Legislature

Dear Mr. Speaker and Madam President:

On February 26, 2025, 2 bills were received by the Clerk of the House.

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, these bills were referred to the Joint Standing Committees on February 26, 2025, as follows:

Education and Cultural Affairs

Bill "An Act to Provide Free School Lunches to Special Purpose Private Schools That Receive Students from the Public School System" (H.P. 501) (L.D. 776) (Sponsored by Representative O'HALLORAN of Brewer) (Cosponsored by Representatives: BUNKER of Farmington, DEBRITO of Waterville, DILL of Old Town, HENDERSON of Rumford, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, MONTELL of Gardiner, ROLLINS of Augusta, WEBB of Durham)

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

Bill "An Act to Standardize the Muzzle-loading Season Statewide" (H.P. 502) (L.D. 777) (Sponsored by Representative MASON of Lisbon) (Cosponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin and Representatives: BOYER of Poland, CAMPBELL of Orrington, COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, DRINKWATER of Milford, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, FOSTER of Dexter, GUERRETTE of Caribou, THORNE of Carmel)

Sincerely,
S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
S/Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.
Sent for concurrence.

The Following Communication: (H.P. 529)

**STATE OF MAINE
CLERK'S OFFICE
2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002**

February 27, 2025
Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House
132nd Legislature
Honorable Matthea Daughtry
President of the Senate
132nd Legislature

Dear Mr. Speaker and Madam President:
On February 27, 2025, 24 bills were received by the Clerk of the House.

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, these bills were referred to the Joint Standing Committees on February 27, 2025, as follows:

Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Bill "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Fund Mass Timber Manufacturing" (H.P. 505) (L.D. 798) (Sponsored by Representative ZAGER of Portland) (Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset and Representatives: DUCHARME of Madison, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, GATTINE of Westbrook, WADSWORTH of Hiram, Senators: BLACK of Franklin, CYRWAY of Kennebec, President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin)

Education and Cultural Affairs

Bill "An Act to Address Certification Violations for School Staff" (H.P. 510) (L.D. 803) (Sponsored by Representative CROCKETT of Portland)

Bill "An Act to Require School Boards and Governing Bodies of Approved Private Schools to Implement Wearable Panic Alert Systems" (H.P. 515) (L.D. 808) (Sponsored by Representative MASTRACCIO of Sanford) (Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York and Representatives: CROCKETT of Portland, DODGE of Belfast, KUHN of Falmouth, MEYER of Eliot, MURPHY of Scarborough, RIELLY of Westbrook, SARGENT of York, Senator: RAFFERTY of York)

Bill "An Act to Remove Restrictions That Prohibit School Administrative Units from Making Purchases Through Cooperatives" (H.P. 524) (L.D. 817) (Sponsored by Representative MITCHELL of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland and Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, KUHN of Falmouth, MURPHY of Scarborough)

Energy, Utilities and Technology

Bill "An Act to Prevent Consumer-generated Electricity from Being Used by Anyone Other than That Consumer" (H.P. 508) (L.D. 801) (Sponsored by Representative CIMINO of Bridgton)

Bill "An Act Regarding the Approval of Transmission Lines" (H.P. 517) (L.D. 810) (Sponsored by Representative KESSLER of South Portland) (Cosponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock)

Health and Human Services

Bill "An Act to Fund the Provision of Advocacy Services to Persons with Intellectual Disabilities" (H.P. 507) (L.D. 800) (Sponsored by Representative GATTINE of Westbrook) (Cosponsored by Representatives: MCCABE of Lewiston, MEYER of Eliot, Senator: MOORE of Washington)

Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Design a Mentoring Program for Youth Who Have Extended Care and Support Agreements with the Department (H.P. 509) (L.D. 802) (Sponsored by Representative SACHS of Freeport) (Cosponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland and Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, COPELAND of Saco, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, ROEDER of Bangor, STOVER of Boothbay, WEBB of Durham, ZAGER of Portland, Senator: DUSON of Cumberland)

Bill "An Act to Provide Funding to Area Agencies on Aging for Community-based Services and Programs to Support Older Adults" (H.P. 521) (L.D. 814) (Sponsored by Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston) (Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, GRIFFIN of Levant, MEYER of Eliot, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, STOVER of Boothbay, Senators: BICKFORD of Androscoggin, President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, STEWART of Aroostook)

Bill "An Act to Provide Funding for Respite Care and Supplemental Services Provided by the Family Caregiver Support Program" (H.P. 522) (L.D. 815) (Sponsored by Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston) (Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: ARATA of New Gloucester, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, GATTINE of Westbrook, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, STOVER of Boothbay, ZAGER of Portland, Senators: President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin)

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Resolve, to Direct the Board of Licensure in Medicine and the Board of Osteopathic Licensure to Conduct a Study Regarding the Feasibility of Combining Those Boards (H.P. 512) (L.D. 805) (Sponsored by Representative MATHIESON of Kittery) (Submitted by the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation pursuant to Joint Rule 204.)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Scope of Practice for Expanded Function Dental Assistants" (H.P. 513) (L.D. 806) (Sponsored by Representative MASTRACCIO of Sanford)

Inland Fisheries and Wildlife

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish the Right to Hunt and Fish (H.P. 527) (L.D. 820) (Sponsored by Representative CARUSO of Caratunk) (Cosponsored by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec and Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, BOYER of Poland, DILL of Old Town, MORRIS of Turner, SMITH of Palermo, Senators: BRADSTREET of Kennebec, HICKMAN of Kennebec)

Judiciary

Bill "An Act to Allow a Motion to Extend a Protection from Abuse Order After Expiration of the Original Order" (H.P. 516) (L.D. 809) (Sponsored by Representative KUHN of Falmouth) (Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland and Representatives: LEE of Auburn, MEYER of Eliot, SINCLAIR of Bath, STOVER of Boothbay)

Bill "An Act to Provide State Recognition of the Kineo St. John Tribe" (H.P. 519) (L.D. 812) (Sponsored by Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan) (Cosponsored by Representatives: BOYER of Poland, MORRIS of Turner, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, RUDNICKI of Fairfield)

Bill "An Act Regarding State Recognition of Native American Tribes" (H.P. 520) (L.D. 813) (Sponsored by Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan) (Cosponsored by Representatives: BOYER of Poland, MORRIS of Turner, RUDNICKI of Fairfield)

Labor

Bill "An Act to Report Gender Wage Gaps" (H.P. 506) (L.D. 799) (Sponsored by Representative ROEDER of Bangor) (Cosponsored by Representatives: GEIGER of Rockland, MACIAS of Topsham, STOVER of Boothbay, Senator: TIPPING of Penobscot)

Marine Resources

Bill "An Act Regarding the Emptying of Elver Fyke Nets" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 523) (L.D. 816) (Sponsored by Representative STROUT of Harrington) (Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: EATON of Deer Isle, GIFFORD of Lincoln, HEPLER of Woolwich, QUINT of Hodgdon, RIELLY of Westbrook, SIMMONS of Waldoboro, THORNE of Carmel)

State and Local Government

Bill "An Act to Encourage Election Involvement by Making Election Day a State Holiday in Even-numbered Years" (H.P. 511) (L.D. 804) (Sponsored by Representative ARDELL of Monticello) (Cosponsored by Representatives: ALBERT of Madawaska, GUERRETTE of Caribou, HENDERSON of Rumford, QUINT of Hodgdon, THORNE of Carmel)

Taxation

Bill "An Act Concerning the Status of Battery Storage Systems with Regard to the Business Equipment Tax Exemption" (H.P. 526) (L.D. 819) (Sponsored by Representative SATO of Gorham) (Cosponsored by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland and Representatives: BLIER of Buxton, CARLOW of Buxton, DUCHARME of Madison, HENDERSON of Rumford, JAVNER of Chester, TERRY of Gorham, Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland)

Transportation

Bill "An Act to Limit the Number of Free Motor Vehicle Registrations That May Be Provided to a Disabled Veteran and Reimburse Municipalities for the Loss of Excise Taxes" (H.P. 514) (L.D. 807) (Sponsored by Representative DRINKWATER of Milford) (Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset and Representatives: CAMPBELL of Orrington, COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, GUERRETTE of Caribou, HYMES of Waldo)

Bill "An Act to Make Allocations from Maine Turnpike Authority Funds for the Maine Turnpike Authority for the Calendar Year Ending December 31, 2026" (H.P. 528) (L.D. 821) (Submitted by the Maine Turnpike Authority pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, section 1961, subsection 6.)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act to Require a Municipal Public Hearing and Vote Before a Sports Wagering Facility May Be Established" (H.P. 518) (L.D. 811) (Sponsored by Representative BRENNAN of Portland) (Cosponsored by Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, MOONEN of Portland, SALISBURY of Westbrook, SUPICA of Bangor)

Bill "An Act to Allow Expenditure of Maine Clean Election Act Funding for the Care of Candidates' Dependents" (H.P. 525) (L.D. 818) (Sponsored by Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston) (Cosponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland and Representatives: BOYER of Cape Elizabeth, EATON of Deer Isle, KUHN of Falmouth, LEE of Auburn, MCCABE of Lewiston, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, SUPICA of Bangor, Senator: RENY of Lincoln)

Sincerely,
S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
S/Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate
READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.
Sent for concurrence.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 74)

STATE OF MAINE
132ND MAINE LEGISLATURE

January 23, 2025
Dannel P. Malloy
Chancellor
University of Maine System
15 Estabrooke Drive
Orono, Maine 04469
Dear Chancellor Malloy,
We are pleased to invite you to address a Joint Session of the 132nd Maine Legislature on March 11, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. concerning the State of the University of Maine System and any other matters that you may care to bring to our attention. On the same day, Dave Daigler, President of the Maine Community College System, will address the Joint Convention initially. Craig Johnson, the Interim President of the Maine Maritime Academy, will address the Joint Convention second. You will address the Joint Convention directly following Craig Johnson. We look forward to seeing you then.
Sincerely,
S/Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate
S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House
READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 75)

STATE OF MAINE
132ND MAINE LEGISLATURE

January 23, 2025
Dave Daigler
President
Maine Community College System
323 State Street
Augusta, Maine 04330
Dear President Daigler,
We are pleased to invite you to address a Joint Session of the 132nd Maine Legislature on March 11, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. concerning the State of the Maine Community College System and any other matters that you may care to bring to our attention. You will address the Joint Convention initially. Directly following your address, Craig Johnson, the Interim President of the Maine Maritime Academy will address the Joint Convention. Following Interim President Johnson, Dannel P. Malloy, Chancellor of the University of Maine System will be addressing the Joint Convention.

We look forward to seeing you then.
Sincerely,
S/Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate
S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 76)

**STATE OF MAINE
132ND MAINE LEGISLATURE**

January 23, 2025
Craig Johnson
Interim President
Maine Maritime Academy
1 Pleasant Street
Castine, Maine 04420

Dear Interim President Johnson,
We are pleased to invite you to address a Joint Session of the 132nd Maine Legislature on March 11, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. concerning the State of the Maine Maritime Academy and any other matters that you may care to bring to our attention.

You will address the Joint Convention directly following Dave Daigler, President of the Maine Community College System. On the same day, following your address, Dannel P. Malloy, Chancellor of the University of Maine System, will be addressing the Joint Convention.

We look forward to seeing you then.

Sincerely,
S/Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate
S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 77)

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

February 24, 2025
The Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (l) (a), I have designated Representative Timothy C. Guerrette of Caribou as the Republican Lead on the Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry committee effective immediately.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding this appointment.

Sincerely,
S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 78)

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

February 26, 2025
The Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (l) (a), I am appointing Representative Sean Faircloth of Bangor to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs. Representative Faircloth will replace Representative Lori Gramlich of Old Orchard Beach, effective immediately.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding this appointment.

Sincerely,
S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 81)

**STATE OF MAINE
CLERK'S OFFICE
2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002**

March 4, 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 Committees have voted unanimously to report the following bills out "Ought Not to Pass:"

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services
L.D. 201 An Act to Establish a Limit on the Interest Rate Charged for Revolving Loans

Transportation
L.D. 232 An Act to Impose a Vehicle Weight Limit on Route 46 in the Town of Eddington

Veterans and Legal Affairs
L.D. 177 An Act to Create Municipal Cannabis Revenue Sharing

L.D. 207 An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Qualifying Contributions of Cash Under the Maine Clean Election Act

Sincerely,
S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House

READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 82)

**STATE OF MAINE
CLERK'S OFFICE
2 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002**

March 4, 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 Committee on Taxation has approved the request by the sponsor, Representative Libby of Auburn, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

L.D. 443 An Act to Exempt Gold and Silver Coins and Bullion from the State Sales and Use Tax

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs has approved the request by the sponsor, Senator Pierce of Cumberland, to report the following "Leave to Withdraw:"

L.D. 548 An Act Regarding Intoxicating Hemp Products

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 83)

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

March 4, 2025

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Please be advised that pursuant to her authority, Governor Janet T. Mills has nominated the following:
on February 28, 2025

The Honorable Julia M. Lipez of Cape Elizabeth for appointment as a Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court.

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

The Honorable Darcie N. McElwee of Scarborough for appointment as a Justice of the Maine Superior Court.

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

Amy Dieterich, Esq. of Auburn for appointment and the Honorable Matthew G. Tice of Scarborough for reappointment as Judges of the Maine District Court.

Pursuant to Article V, Part First, §8, of the Maine Constitution, this appointment and reappointment is contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

Sincerely,

S/Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

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

PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE

Bill "An Act Regarding the Membership of the Maine Land Use Planning Commission"

(H.P. 556) (L.D. 870)

Sponsored by Representative BRIDGEO of Augusta.

Cosponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland and Representatives: DILL of Old Town, FROST of Belgrade, HEPLER of Woolwich, LEE of Auburn, PLUECKER of Warren, Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, BRENNER of Cumberland, INGWERSEN of York.

Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Reduce the Property Tax Burden by Adequately Funding County Jail Operations"

(H.P. 538) (L.D. 852)

Sponsored by Representative DUCHARME of Madison.

Cosponsored by Senator BERNARD of Aroostook and Representatives: CARUSO of Caratunk, CRAY of Palmyra, MCINTYRE of Lowell, QUINT of Hodgdon, SALISBURY of Westbrook, STOVER of Boothbay, THORNE of Carmel, Senator: RENY of Lincoln.

Bill "An Act to Support Rural Resilience and Emergency Response Through the Maine Service Fellows Program"

(H.P. 562) (L.D. 876)

Sponsored by Representative RIELLY of Westbrook.

Cosponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford and Representatives: DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, EATON of Deer Isle, MALON of Biddeford, PLUECKER of Warren.

Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Provide Equitable Capital Construction Funding for Maine's Charter Schools"

(H.P. 540) (L.D. 854)

Sponsored by Representative LYMAN of Livermore Falls.

Bill "An Act to Ensure Behavioral and Mental Health Services Are Available to Students by Providing Grants to Schools That Contract for Those Services"

(H.P. 544) (L.D. 858)

Sponsored by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, CROCKETT of Portland, DODGE of Belfast, MURPHY of Scarborough, SARGENT of York.

Resolve, to Establish the Criminal Justice Legal Aid Clinic Pilot Project at the University of Maine School of Law
(H.P. 570) (L.D. 884)

Sponsored by Representative ANKELES of Brunswick.
Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland and Representatives: HENDERSON of Rumford, KUHN of Falmouth, LEE of Auburn, MOONEN of Portland, SATO of Gorham, SINCLAIR of Bath, ZAGER of Portland, Senator: BENNETT of Oxford.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Establish a Recall Process for Public School Board Members"

(H.P. 535) (L.D. 849)

Sponsored by Representative SAYRE of Kennebunk.
Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York and Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, BRIDGEO of Augusta, ROLLINS of Augusta, Senator: RAFFERTY of York.

Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** suggested.

On motion of Representative MURPHY of Scarborough, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Require Competitive Electricity Providers to Provide Certain Information to the Public Advocate" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 546) (L.D. 860)

Sponsored by Representative SACHS of Freeport.
Cosponsored by Senator LAWRENCE of York and Representatives: FOSTER of Dexter, GEIGER of Rockland, KESSLER of South Portland, MCINTYRE of Lowell, RUNTE of York, WADSWORTH of Hiram, WARREN of Scarborough, WEBB of Durham.

Submitted by the Office of the Public Advocate pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Bill "An Act Related to the Work of the Public Advocate"
(H.P. 547) (L.D. 861)

Sponsored by Representative WARREN of Scarborough.
Cosponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock.

Bill "An Act to Expand Municipal Authority over Utility Pole Permits"

(H.P. 559) (L.D. 873)

Sponsored by Representative ABDI of Lewiston.
Cosponsored by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin and Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, MCCABE of Lewiston.

Resolve, to Study the Effects of 5G and Other Non-ionizing Radio Frequency Radiation-emitting Technology on Bird, Bee, Insect and Other Wildlife Populations and the Effects of Long-term Exposure on Children

(H.P. 564) (L.D. 878)

Sponsored by Representative QUINT of Hodgdon.
Cosponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook and Representatives: FREDERICKS of Sanford, GEIGER of Rockland, HENDERSON of Rumford, MINGO of Calais, SUPICA of Bangor, WARREN of Scarborough, WHITE of Guilford.

Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** suggested and ordered printed.

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

Sent for concurrence.

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

(H.P. 558) (L.D. 872)

Sponsored by Representative FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor.

Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** suggested.

On motion of Representative SACHS of Freeport, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Protect Natural Resources by Clarifying Hydropower Dam Removal Requirements"

(H.P. 532) (L.D. 846)

Sponsored by Representative BLIER of Buxton.

Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Require MaineCare to Reimburse for Lactation Services in the Homes of Eligible Persons"

(H.P. 551) (L.D. 865)

Sponsored by Representative BOYER of Cape Elizabeth.
Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland and Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill.

Bill "An Act to Exempt All Persons, Including Health Care and Emergency Services Personnel, from COVID-19 Vaccine Requirements"

(H.P. 557) (L.D. 871)

Sponsored by Representative CIMINO of Bridgton.
Cosponsored by Representatives: FLYNN of Albion, FOSTER of Dexter, MCINTYRE of Lowell, Senator: BENNETT of Oxford.

Bill "An Act to Fund Essential Services for Victims of Domestic Violence" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 561) (L.D. 875)

Sponsored by Representative MEYER of Eliot.
Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York and Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, GATTINE of Westbrook, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, KUHN of Falmouth, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, STOVER of Boothbay, Senator: President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the Department of Health and Human Services"

(H.P. 575) (L.D. 889)

Sponsored by Representative MEYER of Eliot.

Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** suggested and ordered printed.

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding Pre-need Funeral Insurance"

(H.P. 553) (L.D. 867)

Sponsored by Representative MORRIS of Turner.

Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and Representatives: FLYNN of Albion, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, Senator: HAGGAN of Penobscot.

Bill "An Act to Provide Relief to Federal or State Employees Affected by a Federal Government or State Government Shutdown"

(H.P. 560) (L.D. 874)

Sponsored by Representative MATHIESON of Kittery.

Cosponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, Senator BAILEY of York and Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, BOYER of Cape Elizabeth, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, MATLACK of St. George, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, Senator: BALDACCI of Penobscot.

Bill "An Act Regarding Nondiscrimination in Financial Services"

(H.P. 566) (L.D. 880)

Sponsored by Representative QUINT of Hodgdon.

Cosponsored by Senator BERNARD of Aroostook and Representatives: DUCHARME of Madison, GREENWOOD of Wales, PAUL of Winterport, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, WADSWORTH of Hiram, WHITE of Guilford.

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

REFERRED to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Establish a First-time Home-buyer Program Administered by the Finance Authority of Maine"

(H.P. 531) (L.D. 845)

Sponsored by Representative FREDETTE of Newport.

Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Regulate Social Media Use by Minors Under 16 Years of Age"

(H.P. 530) (L.D. 844)

Sponsored by Representative FREDETTE of Newport.

Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** suggested.

On motion of Representative GERE of Kennebunkport, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Reduce Posting of Hunting Lands by Providing Free Antlerless Deer Permits to Certain Landowners Who Keep Their Lands Open to Hunting"

(H.P. 552) (L.D. 866)

Sponsored by Representative FOSTER of Dexter.

Cosponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin and Representatives: DILL of Old Town, FLYNN of Albion, MASON of Lisbon, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, THORNE of Carmel, WOOD of Greene, Senators: CYRWAY of Kennebec, HAGGAN of Penobscot.

Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Housing Discrimination"

(H.P. 533) (L.D. 847)

Sponsored by Representative GOLEK of Harpswell.

Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and Representatives: DEBRITO of Waterville, GERE of Kennebunkport, MALON of Biddeford, MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, RANA of Bangor, ROEDER of Bangor, YUSUF of Portland, Senator: BENNETT of Oxford.

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)

Sponsored by Representative CARUSO of Caratunk.

Cosponsored by Representative SMITH of Palermo, Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: EDER of Waterboro, FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor, HYMES of Waldo, POIRIER of Skowhegan, Senators: FARRIN of Somerset, GUERIN of Penobscot.

Bill "An Act to Give Grandparents Intervenor Status in Certain Child Protection Proceedings"

(H.P. 555) (L.D. 869)

Sponsored by Representative FREDETTE of Newport.

Bill "An Act to Increase Maximum Small Claim Limits for Home Construction Contracts"

(H.P. 565) (L.D. 879)

Sponsored by Representative KESSLER of South Portland.

Cosponsored by Representatives: COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, ROBERTS of South Berwick, Senator: GROHOSKI of Hancock. Sponsored by Representative WHITE of Guilford.

Cosponsored by Senator HARRINGTON of York and Representatives: BISHOP of Bucksport, EDER of Waterboro, FLYNN of Albion, LANCE of Paris, LIBBY of Auburn, PAUL of Winterport, WHITE of Ellsworth, Senator: HAGGAN of Penobscot.

Bill "An Act to Regulate Medication Abortions"

(H.P. 572) (L.D. 886)

Sponsored by Representative GRIFFIN of Levant.

Cosponsored by Representatives: COLLINS of Sidney, GIFFORD of Lincoln, JAVNER of Chester, MASON of Lisbon, PAUL of Winterport, SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico, THORNE of Carmel.

Bill "An Act to Make Manufacturers Responsible for Proper Disposal of Abortion Drugs and Require a Health Care Provider to Be Physically Present During a Chemical Abortion"

(H.P. 573) (L.D. 887)

Sponsored by Representative PAUL of Winterport.

Cosponsored by Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot and Representatives: GRIFFIN of Levant, HAGGAN of Hampden, JAVNER of Chester, QUINT of Hodgdon.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Protect Communication with Providers of Critical Incident Stress Management Peer Support"

(H.P. 568) (L.D. 882)

Sponsored by Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook.
Cosponsored by Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, MATHIESON of Kittery, STOVER of Boothbay, TERRY of Gorham.

Committee on **JUDICIARY** suggested.

On motion of Representative KUHN of Falmouth, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Allow Certain Persons with a Permit to Carry Concealed Handguns to Possess or Discharge a Firearm on School Property"

(H.P. 571) (L.D. 885)

Committee on **JUDICIARY** suggested.

On motion of Representative KUHN of Falmouth, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding the Retired County and Municipal Law Enforcement Officers and Municipal Firefighters Health Insurance Program"

(H.P. 534) (L.D. 848)

Sponsored by Representative HENDERSON of Rumford.

Bill "An Act to Replace the Minimum Hourly Wage with a Regionally Based Living Wage"

(H.P. 539) (L.D. 853)

Sponsored by Representative GEIGER of Rockland.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BECK of South Portland, MACIAS of Topsham, ROEDER of Bangor, WARREN of Scarborough, Senator: TIPPING of Penobscot.

Bill "An Act to Require Transportation Network Companies to Provide Fair Wages to Drivers"

(H.P. 563) (L.D. 877)

Sponsored by Representative SATO of Gorham.
Cosponsored by Representatives: MACIAS of Topsham, ROEDER of Bangor, Senator: TIPPING of Penobscot.

Sponsored by Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan.
Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset and Representatives: BOYER of Poland, MORRIS of Turner, NUTTING of Oakland, QUINT of Hodgdon, RUDNICKI of Fairfield.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Establish an Apprentice Insurance Producer License"

(H.P. 567) (L.D. 881)

Committee on **LABOR** suggested.

On motion of Representative ROEDER of Bangor, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**, ordered printed and sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Establish a Senior Retiree Lobster License"

(H.P. 537) (L.D. 851)

Sponsored by Representative FOLEY of Wells.

Cosponsored by Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot and Representatives: MORRIS of Turner, OLSEN of Raymond, PARRY of Arundel.

Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Increase Government Transparency in the Procurement of Goods and Services"

(H.P. 543) (L.D. 857)

Sponsored by Representative BOYER of Poland.

Cosponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford and Representatives: CHAPMAN of Auburn, ROEDER of Bangor, SUPICA of Bangor, Senators: BICKFORD of Androscoggin, GROHOSKI of Hancock, HICKMAN of Kennebec, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, TIPPING of Penobscot.

Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Phase Out the Income Tax"

(H.P. 542) (L.D. 856)

Sponsored by Representative BOYER of Poland.

Cosponsored by Representatives: CHAPMAN of Auburn, DUCCHARME of Madison, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, FLYNN of Albion, FREDETTE of Newport, WADSWORTH of Hiram, Senators: BERNARD of Aroostook, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin.

Bill "An Act to Reduce the Tax Burden on Maine Citizens"

(H.P. 569) (L.D. 883)

Sponsored by Representative QUINT of Hodgdon.

Cosponsored by Senator BERNARD of Aroostook and Representatives: HENDERSON of Rumford, LAVIGNE of Berwick, PAUL of Winterport, RUDNICKI of Fairfield.

Bill "An Act to Expand Property Tax Relief for Veterans and Survivors of Veterans"

(H.P. 574) (L.D. 888)

Sponsored by Representative HYMES of Waldo.

Cosponsored by Representative BAGSHAW of Windham, Senator FARRIN of Somerset and Representatives: COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, ROBERTS of South Berwick, THORNE of Carmel, Senators: ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, STEWART of Aroostook.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicle Laws"

(H.P. 536) (L.D. 850)

Sponsored by Representative CRAFTS of Newcastle.

Submitted by the Secretary of State pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Resolve, to Honor Scarborough Veterans by Renaming the Pine Point Crossing Bridge the Scarborough Veterans Memorial Bridge

(H.P. 548) (L.D. 862)

Sponsored by Representative WARREN of Scarborough.

Cosponsored by Representatives: GATTINE of Westbrook, MURPHY of Scarborough, Senators: BRENNER of Cumberland, CARNEY of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act to Allow the Use of Transporter Plates for Transporting Campers or Motor Homes"

(H.P. 550) (L.D. 864)

Sponsored by Representative CRAY of Palmyra.

Cosponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin and Representative: COOPER of Windham.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Limit Eligibility Under the Maine Clean Election Act"

(H.P. 541) (L.D. 855)

Sponsored by Representative BOYER of Poland.

Cosponsored by Representatives: CHAPMAN of Auburn, DUCHARME of Madison, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, FLYNN of Albion, WADSWORTH of Hiram, WOOD of Greene, Senators: BERNARD of Aroostook, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin.

Resolve, Directing the Treasurer of State to Review and Develop Options for Meeting the Banking Needs of the Cannabis Industry

(H.P. 545) (L.D. 859)

Sponsored by Representative CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham.

Bill "An Act to Exempt Internet Raffles Conducted by Certain Organizations with Prizes of \$2,500 or Less from Registration and Licensing Requirements"

(H.P. 549) (L.D. 863)

Sponsored by Representative WHITE of Guilford.

Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset and Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, BISHOP of Bucksport, MASON of Lisbon, MONTELL of Gardiner, PARRY of Arundel, RAY of Lincolnville, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, WHITE of Ellsworth.

Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** suggested and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

Sent for concurrence.

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

ORDERS

On motion of Representative ABDI of Lewiston, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 499) (Cosponsored by Representatives: CLOUTIER of Lewiston, DHALAC of South Portland, LAJOIE of Lewiston, LEE of Auburn, MCCABE of Lewiston, RANA of Bangor, YUSUF of Portland, Senator: ROTUNDO of Androscoggin)

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE MUSLIM CELEBRATION OF THE HOLY MONTH OF RAMADAN

WHEREAS, Ramadan is the 9th month in the Islamic calendar, a significant holy month in the Islamic faith and a month of sacrifice in which Muslims fast the entirety of the month, abstaining from food and drink from sunrise to sunset; and

WHEREAS, commencement of Ramadan begins on the evening of February 28, 2025, and Ramadan continues for one lunar month; and

WHEREAS, Ramadan is the holy month when millions of Muslims in the United States fast not only to renew themselves spiritually but also to recognize their responsibility and obligations to society at large and to take care of those less fortunate, regardless of their religious or racial background; and

WHEREAS, Muslims in Maine contribute greatly to charitable organizations that help people from all faith backgrounds and also contribute greatly to society, serving as medical professionals, teachers, first responders, journalists, writers, artists, athletes, small business owners, professors, activists, community leaders and elected public officials; and

WHEREAS, Muslims in Maine have a long history of contributions to our State, including the building of one of the first mosques in North America in Biddeford in 1915; and

WHEREAS, Eid al-Fitr is celebrated by Muslims worldwide as the day that marks the end of the month-long sunrise-to-sunset fasting of Ramadan; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, in observance of and out of respect for the commencement of Ramadan, the Muslim holy month of fasting, prayer, charity, reflection and spiritual renewal, take this opportunity to recognize the onset of Ramadan and express our deepest respect to Muslims in Maine and throughout the world on this significant occasion; and be it further

RESOLVED: That We extend best wishes to all those of Muslim faith in Maine, the United States and across the world for a joyous and meaningful observance of Ramadan.

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Lewiston, Representative Abdi.

Representative **ABDI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *As-salāmu 'alaykum wa-rahmatu-llāhi wa-barakātuh*, Mr. Speaker, and Esteemed Members of House. I rise today to acknowledge the commencement of Ramadan, the ninth month of the Islamic lunar calendar, a sacred period of fasting, praying and self-reflection observed by Muslims worldwide. Ramadan holds profound theological and spiritual significance, commemorating the revelation of the Quran to the Prophet (ﷺ) and serves as a time for moral and communal rejuvenation.

The principles of religious liberty and diversity are foundation to our nation's identity, and I'm grateful to live in a country where individuals can practice their faith freely. Our constitutional commitment to freedom of worship fosters an environment of inclusivity, respect and mutual understanding; values that align with the very essence of Ramadan.

Fasting from dawn until sunset is more than an exercise in self-restraint. It cultivates discipline, fortitude and empathy for those facing food insecurity and economic hardship. It enforces a commitment to justice and social responsibility. The communal aspect of Ramadan, including predawn *suhur* and sunset *iftar* meals, strengthen familial and social bonds, fostering gratitude and shared reflection. Furthermore, the emphasis on *zakat*, charitable giving, underscores Islam's dedication to social equity, urging individuals to support the marginalized and uphold the dignity of all members of our society. Ramadan calls for increased spiritual introspection through intensified prayer, Qur'anic study and active devotion. The ethical imperatives of self-discipline, compassion and generosity are not confined to the Muslim community alone. They resonate universally, inspiring broad civic engagement, solidarity and mindfulness in our collective lives.

Maine is home to a dynamic and growing Muslim population of approximately 30,000 individuals, each contributing to the rich cultural and social fabric of our State. Nationally, over 3.45 million Muslims enhance the diverse landscape of the United States, while the global Muslim community exceeds 1.9 billion, making Islam the world's second-largest religion.

In an era marked by increased polarization and misinformation, it is imperative to resist fear-based rhetoric and diverse narratives. The observation of Ramadan underscores our shared humanity and the power of unity in fostering understanding and peace. Recognizing Ramadan through this Joint Resolution extends beyond acknowledging a religious tradition. It reaffirms our collective commitment to religious freedom, tolerance and social cohesion. It signals that all Mainers, regardless of faith, are integral to the cultural and civic fabric of our State.

I encourage each of us to embrace the ethos of Ramadan by striving for deeper cross-cultural understanding, fostering inter-faith dialogue and advancing a society found on justice, equality and peace. Mr. Speaker, at the end of every night for *iftar*, we have incredible variety of food, so, if any of you ever are down for spectacular food, hit me up. *As-salāmu 'alaykum*, and thank you.

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

Representative **RANA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you to the Good Representative from Lewiston on their powerful remarks. *As-salāmu 'alaykum*, Mr. Speaker, a greeting that means "peace be unto you."

I am proud to be joining you as one of four Muslims elected to the House of Representatives. Faith plays a large role in my life and in the lives of many of us in this room. Whether we are a part of an organized religion, consider ourselves to be spiritual or consistently believe in a hope for a better tomorrow, we all have faith and we are all shaped by that faith. For me, as a proud Muslim, my faith calls me to observe the holy month of Ramadan, which began this past weekend. And today, Mr. Speaker, I rise to extend best wishes to Muslims in Maine as they, too, observe Ramadan.

Ramadan is our holiest month and ends with a festival of celebration. It is the time for intense devotion and reflection, when family and friends gather over shared meals, known as *iftars*, and discuss how we can be kinder to one another each day and work together to advance justice and prosperity for all people within our greater communities.

Maine's Muslim community is rich in diversity and spread wide across our State from Presque Isle to Sanford. My father, who moved to Maine in the late '80s, helped to build the mosque

in our community. It started in the early 2000s as a doublewide trailer on a small plot of land and since has developed into a beautiful building that hosts people of all backgrounds, provides a home away from home for college students and fosters community connection. For those new to the area, the mosque has been a place where they can get their footing and begin to build lifelong friendships. The Islamic Center of Maine in Orono is a beloved institution that I'm proud to call a home for me in the greater Bangor area, where people of all faiths are welcome to learn from their neighbors.

Many Muslims across our State, many of us in this room, are fasting today, which is a concept held by many faiths. Fasting, along with focusing on growth, acceptance, prayer and community are the pillars that comprise Ramadan and is the basis for our religion as a whole. And while we continue to practice these pillars, we do so somberly, for during this holy month, we all share the suffering of communities here and abroad and carry with us the loss and pain as a result of ongoing conflict and unrelenting displacement faced by millions around the world and in the State. Always, and especially during Ramadan, we must reflect on our obligation to protect marginalized people. We must remind ourselves that any powerlessness that we feel today is by design. We cannot submit to cynicism that tells us that nothing can stop the harm that we witness. We must take action to prioritize these people and get them the services that they need to survive and thrive.

I encourage us to remember the oppressed in recognition of their strength and resilience. They live each day with power and purpose, reminding us that true solidarity means recognizing and supporting collective power. Our own freedom is deeply intertwined with theirs, and without their freedom, our freedom is incomplete. It is vital for us all to stand in the fullness of our morals, our dignity and that which is honorable. Mr. Speaker, we must root ourselves in the truth that without liberation for all, there is liberation for none.

I ran for the Legislature because I believe in a world where peace is possible, where we can recognize each other's differences yet still come together in community for the betterment of our State. And as I participate in Ramadan, I want to share with you a concept that I've been reflecting on; a concept called *sabr*, meaning patience. And I must share with you, if you can imagine, patience takes extra discipline to maintain if you haven't had anything to eat or drink. *Sabr* is essential when it comes to legislating. It reminds us to have the patience to not react defensively when criticized or challenged, have the patience and courage to do the work and to have the wisdom to know when resistance in challenging systems is necessary. So much of what we benefit from today is a result of that challenging and disrupting of norms. It is because of resistance and protest and movement, which are the backbone of the rights that we have today. This reminder guides us to disrupt with grace and command attention and to empower one another as a community to do what is just and what is right. We must challenge these structures, because we have a say in how these systems function. We must demand and foster systems that value all lives and all lives of all Creation.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage you to join Muslims in your area for a community *iftar* to break fast. Not only will you feel a strong connection to our neighbors, but I promise you, you will really enjoy the food. To those observing Ramadan over the next month, *Ramadan Mubarak*. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

On motion of Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 504) (Cosponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland and Representatives: ARCHER of Saco, ARFORD of Brunswick, BRENNAN of Portland, CRAFTS of Newcastle, DHALAC of South Portland, MATHIESON of Kittery, SACHS of Freeport, Senator: INGWERSEN of York)

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MARCH 2025 AS
SOCIAL WORK MONTH**

WHEREAS, social workers have paved the way for change by enhancing the well-being of all people, especially the most vulnerable in society; and

WHEREAS, social workers have helped lead the nation's struggle for social justice and continue to advocate for positive social change and, more than the members of any other profession, social workers recognize that more must be done to address the persistent social problems that plague the State; and

WHEREAS, social workers support diverse families in every community and understand that individuals and communities together can bring about change; and

WHEREAS, social workers advocate for the rights of the disadvantaged and oppressed; and

WHEREAS, social workers advocate for children's rights to a safe environment and a good education; and

WHEREAS, social workers advocate for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer rights; and

WHEREAS, social workers advocate for the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin or income with respect to development, implementation and enforcement of environmental laws, rules and policies; and

WHEREAS, social workers work to ensure good care is provided to older adults; and

WHEREAS, social workers help provide community support for veterans and their families after their service; and

WHEREAS, social workers strive to improve access to mental health treatment and health care services in order to save lives; and

WHEREAS, social workers effect change and put the ideals of citizenship into action every day through legislative, regulatory and social policy efforts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize March 2025 as Social Work Month; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the University of Maine, School of Social Work; the University of Maine at Presque Isle, College of Professional Programs, Social Work program; the University of Southern Maine, School of Social Work; the University of New England, School of Social Work; Saint Joseph's College, Social Work program; and the National Association of Social Workers, Maine Chapter.

READ.

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

Representative **GRAMLICH**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Colleagues of the House, I rise to recognize and celebrate the invaluable contributions of social workers across our nation, and certainly here in Maine, as we honor Social Work Month 2025.

Every March, we have the privilege of highlighting the incredible work that social workers do, often behind the scenes, to improve the lives of individuals, families and communities throughout our State. Social workers are the cornerstone of public health and human services systems. We serve as advocates for vulnerable populations, providing critical services that promote mental health, economic stability and overall well-being. From the classrooms to the courtroom, from health care facilities to homes, social workers are the compassionate advocates, the empathetic listeners and the relentless champions of social justice, ensuring that no one is left behind. And we are everywhere, Mr. Speaker. I would venture to say that every single one of us in this Chamber has been impacted by social workers in some way, shape or form.

We empower individuals and families to overcome obstacles, navigate challenges and build bright futures. But our work extends far beyond individual interactions. Social workers are catalysts for change, working to address systemic injustices, to honor diversity, promote equality and inclusivity for all. Social workers challenge prejudice and discrimination, striving to create a world where everyone has equal opportunities and resources, both in the clinical micro setting as well as in the macro setting, similar to what we see right here in our Legislature. In fact, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to share that we currently have seven social workers right here serving with us in this Chamber.

This year's theme for Social Work Month is compassion and action. In the weeks and months ahead, social workers will be called upon to turn our compassion into action to help our nation address a variety of societal challenges. To that end, let us take a moment to express our gratitude for this remarkable profession. Together, let us stand in solidarity with social workers everywhere as we continue to inspire hope, drive progress and transform lives for the better. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

On motion of Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 576)

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MARCH 6, 2025 AS
BLACK BALLOON DAY**

WHEREAS, substance use disorder and the overdose crisis continue to devastate communities across Maine, resulting in the tragic loss of 490 lives in 2024 alone, leaving families, friends and communities in mourning; and

WHEREAS, Black Balloon Day, observed annually on March 6th, serves as an international day of remembrance to honor those lost to overdose and to acknowledge the profound impact of substance use disorder on individuals, families and society; and

WHEREAS, each life lost represents a parent, child, sibling, friend or neighbor whose full potential was never realized because of the disease of addiction; and

WHEREAS, the overdose crisis affects people of all backgrounds and communities, and there is an urgent need for increased awareness, prevention, treatment, harm reduction and recovery support services; and

WHEREAS, stigma remains a significant barrier to seeking and receiving care, and it is our collective responsibility to foster compassion, understanding and evidence-based approaches to substance use disorder; and

WHEREAS, families and advocates throughout Maine continue to share their stories, fight for better policies and work to ensure that no more lives are lost to preventable overdoses; and

WHEREAS, Black Balloon Day provides an opportunity for individuals and organizations to come together in remembrance and in solidarity, encouraging conversation and action to address this ongoing public health crisis; and

WHEREAS, the Legislature recognizes the urgency of addressing the overdose epidemic through continued policy efforts, funding for prevention and treatment programs and community-driven solutions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, pause in our deliberations to recognize Black Balloon Day, honor the 490 lives lost to overdose in Maine in 2024 and extend our deepest sympathies to the families and loved ones affected by this crisis; and be it further

RESOLVED: That we reaffirm our commitment to addressing substance use disorder and supporting those in recovery with compassion, urgency and dedication.

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Blue Hill, Representative Milliken.

Representative **MILLIKEN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, we observe Black Balloon Day, a day of mourning, remembrance and demand for urgent action.

Four hundred and ninety Mainers lost their lives last year to drug overdoses, and we all know that we are a Body of 152 people. It feels safe to say that all of us lost constituents to this devastating issue last year. Many of us lost many constituents. All of those 490 people were loved members of their communities. They were friends, they were neighbors, they were children, parents, siblings, cousins, aunts, uncles and other loved ones. Each loss is felt deeply, and each overdose death is a policy failure. Maine is making great progress, our numbers of overdose deaths are trending downwards, but we as a legislative Body still owe it to our communities to reaffirm our commitment to acknowledging the enormity of the loss of more than three times the number of people that are sitting right now on this floor just last year.

Today, I want to acknowledge the life and legacy of Jesse Harvey, a fierce advocate for harm reduction services and one of Maine's bravest voices in the international movement demanding dignity, safety and health care access for people who use drugs. Jesse was an advocate, organizer and peer support worker with an incredible circle of mentors who empowered him to use his own experiences with substance use disorder and overdose to demand action.

As national research emerged and continues to emerge that proves the efficacy of harm reduction, more and more friends and neighbors in Maine died from these preventable deaths. Policymakers were unwilling to address chaotic substance use and fatal overdose as a public health emergency instead of a moral failure. Even now, in the midst of an HIV outbreak in Bangor, we struggle to agree on evidence-based solutions. And as Jesse might say, while they talk, we die. Instead of talking, Jesse and his community acted. In 2018, Jesse founded the Church of Safe Injection, an uncertified syringe program operating in Portland and Lewiston. His vision was simple, yet radical: People who use drugs do not deserve to die.

Fast forward to 2025 and the Church of Safe Injections is one of Maine's busiest; and certified; syringe service programs, distributing and collecting hundreds of thousands of sterile supplies throughout Cumberland, Oxford and Androscoggin Counties. Jesse also founded Journey House Recovery, a nonprofit recovery-oriented organization that offered housing and peer support for people seeking affordable, accessible recovery housing. Journey House was the first organization in Maine to allow residents to take prescribed medications for opioid dependency, like suboxone and methadone. Jesse believed in meeting people where they dreamed, without punishing them for their past or the systems that they were forced to survive in.

Tragically, on September 7th of 2020, Jesse died, alone in his home, of an accidental opioid overdose. His death was a devastating loss for Maine, for the harm reduction movement and for all who knew him. But Jesse's work did not die with him. His legacy lives on through the COSI organization, through policy changes that this Body has enacted and through individuals who are still with us because someone like Jesse took the time to treat them with kindness and with understanding.

Black Balloon Day began in 2016 to commemorate the lives lost to overdose. It is a day to mourn, and it is also a day to act, as Jesse did and hundreds of individuals in Maine's harm reduction and recovery communities continue to do. Today, I urge my colleagues to get trained to carry naloxone, a life-saving medication that reverses an overdose. Members of the harm reduction community are available here throughout the day to provide us training. Please see me or one of them if you are interested. I also urge you to join us in honoring Jesse and the thousands like him with a renewed commitment to harm reduction services, enacting evidence-based policies and lifting up the unwavering truth that every life is worth saving. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

On motion of Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 577) (Cosponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York and Representatives: GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, MATHIESON of Kittery, MEYER of Eliot, ZAGER of Portland, Senator: BAILEY of York)

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 2025 AS CHILDREN'S DENTAL HEALTH MONTH

WHEREAS, dental caries is the most common chronic disease found in children; and

WHEREAS, through dental education and regular preventive dental care, tooth decay is almost completely preventable; and

WHEREAS, good oral health habits start in childhood, and parents and caregivers who are educated about the importance of oral health are empowered to embrace appropriate oral hygiene and dietary behaviors and make and keep dental appointments for their children; and

WHEREAS, research shows that, through supervised tooth brushing programs and preventive dental care, children can reduce the occurrence of dental-related illness, which starts as early as first grade and causes children in the United States to miss 51,000,000 hours of school time each year; and

WHEREAS, through a balanced diet, brushing and flossing after every meal and regular dental checkups, children can avoid dental caries and remain healthy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to designate February 2025 as Children's Dental Health Month and to encourage the raising of public awareness about the importance of preventive dental care for all children.

READ and ADOPTED.

Sent for concurrence.

On motion of Representative PAUL of Winterport, the following Joint Order: (H.P. 500)

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs shall report out, to the House, a bill that prohibits an educational institution in this State that receives state funds from being a member of or paying dues or fees to an organization that does not prohibit biological males from participating on teams in sports designated for "girls" or "females." The bill must provide that any state funding to such an educational institution that continues to be a member of or pay dues or fees to such an organization must be deappropriated or otherwise eliminated until the educational institution complies with the law.

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Winterport, Representative Paul.

Representative PAUL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to urge the passage of this Joint Order directing the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee to report out a bill prohibiting any State-funded educational institution in Maine from joining or financially supporting any organization that allows biological males to compete in women's sports.

Today, I'm speaking specifically about the Maine Principals' Association, known as the MPA. The Maine Principals' Association, which is entrusted with overseeing and regulating high school sports in our State, has failed the young men and women of our State. By allowing biological males to compete in female athletics, they have stripped young women of hard-earned opportunity and violated the very principle of fairness and equality. This is not inclusion; it is exclusion. It is a canceling of female athletes with the destruction of a level playing field, an injustice that cannot and must not be ignored.

These decisions are not just unfair, they are cruel. They deny young women the opportunity to compete on an equal footing, and they ask young men to deny their very identity. It's a betrayal of both genders and what it means to be human. This MPA policy also defies federal law, as they remain subject to --

The SPEAKER: The Member will defer. Can the Member not stand in the entranceway, please? Thank you. And the Chair will remind Members that use of electronic devices to record other Members is prohibited by the House Rules. Thank you. The Member may proceed.

Representative PAUL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This MPA policy also defies federal law, as they remain subject to Title IX and its implementing regulation whether they agree or not. This is not just a failure of leadership; it's capitulation to an ideology divorced from reality. State laws do not override federal anti-discrimination laws. Craig Trainor, Acting Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, has made it clear. Maine must comply with Title IX to receive federal funds. If it chooses to ignore the law, and trample on the rights of female athletes, it should not expect taxpayer support.

Female athletes already face barriers to equal representation in sports. Now, they are being told that their hard work, talent and sacrifices don't matter. One athlete recently

said, quote, "I trained for years to be the best, only to compete against someone with physical advantages I can never match. It's not fair," end-quote. Another stated, quote, "I've dedicated my life to sports, but now I'm being told that effort means nothing because a biological male can take my place. This isn't progress, it's injustice," end-quote. These are the voices of real athletes who are being hurt by those tasked with protecting them. Their dreams are being undermined. Their efforts, their dedication, their sacrifices are all being robbed from them by an ideology that places inclusion above fairness, above the safety of female athletes and above common sense. The young women of Maine who look to sports as an outlet for empowerment, achievement and self-expression are being betrayed.

This issue goes beyond sports. Young men are being used as political pawns, pressured to deny biological reality. Instead of guiding children with wisdom and care, adults are forcing them into a false ideology that replaces truth with confusion. This is not compassion; it is exploitation. This is not protection, this is not care; this is abuse. Biological differences between males and females are scientific fact, not social constructs.

This new war on women being waged by those who should know better got me thinking, what happened to women's rights? Women fought for their place in sports, for equal opportunity and for fairness. Now, those hard-won rights are being eroded. The MPA's policies are not just unfair, they are unjust and they are illegal. They betray both young men and women, sending the message that truth is optional, and biology is irrelevant. This ideological experiment must end. Public funds should not support organizations that undermine fairness, disregard the law and harm our children. It's time to defund the MPA and restore integrity to Maine's sports programs.

Biology is not bigotry. Let me repeat that. Biology is not bigotry. It is reality. Those enabling this attack on truth should be ashamed. It's actually reprehensible. This is not just about women's sports. It's about protecting fairness, reality and the very foundation of competition. Truth isn't optional and biology is not just an obstacle to be ignored or, dare I say, pole vaulted over. Stand up for our daughters, stand up for our sons, stand up for truth. Defund the MPA and hold them accountable for their illegal practices and policies. Protect our State from harmful lawsuits and the loss of federal education funding. Protect our children from the harmful consequences of this ideological experiment, and let's restore common sense and fairness to our sports programs. Our young women deserve to compete on equal ground. Our young men deserve the right to their true identity. And above all, all children deserve to grow in a world where truth is upheld and their rights are respected. Today, we may be honoring Women's History Month. Let's not just do it in words, let's do it in deed as well. Let's pass this Joint Order today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Representative MOONEN of Portland moved to **REFER** the Joint Order to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**.

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

Representative MOONEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. There are already pieces of legislation pending dealing with this issue that have been referred to Judiciary. This should be considered alongside those other pieces of legislation. I ask you to support this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Subsequently, the Joint Order was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and sent for concurrence.

On motion of Representative LAJOIE of Lewiston, the following House Order: (H.O. 15)

ORDERED, that Representative Mark Michael Babin of Fort Fairfield be excused Feb 11 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative W. Edward Crockett of Portland be excused Feb 4 and 11 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Randall Adam Greenwood of Wales be excused Feb 25 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative William D. Pluecker of Warren be excused Feb 11 for personal reasons.

READ and PASSED.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Report

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act Regarding Licensure of Emergency Medical Services Persons"

(S.P. 44) (L.D. 123)

Signed:

Senators:

- BAILEY of York
- BALDACCI of Penobscot
- HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

- MATHIESON of Kittery
- ARFORD of Brunswick
- BOYER of Cape Elizabeth
- CIMINO of Bridgton
- CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham
- FLYNN of Albion
- FOLEY of Wells
- MORRIS of Turner
- OLSEN of Raymond

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

Signed:

Representative:

- MASTRACCIO of Sanford

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED.**

READ.

On motion of Representative ARFORD of Brunswick, the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED.**

The Bill was **READ ONCE.**

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** in concurrence.

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(S.P. 28) (L.D. 17) Bill "An Act to Designate the Warden of the Maine State Prison as Chief Administrative Officer of the Bolduc Correctional Facility" Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 43) (L.D. 79) Resolve, to Rename the Bridge on Main Street Between Biddeford and Saco the General Wallace H. Nutting Memorial Bridge Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 68) (L.D. 103) Bill "An Act to Reorganize and Simplify Certain Exceptions in the Use Regulation Law" Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 95) (L.D. 162) Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in the Town of Carmel the Kevin M. Howell Memorial Bridge Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 245) (L.D. 345) Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in the Town of Roque Bluffs the Hope Bridge Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 27) (L.D. 63) Bill "An Act to Support Implementation of Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic Projects" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-11)**

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

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

ENACTORS

Act

An Act to Eliminate the Provision of the Maine Workers' Compensation Act of 1992 That Allows an Employer Member of a Group Self-insurer to Insure Its Employees Through a Fronting Arrangement

(S.P. 67) (L.D. 131)

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.**

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

SENATE PAPERS

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 377)

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 10:00 in the morning, or until the call of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, respectively.

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

READ and **PASSED** in concurrence.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (S.P. 367)

**MAINE SENATE
132ND LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

February 27, 2025

Hon. Matthea Daughtry

President of the Senate

132nd Legislature

Hon. Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

132nd Legislature

Dear Madam President and Mr. Speaker:

On February 27, 2025, 20 bills were received by the Secretary of the Senate.

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, these bills were referred to the Joint Standing Committees on February 27, 2025, as follows:

Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Bill "An Act to Fund State Government" (S.P. 338) (L.D. 780) (Sponsored by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin)

Bill "An Act to Provide for Appropriations and Allocations" (S.P. 339) (L.D. 781) (Sponsored by Senator ROTUNDO of Androscoggin)

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Bill "An Act to Promote Public Safety and Retain Essential First Responders by Funding the Maine Length of Service Award Program" (S.P. 346) (L.D. 786) (Sponsored by Senator CURRY of Waldo)

Education and Cultural Affairs

Bill "An Act to Continue Support for the Maine Multicultural Center" (S.P. 341) (L.D. 783) (Sponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Representative OSHER of Orono and Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, BALDACCI of Penobscot, RAFFERTY of York, DUSON of Cumberland, LIBBY of Cumberland, Representatives: RANA of Bangor, DILL of Old Town, BRENNAN of Portland)

Bill "An Act to Clarify Residency Requirements for and Provide Funding to the Maine School of Science and Mathematics" (S.P. 347) (L.D. 787) (Sponsored by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock) (Cosponsored by Representative BABIN of Fort Fairfield and Senators: RAFFERTY of York, LIBBY of Cumberland, Representatives: DODGE of Belfast, GERE of Kennebunkport, CARLOW of Buxton, MURPHY of Scarborough, SARGENT of York, FROST of Belgrade)

Environment and Natural Resources

Bill "An Act to Exempt Pegmatite Mining from the Maine Metallic Mineral Mining Act and Establish a Permit-by-rule Process" (S.P. 360) (L.D. 795) (Sponsored by Senator MARTIN of Oxford) (Cosponsored by Representative SOBOLESKI of Phillips and Representatives: WADSWORTH of Hiram, SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico, LANCE of Paris)

Health and Human Services

Bill "An Act to Amend MaineCare Financial Eligibility Requirements" (S.P. 340) (L.D. 782) (Sponsored by Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc) (Cosponsored by Senator: TIPPING of Penobscot, Representatives: RANA of Bangor, ABDI of Lewiston, SATO of Gorham, MACIAS of Topsham)

Bill "An Act Regarding Children with Behavioral Health Needs Awaiting Placement in Residential Care Facilities" (EMERGENCY) (S.P. 354) (L.D. 791) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot)

Bill "An Act to Fund Medical Research and Cancer Prevention" (S.P. 355) (L.D. 792) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot)

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Bill "An Act to Require Health Insurance Coverage for Specialized Risk Screening for First Responders" (S.P. 343) (L.D. 784) (Sponsored by Senator BAILEY of York) (Cosponsored by Representative COPELAND of Saco and Senators: NANGLE of Cumberland, TIPPING of Penobscot, Representatives: MATHIESON of Kittery, SHAGOURY of Hallowell)

Bill "An Act to Prevent Denial of Patient Access Through Collaborative Care" (S.P. 353) (L.D. 790) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot)

Housing and Economic Development

Bill "An Act to Promote an Innovation-driven Economy by Increasing Research and Development Spending" (S.P. 348) (L.D. 788) (Sponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford and Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, STEWART of Aroostook, LAWRENCE of York, Representative: CLOUTIER of Lewiston)

Judiciary

Bill "An Act to Fund the Aroostook County Drug Treatment Court" (S.P. 336) (L.D. 779) (Sponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative KUHN of Falmouth)

Bill "An Act to Enact the Remaining Recommendations of the Task Force on Changes to the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Implementing Act" (S.P. 344) (L.D. 785) (Sponsored by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor and Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, MOORE of Washington, CARNEY of Cumberland, Representatives: Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, LEE of Auburn, KUHN of Falmouth, BABIN of Fort Fairfield)

Labor

Bill "An Act to Include Judicial Marshals in the 1998 Special Plan for Retirement" (S.P. 359) (L.D. 794) (Sponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec) (Cosponsored by Representatives: GREENWOOD of Wales, FREDETTE of Newport and Representative: HASENFUS of Readfield)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Work Search Efforts for Unemployment Benefits and to Eliminate Benefits for Temporary Unemployment" (S.P. 363) (L.D. 797) (Sponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook)

State and Local Government

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Require Legislative Approval of Any State of Emergency Lasting Longer than 60 Days (S.P. 350) (L.D. 789) (Sponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook) (Cosponsored by Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor and Senators: GUERIN of Penobscot, HARRINGTON of York, MARTIN of Oxford, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, Representative: SMITH of Palermo)

Taxation

Bill "An Act to Establish a State Tax Amnesty Program to Increase Revenue Collections" (S.P. 334) (L.D. 778) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Representative FREDERICKS of Sanford and Senator: MARTIN of Oxford)

Transportation

Resolve, to Rename a Bridge in Windham and Gorham the Little Falls Veterans Memorial Bridge (S.P. 362) (L.D. 796) (Sponsored by Senator NANGLE of Cumberland)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act to Modernize Gaming Revenue Allocations and Increase Efforts to Prevent Gambling Addiction" (S.P. 358) (L.D. 793) (Sponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec) (Cosponsored by Representative SUPICA of Bangor and Senator: TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, Representative: BOYER of Poland)

Sincerely,
S/Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate
S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House

Came from the Senate, **READ** and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

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

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Establish the School Energy Savings Revolving Loan Fund" (S.P. 349) (L.D. 826)

Bill "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Upgrade Municipal Culverts at Stream Crossings" (S.P. 369) (L.D. 836)

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

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

Bill "An Act to End the Collection of Certain Probation Fees" (S.P. 335) (L.D. 822)

Resolve, to Study the Delivery of Emergency Medical Services to and Ferry Service Effects on Island Communities in the State (S.P. 374) (L.D. 841)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Establish a Grant Program to Provide for Statewide and Equitable Access to Experiential Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Competition Programs" (S.P. 337) (L.D. 823)

Bill "An Act to Allow Chiropractors to Be Designated as School Health Advisors" (S.P. 352) (L.D. 828)

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

REFERRED to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Provide Funds to Reduce the Debt of the Vassalboro Sanitary District" (S.P. 364) (L.D. 832)

Bill "An Act to Require the Office of the Public Advocate to Implement the State's Climate Action Plan" (S.P. 370) (L.D. 837)

Bill "An Act to Explore Public Financing and Ownership of Electric Transmission and Distribution Infrastructure" (S.P. 371) (L.D. 838)

Bill "An Act to Lower Consumer Electricity Costs by Prohibiting the Recovery Through Rates of Costs Attributable to Net Energy Billing" (S.P. 372) (L.D. 839)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Geoeengineering, Including the Use of Cloud Seeding, Weather Modification, Excessive Radio Waves and Microwave Radiation" (S.P. 345) (L.D. 825)

Bill "An Act to Allow the Sale of Polymer-coated Cookware That Is Authorized for Food Contact by the United States Food and Drug Administration" (S.P. 351) (L.D. 827)

Bill "An Act to Protect Maine's Scenic Beauty by Requiring Solar Panel Fields to Be Hidden from View" (S.P. 357) (L.D. 830)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Update the State Supplement to Supplemental Security Income" (S.P. 366) (L.D. 834)

Bill "An Act to Modernize the State Supplement to Supplemental Security Income by Removing Marriage Disincentives" (S.P. 373) (L.D. 840)

Bill "An Act to Improve the Health of Maine Residents by Amending the Laws Governing the MaineCare, Maine Rx Plus and Emergency MaineCare Programs" (S.P. 375) (L.D. 842)

Bill "An Act to Exclude Poverty as a Factor When Determining Instances of Willful Neglect or Abuse of a Child" (S.P. 379) (L.D. 891)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Continue Funding for the Health Insurance Consumer Assistance Program" (S.P. 376) (L.D. 843)

Bill "An Act to Permit the Dispensing of Ivermectin Pursuant to a Standing Order upon Request for COVID-19, Flu and Cancer Patients" (S.P. 378) (L.D. 890)

Bill "An Act to Exempt Nonprofit Agricultural Membership Organizations from Insurance Requirements" (S.P. 381) (L.D. 893)

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

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

Bill "An Act Regarding Pet Fees in Rental Housing"
(S.P. 342) (L.D. 824)

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

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

REFERRED to the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Standardize the Laws Regarding the Carrying of Concealed Handguns in State Parks" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 356) (L.D. 829)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Expand the Earned Paid Leave Exception"
(S.P. 365) (L.D. 833)

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

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

Bill "An Act to Expand Property Tax Relief for Veterans and Their Surviving Spouses, Minor Children and Parents"

(S.P. 380) (L.D. 892)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TAXATION** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **TAXATION** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding Abandoned Vehicles Due to Involuntary Psychiatric Hospitalization"

(S.P. 361) (L.D. 831)

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

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

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

Bill "An Act to Allow Children to Participate in Beano Games Conducted by Nonprofit Charitable Organizations"

(S.P. 368) (L.D. 835)

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

REFERRED to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** in concurrence.

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

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

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Request permission to speak on the record.

The **SPEAKER**: The Representative has requested unanimous consent to address the House on the record. Hearing no objection, the Representative may proceed on the record.

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Mr. Speaker, had I been in my seat Tuesday, February 25th, in regards to LD 209, Roll Call No. 12, the motion to Commit, I would've voted yes. In regards to LD 209 again, the motion to Pass as an emergency measure, Roll Call No. 13, I would've voted no. Again, on LD 209, Roll Call No. 14 on the motion to Reconsider, I would have voted no. Again, on LD 209, the motion to Adopt the Committee Amendment "A" as Amended by House Amendment "H" (H-9), Roll Call No. 15, I would've voted no. In regards to HR 1, House Resolution to Censure and silence Representative Laurel Libby of Auburn, I would have voted no.

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

Representative **BRIDGEO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Esteemed Colleagues. Today on Black Balloon Day, we pause to remember those lost to overdose, to acknowledge the devastation of substance use disorder and to recommit ourselves to addressing this crisis with urgency and compassion.

I rise to honor the life of Frederick M. Littlefield, a beloved son, partner and friend who passed away on November 19, 2023, at the age of 46. Fred was the devoted partner of the Honorable Raegan LaRochelle, and his loss is deeply felt by all who knew him. Fred grew up in Augusta, graduating from Cony High School before working as a high-rise window cleaner in Boston, where he captured stunning early-morning photos from the tops of skyscrapers. He later returned to Maine to start a business with Raegan, building a life together in the community that raised him. But Fred's story, like too many others, was shaped by unhealed wounds. He struggled with addiction throughout his adult life, a battle rooted in deep pain. As a teenager, he suffered the traumatic loss of his mother to suicide, an experience that was never truly addressed in a healthy way. Like so many who face adverse childhood experiences, Fred carried that weight into adulthood, navigating a world that often offers judgment instead of help, stigma instead of support. Yet Fred was more than his struggles. He was magnetic and kind, with a special way of connecting with children and bringing laughter to those around him. He loved classical literature, chess and spirited debates about sports. He left small, thoughtful gestures of love; hearts drawn in the snow or sand for those he cared about. And in the past year, he found solace and community in Augusta's recovery circles, forging bonds with others who shared his journey.

Black Balloon Day is a painful reminder of how many lives we have lost, over 100,000 each year, to overdose in this country. But it's also a call to action. Fred's story is not unique. Too many people are suffering in silence, carrying traumas they never asked for, facing an epidemic that thrives in isolation. We must do better. We must ensure that resources for prevention, harm reduction and recovery are accessible to all. We must replace stigma with compassion, shame with understanding. Fred was loved, he mattered and today, we remember him not just for how he died, but for who he was. Let us honor his memory by working to prevent the next loss. Thank you.

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

On motion of Representative EATON of Deer Isle, the House adjourned at 12:12 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 11, 2025, or until the call of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, respectively, pursuant to the Joint Order (S.P. 377) and in honor and lasting tribute to William Larkin Bulger of Deer Isle, Barry Dale Strout of Cornville and Carl M. Hitchcock of South Portland.