

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
27th Legislative Day
Monday, June 9, 2025

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

Prayer by Pastor Darrell Marsh, Seacoast Bible Church, Wells.

National Anthem by Evelyn LaCroix, Skowhegan.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Medical Provider of the Day, Colleen Marzilli, PhD, DNP, MBA, APRN, FNP-BC, CNE, NEA-BC, PHNA-BCCCM, MedSurg-BC, FNAP, Orono.

The Journal of Thursday, June 5, 2025 was read and approved.

The SPEAKER: Good morning, everyone. I wanted to start this morning's session as we get into a very busy week by first thanking the Body for your diligent work last week and the work that we have ahead.

We have certainly completed a great deal of our work, but I'm sure most of you are no doubt aware that we still have many bills that will be moving between both the House and the Other Body over this week and the few days next week. There are nearly 200 bills still bouncing between the House and Senate, and over 300 bills that will be coming out of Committee and onto the floor.

There will no doubt be contentious debates concerning a myriad of issues that we all care about with strong convictions. I wanted to take this opportunity this morning to encourage Members on both sides of the aisle to observe the rules of decorum, debate the issues and not each other. We are at our best when the Maine people see and hear us making the case for our positions without resorting to *ad hominem* attacks.

We have accomplished a lot of work so far this session and at times, the Chair has granted leeway with regard to decorum in this Chamber. However, I've started to see a trend of cheering and jeering and other reactions when a vote is closed and during a debate. This is occurring more often than I have seen in any previous session I have served, so, both sides of the aisle have been partaking in such behavior. I have called it out of order on occasion, but I shouldn't have to; it should be a baseline standard.

We have a lot of work to do, and I'm committed to getting us to adjournment on June 18th, but we'll be here after June 18th if the work is left unfinished. So, please keep that in mind when you push your button to speak and utter the words, 'I had not intended to rise.' I will announce the number of Members in queue during prolonged debates. Please keep in mind the larger scope of work ahead when debates unravel into repetition of points. The days are going to be long, we're going to be tired and at times, our patience may wither. Exercising grace will be extremely important.

As we look to the close of session and returning to our communities and our families, I look forward to working together in a productive and civil manner to complete the work ahead of us, so, just wanted to say that as we start to barrel ahead into a lot of work this week and next week. So, thank you for indulging me, and look forward to the work we have before us.

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

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

SENATE PAPERS

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Increase the Acceptable Level of Alcohol in a Low-alcohol Spirits Product and to Increase Availability of Those Products"

(S.P. 570) (L.D. 1376)

Majority (7) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS READ and ACCEPTED** in the House on June 4, 2025.

Came from the Senate with that Body having **INSISTED** on its former action whereby the Minority (6) **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** was **READ and ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-207) in NON-CONCURRENCE.**

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

Representative BOYER of Poland **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **INSIST.**

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 353

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

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

ABSENT - Adams, Brennan, Bunker, Cray, Crockett, Faircloth, Julia, Lanigan, Osher, Underwood.

Yes, 81; No, 58; Absent, 10; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

81 having voted in the affirmative and 58 voted in the negative, with 10 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the House voted to **INSIST.**

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Protect Recipients of Public Assistance from Housing Discrimination"

(H.P. 665) (L.D. 1036)

Majority (6) **OUGHT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** in the House on June 4, 2025.

Came from the Senate with the Minority (4) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT READ** and **ACCEPTED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

The House voted to **INSIST**.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act Regarding the Required State of Mind Relating to the Threatening Display or Carrying of a Concealed Weapon"

(H.P. 752) (L.D. 1147)

Minority (5) **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-369)** in the House on June 2, 2025.

Came from the Senate with the Majority (8) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY READ** and **ACCEPTED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

The House voted to **INSIST**.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act Regarding Labeling of Genetically Engineered Food Products"

(H.P. 832) (L.D. 1257)

Unanimous **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-348)** in the House on June 2, 2025.

Came from the Senate with the Bill and accompanying papers **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

The House voted to **INSIST**.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Reduce Illegal Cannabis Operations by Requiring Permits for High Electrical Usage"

(S.P. 619) (L.D. 1535)

Majority (8) **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-264)** in the House on June 5, 2025.

Came from the Senate with that Body having **INSISTED** on its former action whereby the Minority (5) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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

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

Representative **FOSTER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. For those of us who voted to pass this bill in this Chamber, I am greatly disappointed that the Other Body have taken the actions they have.

I appreciate the motion to Insist, and I would just let folks know if you go back to your constituents, especially in rural Maine, where more than 250 possible homes for families, young families, those starting out, have been taken over by illegal pot growing operations and probably rendered useless for housing in Maine in the future. And where, that not only police and others that are involved in trying to deal with these situations, but also our fire departments are going into and finding what would be considered non-code electrical installations that they have to deal with if there is such a situation.

I would just suggest that you take a look at the Amended version of the bill, which was simply to put together a stakeholder group of those people involved in that situation, including the utilities, the law enforcement and the Fire Chiefs Association and the State Fire Marshal, and let your constituents know that you supported an effort to at least look at what can be done in this situation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My button was actually pushed for 1-5, and you must not have seen it at that point. Thank you.

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

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act Regarding Penalties for Fentanyl Trafficking When That Trafficking Results in an Overdose Causing Serious Bodily Injury of a Person"

(H.P. 838) (L.D. 1263)

Majority (8) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY READ** and **ACCEPTED** in the House on June 5, 2025.

Came from the Senate with the Minority (5) **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-496)** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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

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

Representative HASENFUS of Readfield **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Readfield, Representative Hasenfus.

Representative **HASENFUS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to remind the committee that the current laws already establish a Class A felony for anybody who has been given trafficked scheduled drugs that result in death and a Class B felony for anybody who has been given trafficked drugs that results in serious bodily injury, and for that matter, I hope that you will join me in voting against the motion to Recede and Concur. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 354

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

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

ABSENT - Adams, Brennan, Bunker, Cray, Crockett, Lanigan, Underwood.

Yes, 69; No, 73; Absent, 7; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

69 having voted in the affirmative and 73 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR FAILED**.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 190)

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

June 5, 2025

Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Fecteau:

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

Judiciary

L.D. 1856 An Act Directing the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services to Assist Persons Filing Post-judgment Motions to Seal Criminal History Record Information

L.D. 1978 An Act Regarding Government Liability Related to Sexual Acts Toward Minors

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

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

The Following Communication: (S.C. 517)

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

June 4, 2025

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Please be advised the Senate today insisted to its previous action whereby it accepted the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report and Engrossed Bill "An Act to Create Parity in the Taxation of Medicine by Exempting Sales of Cannabis for Medical Use" (H.P. 363) (L.D. 544) in non-concurrence.

Best Regards,

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The Following Communication: (S.C. 518)

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

June 4, 2025

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Please be advised the Senate today insisted to its previous action whereby it accepted the Minority Ought to Pass as Amended Report and Engrossed Bill "An Act to Move the Natural Areas Program from the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and to Amend the Law Governing Administration of the Bureau of Resource Management Within the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife" (H.P. 256) (L.D. 402) in non-concurrence.

Best Regards,

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

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

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

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

Recognizing:

the City of South Portland and the Rotary Club of South Portland - Cape Elizabeth, of South Portland, keepers of the Portland Breakwater Lighthouse, otherwise known as Bug Light, on the 150th Anniversary of the lighthouse's commissioning. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 366)

Presented by Representative BECK of South Portland.

Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland, Representative DHALAC of South Portland, Representative KESSLER of South Portland.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative BECK of South Portland, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar. **READ.**

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

Representative **BECK**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Members of the House. Bug Light, a better-known name for it, Portland Breakwater Lighthouse, has a rich and fascinating history.

A fierce storm ravaged Portland Harbor in November 1831, destroying wharves and buildings. In response, a 2,500-foot protective breakwater was constructed for the south side of the harbor's entrance. But at high tide, the breakwater was frequently underwater and it became a navigational hazard itself. In 1855, to improve safety for ships entering the harbor at night, a wooden octagonal lighthouse was built. By the early 1870s, the wooden lighthouse was in disrepair and needed to be replaced. In 1875, the breakwater was extended and the current lighthouse structure was built.

Bug Light stands 24 feet high and is constructed of brick, with a cast iron exterior. The design was inspired by Greek architecture, features six Corinthian columns and was built to withstand the harsh Maine climate. A park has been established adjacent to the lighthouse, officially named Bug Light Park. There's also a Liberty Ship Memorial in the park that was dedicated in November 2001. A total of 274 ships were built in the South Portland shipyard on this site during World War II.

The City of South Portland and the Rotary Club of South Portland-Cape Elizabeth, Maine, will host a free community celebration in honor of the 150th anniversary of Bug Light on Saturday, July 26th, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Bug Light Park. The celebration will include speakers, crafts, games and plenty of fun for the whole family. I hope everybody here will join us for this wonderful event. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Recognizing:

Jerry Dauphinee, of Bowdoinham, who won the Maine State Championship Free Throw Contest and went on to place 5th in the Nation. Jerry entered a Nationwide Elks Hoop Shoot contest at the Brunswick Recreation Center that was sponsored by Elks Brunswick Lodge #2043. Jerry won that competition and moved on to the District competition located in Bath, where Jerry won again and earned the Ron Nygaard Award for Top Performer of all the boys age groups. He then won the state competition at Bangor High School and went on to represent Maine as the Maine State Champion in the New England Regionals, where he made 24 out of 25 free throws. After winning regionals, he and his family headed to Chicago for the National Finals on April 26, 2025, where Jerry represented Maine and New England and competed against the winners from a total of 12 regions across the United States, earning 5th place in the Nation in the 8/9 boys group. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 368)

Presented by Representative CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham. Cosponsored by Senator TEPLER of Sagadahoc.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

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

Representative **CLUCHEY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Colleagues of the House. If you were to look up the word 'discipline' in the dictionary in New England, you might see a picture of Larry Bird and Jerry Dauphinee. Jerry's success in the Elks Hoop Shoot contest was not the result of luck or natural ability; although, he has that in spades. No, his success was because of the hours of practice he put in every day. In fact, when I stopped by in the fall to knock doors, what did I find, but Jerry in the driveway, shooting free throws with his Dad, Ben, returning the ball. When he comes home from school, he's not on screens, he's in the driveway shooting free throws, or these days, throwing pitches. If all of our sons were more like Jerry, this world would be a better place.

As we extend our congratulations and best wishes, let's also wish him luck pitching in tonight's Little League baseball game championship. Thank you.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Ought to Pass Pursuant to Statute

Representative SALISBURY for the **Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government** on Bill "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Maine Abandoned and Discontinued Roads Commission"

(H.P. 1332) (L.D. 1985)

Reporting **Ought to Pass** pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 23, section 3036, subsection 11.

The Report was **READ** and **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** and sent for concurrence.

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-516)** on Bill "An Act to Ensure Equal Access to a Full School Day for All Students" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 720) (L.D. 1098)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

MURPHY of Scarborough
BRENNAN of Portland
CROCKETT of Portland
DODGE of Belfast
MITCHELL of Cumberland
SARGENT of York

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

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham

CARLOW of Buxton

HAGGAN of Hampden

LYMAN of Livermore Falls

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-516)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-516)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-517)** on Bill "An Act to Establish the Community Schools Success Fund to Ensure the Implementation and Success of Community Schools Programs" (H.P. 867) (L.D. 1332)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York

PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

MURPHY of Scarborough

BRENNAN of Portland

CROCKETT of Portland

DODGE of Belfast

MITCHELL of Cumberland

SARGENT of York

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

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham

CARLOW of Buxton

HAGGAN of Hampden

LYMAN of Livermore Falls

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-517)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-517)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-518)** on Bill "An Act to Establish the Maine Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics Matching Grant Program" (H.P. 1158) (L.D. 1740)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York

PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

MURPHY of Scarborough

BRENNAN of Portland

DODGE of Belfast

MITCHELL of Cumberland

SARGENT of York

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

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham

CARLOW of Buxton

HAGGAN of Hampden

LYMAN of Livermore Falls

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-518)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-518)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Promote Public Education in Maine by Amending the Laws Governing Student Transfers" (H.P. 1178) (L.D. 1760)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York

PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

MURPHY of Scarborough

BRENNAN of Portland

CROCKETT of Portland

DODGE of Belfast

MITCHELL of Cumberland

SARGENT of York

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-519)** on same Bill.

Signed:
Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham

HAGGAN of Hampden

LYMAN of Livermore Falls

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-513)** on Bill "An Act to Require Certain Notice Requirements for Whistleblower Protections"

(H.P. 677) (L.D. 1048)

Signed:

Senators:

LAWRENCE of York

GROHOSKI of Hancock

Representatives:

SACHS of Freeport

GEIGER of Rockland

KESSLER of South Portland

RUNTE of York

WARREN of Scarborough

WEBB of Durham

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

Signed:

Senator:

HARRINGTON of York

Representatives:

FOSTER of Dexter

MCINTYRE of Lowell

PAUL of Winterport

WADSWORTH of Hiram

READ.

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

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

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 355

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Bridgeo, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder,

Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

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

ABSENT - Adams, Brennan, Bunker, Lanigan, Simmons, Underwood.

Yes, 75; No, 68; Absent, 6; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 68 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-513)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-513)** and sent for concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-537)** on Bill "An Act Regarding the Management of Oversized Bulky Waste from Wastewater Treatment Plants" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 197) (L.D. 297)

Signed:

Senators:

TEPLER of Sagadahoc

BRENNER of Cumberland

MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

ANKELES of Brunswick

BELL of Yarmouth

BRIDGEO of Augusta

CAMPBELL of Orrington

RIELLY of Westbrook

SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico

SOBOLESKI of Phillips

WOODSOME of Waterboro

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

Signed:

Representatives:

GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach

OSHER of Orono

READ.

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

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

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

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

Representative **OSHER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ever since the bans on out-of-state waste in the State-run landfill and the land application of sludge, we hear from Casella about how they are unable to manage the landfill appropriately and need the Legislature to allow them to continue to take up space in the landfill with out-of-state waste to stabilize the landfill. They put municipalities into crisis mode by threatening to stop accepting sludge, but have made no significant investments or changes in business practice that would lead to alternative ways to manage the sludge. That is what's happened again this year.

Banning out-of-state waste helps the people of Maine, but hurts Casella's bottom line. Two years ago, Casella, a multibillion-dollar corporation based in Vermont, manufactured a sludge crisis to force the Legislature to allow them to continue to utilize out-of-state bulky waste, construction waste; something that was banned in Maine in 2022 with an overwhelming bipartisan majority. Then in 2023, Casella started telling municipalities they couldn't take their sludge, because the landfill would be unstable. They got wastewater districts all up in arms, worried that the districts wouldn't have anyplace to send the sludge, even though most other landfills don't use bulky waste to stabilize sludge.

The voices that seem to be left out of this conversation are the voices of the communities that live around Juniper Ridge landfill, including the Penobscot Nation. Residents that live near the landfill show up time after time before the Environment and Natural Resources Committee to talk about the harm that is happening, with little results. They have even been called selfish in Committee hearings, because they keep coming back and asking the Legislature to do something to protect their communities and the Penobscot River and rein in Casella. It isn't selfish to want to protect your community from exposure to toxic chemicals or poor air quality.

The Penobscot Nation is directly impacted by the toxics that end up in the leachate from Juniper Ridge. The out-of-state bulky waste that would be allowed in under this bill is construction debris. Construction debris contains toxic chemicals like asbestos, arsenic, phthalates and PFAS. All those chemicals end up in the leachate, which is sent to Nine Dragons Treatment Facility, which is currently not operating. That means most of the contaminated leachate ends up in the Penobscot River, directly impacting Indian Island. The Penobscot Nation depends on the river for sustenance, fishing and cultural practices. We should not be passing policy that would have detrimental impacts on the river, on the surrounding communities and the Penobscot Nation.

This legislation is yet another case of the State siding with a multibillion-dollar corporation that has not been doing its work; work it could be doing to address the sludge issue. There's another corporation in the State that is making a drier to dry sludge, but Casella is not. You dry sludge, then you don't have to worry about it moving. So, they're ignoring the impacts on our tribal communities.

If we pass this legislation, we're actively causing harm to the Penobscot Nation, and I urge you to follow my light and oppose the pending motion.

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

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my Good Friend, the Representative from Orono, already made a very persuasive case. I do want to mention that in looking through the annual report for Casella, time and time again, the PFAS and out-of-state bulky waste situation is mentioned specifically in regards to how it will affect their bottom line, how it will affect their profits, not any concern in terms of environmental impact, just a monetary concern. And it troubles me that we're looking at legislation that would benefit one company only. I don't think that this Legislature should be in the business of legislating for one company's bottom line.

I also want to point out that Casella has faced a number of different obstacles in terms of their contracts. In Saratoga Springs in 2021, they wanted to pull the contract. Pittsfield, Massachusetts questioned the contract this February. And in Vermont, in 2024, Casella spilled thousands of gallons of leachate. So, I don't necessarily want to put my vote towards a bill that would help a company that has been environmentally perhaps a little questionable and that has a monopoly in this region. I don't want to strengthen their monopoly. Thank you.

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

Representative **GRAMLICH**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Colleagues of the House, I rise today in strong opposition of LD 297.

Let's be clear about what's happening here. This bill would blow open the out-of-state waste loophole that we, in a bipartisan effort, finally closed with LD 1639 in 2022. We closed it because Mainers said loud and clear: no more out-of-state waste in our State-owned landfill at Juniper Ridge in Old Town. The State bought this landfill in 2003 for the express reason of preventing Maine from becoming the dumping ground for New England. As a State-owned landfill, we have the power to control what goes in and can preserve the capacity for the needs of Maine people into the future.

I served on the Environment and Natural Resources Committee, Mr. Speaker, for the last six years; two years of which I was Chair of that Committee; and I was there when we passed LD 1639. I listened to hours of testimony from waste policy experts, disadvantaged communities, from neighbors living around Juniper Ridge Landfill, from the Penobscot Nation, the people who suffer most directly from the toxic leachate created by the toxic nature of these waste imports that are primarily construction and demolition debris.

This is not just about landfill capacity. It's about poisoning our waters. It's about sacrificing communities again for corporate greed. Casella has already pressured the Legislature once in 2023 to open this loophole just a crack. They claimed they needed 25,000 tons of out-of-state waste to stabilize Maine's sludge from our municipal wastewater treatment plants for two years. Now, they want to blow it wide open, from 25,000 tons to 100,000 tons of out-of-state waste a year for two more years. So, here we are again. Casella is back with another manufactured crisis threat, this time claiming we must quadruple the amount of out-of-state waste to stabilize Maine's sludge, and if we don't, they threaten that our wastewater treatment plants will overflow.

The truth is that there is more than enough waste truly generated within the State to stabilize the sludge. However, Casella might receive less profit or even have to pay the material

to engineer the landfill. This is how most landfills operate. However, Casella does it differently. They want the most lucrative way to stabilize sludge and they are willing to threaten communities and lawmakers to get their way and protect their billion-dollar bottom line. We must put this despicable practice to an end, Mr. Speaker.

Furthermore, there are technologies coming online within a year, by next summer, to safely manage the sludge in a way that does not require that it be mixed with more waste. And until then, Casella can use waste that is truly generated within the State of Maine rather than further entrenching this egregious business practice.

If we pass LD 297, we are telling the people of Maine that we represent that corporate threats matter more than their health, their environment and their voices. How about instead, we hold them to a higher standard and say, enough is enough? This landfill at Juniper Ridge is owned by the people of Maine and to not be a cash cow for Casella. A vote in favor of the Majority Report is a vote in favor of corporate greed over equality, equity, environmental justice and public health, and as I'm standing here saying these remarks, Mr. Speaker, I'm going to be gone in a year and a half; I guarantee you, they're going to be back in two years asking for another extension. I urge you to follow my light and oppose the pending motion.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Augusta, Representative Bridgeo.

Representative **BRIDGEO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. A few points. So, our ENR Committee spent a lot of time deliberating on this issue. This bill was brought to us at the request of the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Financial Administrative Services and the Bureau of General Services within DAFS.

For clarity, the Juniper Ridge landfill is owned by the State of Maine. It is not owned by Casella. A couple of years ago, we experienced a significant solid waste crisis in Maine when it was determined that Juniper Ridge could no longer accept the municipal sludge coming to it from all over the State, because it lacked a bulking agent to make operating the landfill safe when it had that gooeey, if you will, material being deposited there. It was a crisis. It was not an ideal situation at the time to allow for more out-of-state bulky waste to be accepted into Juniper Ridge, but the alternative ultimately was going to be contamination of our waterways around the State, because there was going to be no place to take this sludge. The current authorization for Juniper Ridge, the State of Maine, with its operator, Casella, to accept the material they need to continue to accept sludge ends at the end of this month. And without any sort of legislative relief, particularly emergency relief, at this point, then we're going to face the same difficult situation that we faced a couple of years ago.

I'm not here to advocate for Casella. I don't necessarily have any interest in their business success or failure, but I am here trying to be responsible to the request of our own Departments of State government and to all of the entities around the State that are going to need to have a place to take sludge. So, for that reason, I will be supporting the bill, and I would remind everybody that this bill came out of Committee 11-2, bipartisan, with the Committee spending hours and hours trying to sort through this and understand what the most prudent course of action was. Thank you.

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

Representative **SOBOLESKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen. I rise in strong support of LD 297, an Act to amend the laws governing solid waste management, as

Amended. The Amendments introduced in this bill are essential to ensuring Maine's long-term waste management strategy remains both effective and environmentally responsible. More importantly, the urgent nature of this legislation demands immediate action, as the current law expires on July first, putting Maine's solid waste processing framework at risk of disruption.

With the support of the Chief Executive Officer, the Department of Environmental Protection, DAFS, 11 out of 12 Members of the Committee, including all three Senators, this bill provides a much-needed extension to critical deadlines related to the reuse and recycling of construction and demolition debris. It will give our waste processing facilities additional time to gradually increase recycling rates while maintaining compliance with State environmental goals. These extensions will allow facilities to make strategic investments in processing technologies and infrastructure, reducing unnecessary strain on landfill capacity and reinforcing Maine's commitment to a more sustainable waste management system.

The Amendment also extends the temporary allowance for the placement of oversized bulky waste. I'm going to explain exactly what that is in a minute, because some of the information hasn't been correct. Instead of ending in 2025, the new deadline moves this provision to 2027, ensuring that our solid waste processing facilities continue disposing of excess residue without uncertainty, additionally allows for the residue that we need for daily cover, and I'll explain exactly what that is in just a second.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot afford delay. The expiration of current law within days threatens regulatory stability as well. We must pass LD 297 on an emergency basis to safeguard Maine's waste management framework and ensure continuity in our environmental policies. Our State, our businesses and our communities depend on this decisive action. I vote everyone to vote in favor of LD 297. Let's protect Maine's environment, ensure responsible waste management and provide the necessary regulatory certainty for our future. Thank you very much.

I want to give just a short bit of history. When sludge was being put on our farms, law came along and said we can't do that any longer. We need to find someplace to do it in. There were 32 facilities that we needed to find something to do with the sludge. If we didn't dispose of it somewhere, it was going to overflow the wastewater treatment facilities, and it was going to go in our rivers. So, they started taking it to Juniper Ridge. It's very watery, 70% water. They put a polymer in it to make it the consistency of coffee grounds, so they can transport it. Right on the heels of a law, I think it was 1911, that banned it from being poured, put on our farms, came along 1639, which said we can no longer bring out-of-state bulky waste into Maine to use as a bulking agent. What does that mean? It means that whenever we take sludge up to the landfill, it's so wet in its consistency, it needs something to absorb that moisture or it will collapse the cells from the inside. There are 16 cells up there now, they're massive cells, they're like these big-type pyramids and they keep pouring it on, along with the regular waste that they use, and then they do it in layers to bring it all the way up to the top. When 1639 put an end to bringing out-of-state bulky waste in the State; and the reason we had to have it, Mr. Speaker, was because we don't produce enough. We were producing about 30% less than what we needed to effectively dispose of that sludge. So, that's how we got it. It came into Resource Lewiston, it went through its processing there to be recycled, everything recyclable was taken out of it and what was left over was taken up to Juniper Ridge and used as that bulking agent.

The fines; which is where that 100-ton number just came in play; the fines are the residual that's left over after they've gone through the machines to sort out the recyclable parts of it. It's all the stuff that falls through on the bottom, all the small little stuff, and they call it fines. And what they do with that is they take it up to JRL, the State landfill, and every day, they cover the landfill with it to reduce odor and seagulls and things of that nature. That's what they use. Now, we have constantly, when people coming into the Committee to talk about; from around the area; about the smell and about the, you know, and the seagulls. Well, that is the deterrent that they use. It's the best one that they can find is those residuals, the fines. And they're not all from out of state. So, a part of them are actually from in the State of Maine. We couldn't figure out the exact percentage, because they process Maine waste there as well. So, the 25,000 tons is the OBW that's needed to make up the balance of what we can't produce here in Maine. The other 75 was in the fines to use as daily cover. You can't have it both ways. You can't cover the waste, the landfill every day to reduce the odor and the birds and not say we can't bring it up there and use it. And that number was provided to the Committee by the Department of Environmental Protection. That's how it was provided.

Additionally, when we realized that there was a problem, when they shut down bringing the oversized bulky waste in, we had no place we could take it. They started taking it; because 32 facilities were contracted with JRL, they ended up taking it to Hawk Ridge, the compost facility. There, we were loading it onto trucks and taking it into Canada. Just about once a week, I was getting a phone call from a guy from Canadian Broadcast System, we need to; you're bringing your waste, your sewage into our country, they don't want this anymore. We had to figure out an alternative. That's when LD 718 came in in 2023 that stopped the bringing; that stopped them from not being able to bring OBW in and extended it until July 1st of this year, while we got a plan in place. And there is a plan in place now. There's a plan in place, it was a Brown and Caldwell's report that we had done, the DEP had done, to figure out how are we going to best distribute waste in our State. And it gave us some of the answers.

Casella is not the largest waste facility in our State. Waste Management is a \$20 billion company, Casella is about a billion-dollar company. Are they a monopoly? No sir, they are not. Why? Because nobody else would bid on this contract to do business with us. And this is one of the reasons why. They know their job, they know how to process waste up there, they do it efficiently and effectively. There have been no complaints against Casella filed with the Bureau of General Services, in the way they operate, their pricing or any other type of structure. They're a good, solid, strong company, and they're a business partner of ours, and it's our responsibility to make sure they are a solid company and they can continue to do their work.

Now, also coming along up at Norridgewock up at Waste Management, they're bringing in a drier to start drying sludge, so we don't have to put so much of it in the landfill. About a week ago, maybe two, representatives from Waste Management went over to China to do a factory test on that drier. And I asked for a report back if it didn't go well; I didn't hear anything, so, I'm assuming it went well. Now, it's the process and the time it's going to take to bring that over here, get that set up, get that working and all of the contracts that JRL has, they're not just going to run away and go, they've got time left on them; a couple, three years, some of them. Some of them even longer. They're going to wait until those contracts expire. So, we need to keep providing the services we provide there.

And let me once again just say, Mr. Speaker, this was an agreement made at the horseshoe. It has the support of our Chief Executive Officer, the support of the Commissioner of the Environmental Protection Agency, our Department of Environmental Protection, all the Senators on it, DAFS, everyone agreed. And in closing, let me just say this: we made a deal. We made a deal at the horseshoe. We would support and give a unanimous Report out on a food waste management bill from one of the Senators from the other side of the aisle, we'll give you your unanimous support on that, we need support on this, this is how important this is. That's why we had 11-2. Now, after the fact, people not involved, that weren't there, that weren't part of making this deal, who haven't been involved all this time are coming along and trying to change it, and we can't do that.

Let me just say it, one last thing, at the end of 2023, we had wastewater treatment facility superintendents coming to the Committee. If we didn't allow the oversized bulky waste to continue into the State, we didn't allow processing at Juniper Ridge, we were going to be putting sewage right back into the water. We were going to be causing an environmental disaster for our State. This bill is only a two-year extension and everything will be in place then. We cannot afford to destroy our rivers with sewage. It'll take us years to clean that stuff up. We were two days away from it last time. We'll be in the same exact spot in two weeks from now. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will just remind Members to not use Members of the Other Body to try to influence the actions of this Body.

The Chair advised all Members that it is inappropriate to refer to the potential action of the Office of the Executive or the other Body in order to influence the vote of the House.

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

Representative **SUPICA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I try not to let the Other Body influence any of my actions. Just kidding.

I stand because I think it's really important to remember that this company had the time and the money and they chose to run out the clock and not fix the issue. In the meantime, we've had sludge avalanches, all right, we have poisons going into our river. I mean, if you enjoy fishing, if you enjoy the outdoors, all the things that we celebrate about Maine is getting poisoned in the name of a crisis that could've been very easily averted. As a neighboring town, I'm grateful that I don't live near it, but I can only imagine how horrible it is to live near this dumping ground. And so, I ask folks follow my light on this one. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Orrington, Representative Campbell.

Representative **CAMPBELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I can't impress upon you enough the crisis we are about to encounter: municipal solid waste. We all generate it, most of us take it to the curb, but two of the major solutions right now are not operating. The Fiberite organization, which is mostly recycling in Hampden, and the PERC, now Epic Waste Energy, in Orrington; they're not operating. They're working very hard to get them up and running.

It's been mentioned about Juniper Ridge being a State-owned facility. That's us. We own that. It's also been mentioned that Casella is and was and will be the only operator. No one else wants to do it. It's also been mentioned about the more recent crisis of our wastewater treatment plant sludge. It's been mentioned by both the Representative from Augusta and Phillips on the actual details of this. We all on the Committee

got some major crisis calls from these sewage treatment plants. Bangor, Bucksport, you all have one. Where are they located? Pretty darn close to a water body. They were within two days; two days; of dumping it directly into the rivers. Directly.

This bill is as close to a housekeeping matter as we've ever seen. Like has been mentioned, it's over the end of this month. It's also been mentioned that they don't want it in Canada, either. So, let's be responsible and let's just pass this extension to get us out to the; there's real solutions. The real solutions to our, your, my municipal solid waste. Let's pass this bill and make sure that we avert that real crisis that's going to get to every one of us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **SOBOLESKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen. Just briefly. There have been no reports of any sewage or sludge at this point being put into any river in our State. I'm in touch with all 32 of those guys, and there have been no reports of that happening anywhere or from the DEP.

And finally, Juniper Ridge is not the only landfill in our State that takes out-of-state bulky waste. Norridgewock, Waste Management, 21% of what they take in comes from out of state. They need it as well. It's a necessary business tool. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 356

YEA - Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Beck, Bell, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Bridgeo, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Cloutier, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Crafts, Cray, Crockett, Daigle, DeBrito, Doudera, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Farrin, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gattine, Gifford, Graham, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Hasenfus, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lance, Lavigne, Lee, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Mastraccio, McIntyre, Meyer, Mingo, Mitchell, Montell, Morris, Murphy, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Rollins, Rudnicki, Runte, Salisbury, Sargent, Schmearsal-Burgess, Shagoury, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Terry, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Boyer M, Brennan, Cluchey, Copeland, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Faircloth, Friedmann, Frost, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Gramlich, Julia, Kessler, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Milliken, Moonen, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Roeder, Sachs, Sato, Sayre, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager.

ABSENT - Adams, Bunker, Lanigan, Simmons, Underwood.

Yes, 100; No, 44; Absent, 5; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

100 having voted in the affirmative and 44 voted in the negative, with 5 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-537)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-537)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-551)** on Bill "An Act Regarding Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Activities"

(H.P. 852) (L.D. 1277)

Signed:

Senators:

INGWERSEN of York
MOORE of Washington

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Representatives:

GRIFFIN of Levant
JAVNER of Chester
LEMELIN of Chelsea

READ.

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

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

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Chester, Representative Javner.

Representative **JAVNER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in opposition to LD 1277. This bill would exempt anabolic steroids, including testosterone, from being tracked under Maine's prescription monitoring program. Colleagues, this is not a small or inconsequential change.

While there are valid medical uses such as treating delayed puberty, hormone imbalances or muscle loss due to certain conditions, there is also a long and well-documented history of misuse and abuse. Testosterone and other anabolic steroids are increasingly used without medical oversight to enhance athletic performance or physical appearance. We've seen these trends nationally and Maine is not immune. In fact, misuse can lead to serious health consequences, including liver damage, heart disease, aggression and irreversible hormonal changes.

The Prescription Monitoring Program exists not to create bureaucracy, but to protect public health and ensure responsible prescribing. It is our safety net, designed to flag misuse, prevent overprescribing and give providers critical insight before a prescription is written. LD 1277 removes that protection for anabolic steroids. I've heard it said that this bill is about reducing burden or streamlining the process for prescribers, but if we begin removing substances from oversight based on convenience rather than safety, where does that leave us? It sets a precedent that weakens the integrity of the entire

monitoring system. If there are isolated issues in the way the PMP interacts with legitimate hormonal therapies, those concerns can be addressed through targeted rulemaking, not through broad exemptions that open the door to abuse.

Mr. Speaker, this bill unravels a key thread in our State's work to monitor controlled substances. I urge this Body to think not just about the paperwork, but about the people. About the young athletes tempted by unregulated performance enhancers, about the misuse; warning signs of misuse going undetected, about slow erosion of the tools we rely on to protect our communities. For those reasons, I strongly urge a no vote on LD 1277. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Eliot, Representative Meyer.

Representative MEYER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Women and Men of the House. The Prescription Monitoring Program, or PMP, was created to prevent and detect misuse, abuse and diversion of certain prescription drugs. The PMP is a key part of our State's opioid response strategy, designed to track substances with a high risk of overdose or life-threatening misuse, with a goal of detecting and preventing substance use disorder. It's an important tool for improving clinical practice, preventing overdoses of opioids and other dangerous prescription drugs including stimulants, benzodiazepines and sedatives, for example.

LD 1277 removes a class of substances; anabolic, androgenic steroids, which includes testosterone; from the PMP, because these medications simply don't fit within the intended purpose of the PMP. Testosterone is an inappropriate medication for inclusion in the PMP because it's safe, effective and nonaddictive.

Few things are more private than a person's medical well-being and conditions they may be treating for. A patient's prescription records reveal a great deal of private medical information beyond the medication prescribed. Testosterone is prescribed for a wide variety of medical conditions. For example, symptoms of testosterone deficiency are increasingly prevalent in the ageing male population, and the medication is prescribed for what's known as hypogonadism or low T; testosterone; when the body doesn't produce enough testosterone, and the symptoms may include a reduced sex drive or erectile dysfunction. Testosterone is prescribed for gender dysphoria as well, and in the maintenance of health during menopause, post-hysterectomy and for some breast cancers. In each of these examples, it should be obvious that a patient's reason for seeking testosterone treatment is intensely personal.

Since this class of medications is neither dangerous nor addictive, there is no compelling governmental interest in tracking this very private medical treatment, and I ask you support its removal from the PMP. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 357

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Fredericks, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury,

Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, White R, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

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

ABSENT - Adams, Lanigan, Simmons, Underwood.

Yes, 79; No, 66; Absent, 4; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

79 having voted in the affirmative and 66 voted in the negative, with 4 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-551)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-551)** and sent for concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Create a Minimum Standard of Pathology for Children Under 3 Years of Age Who Die of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome or an Unknown Cause"

(H.P. 976) (L.D. 1485)

Signed:

Senator:

INGWERSEN of York

Representatives:

MEYER of Eliot

DEBRITO of Waterville

GRAHAM of North Yarmouth

MCCABE of Lewiston

SHAGOURY of Hallowell

ZAGER of Portland

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-549)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

MOORE of Washington

Representatives:

DAIGLE of Fort Kent

GRIFFIN of Levant

JAVNER of Chester

LEMELIN of Chelsea

READ.

Representative MEYER of Eliot moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

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

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I too now actually support the Ought Not to Pass Report.

Sometimes when we put bills in, it's to get answers for people or they've had problems that they feel haven't been addressed. And I just wanted to be able to speak on record my gratitude in meeting with the Chief Medical Examiner, Dr. Alice, with Eric and with Lindsay, and having conversations of how to be more proactive with keeping families in the loop in what's going on. And so, I would just like to ask this Body as a whole, whenever you see anything come forward for the Chief Medical Examiner's office, especially within the budget; they don't ask for much; if you can pay extra attention to it. This is one area of government that doesn't get a lot of attention until something really bad happens. They are there to find out reasons for murder, why someone dies unexpectedly and they are short staffed within that office and they're doing a lot of work there. And I just cannot express how truly grateful I am for them taking the time to meet with me, to go over concerns and to look for ways to be more proactive and which we don't even need to pass a bill to do. So, thank you to them.

Subsequently, the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Repeal the Law Establishing the Maine Retirement Savings Board"

(H.P. 244) (L.D. 344)

Signed:

Senators:

BAILEY of York
BALDACCI of Penobscot

Representatives:

MATHIESON of Kittery
ARFORD of Brunswick
BOYER of Cape Elizabeth
CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham
MASTRACCIO of Sanford

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-542)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

CIMINO of Bridgton
FLYNN of Albion
FOLEY of Wells
MORRIS of Turner
OLSEN of Raymond

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-541)** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Consent for HIV Testing and Disclosure of Related Medical Information for Insurance Purposes"

(H.P. 1314) (L.D. 1970)

Signed:

Senators:

BAILEY of York
BALDACCI of Penobscot
HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

MATHIESON of Kittery
ARFORD of Brunswick
BOYER of Cape Elizabeth
CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham
FLYNN of Albion
FOLEY of Wells
MASTRACCIO of Sanford
MORRIS of Turner
OLSEN of Raymond

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

Signed:

Representative:

CIMINO of Bridgton

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-532)** on Bill "An Act to Establish the Maine Eviction Prevention Program"

(H.P. 1007) (L.D. 1522)

Signed:

Senators:

CURRY of Waldo
BAILEY of York
BENNETT of Oxford

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Representatives:

COLLAMORE of Pittsfield
WALKER of Naples

READ.

Representative GERE of Kennebunkport moved that the Bill be **TABLED** until later in today's session pending **ACCEPTANCE** of either Report.

Subsequently, Representative GERE of Kennebunkport **WITHDREW** her motion to **TABLE** the Bill until later in today's session pending **ACCEPTANCE** of either Report.

The same Representative moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

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

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

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

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, while this is a great idea to try to make sure that we ensure people stay in their homes, this is a \$10 million Fiscal Note, with 12% of those funds actually being used to administer the program, not help prevent loss of housing by renters. Now, let's be clear, that is \$1.2 million; 1,500 renters losing help for one month, or 125 renters that could be helped for one year. While I understand the need to support the administrative costs of any program, this is unacceptable. Please vote against this motion. Thank you.

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

Representative **RANA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Colleagues, I rise today to speak in strong support of LD 1522, a bill to make permanent the Maine Eviction Prevention Program, a program that has been working for Mainers.

LD 1522 makes the Eviction Prevention Program permanent, with thoughtful updates based on feedback from tenants, landlords, legal service providers and administrators. Let me be clear: rent relief alone is not the solution. We also need to build more housing. Urgently. But the reality is we are short at least 20,000 affordable homes, and it will take years to close that gap.

Across our State, homelessness is rising, up 27% in just the last year. Over 10,000 Mainers accessed shelters or homeless services in early 2024. In cities like my hometown of Bangor, and in rural towns, too, shelters are full, encampments are growing and hospitals and emergency responders are overwhelmed. We know that eviction is one of the biggest drivers of homelessness, and it's preventable. In 2023, nearly 5,000 eviction filings were recorded in Maine courts, many for families that were facing just one unexpected expense. LD 1522 represents one of the most immediate and effective tools that we have to stabilize Maine families, strengthen our communities and contain the long-term costs of our growing housing crisis.

Let me be clear: this is not charity; it is smart policy. It's a bridge until we can build the 20,000 affordable homes that we need. It's a lifeline for a mother in recovery, a father caring for a sick child, a worker fixing their car or to keep their job. And it doesn't just help those households. For every one dollar we invest in rent relief, we can save up to four dollars in costs to shelters, hospitals, schools and local budgets.

LD 1522 is urgent, effective and compassionate. It protects people and saves the State money. This bill is a clear and powerful step forward and towards stability. It strengthens our communities, supports vulnerable Mainers and eases pressures on every level of government. I urge you in joining me in supporting this bipartisan Report. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 358

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

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

ABSENT - Adams, Lanigan, Simmons, Underwood, Walker.

Yes, 76; No, 68; Absent, 5; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

76 having voted in the affirmative and 68 voted in the negative, with 5 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-532)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-532)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-521)** on 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)

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot

GUERIN of Penobscot

Representatives:

ROBERTS of South Berwick

DILL of Old Town

LANCE of Paris

MASON of Lisbon

TERRY of Gorham

THORNE of Carmel

WOODSOME of Waterboro

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-522)** on same Bill.

Signed:
Senator:

CARNEY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BRIDGEO of Augusta

CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham

READ.

On motion of Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick, the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-521)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-521)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Resolve, Authorizing a Study on the Impacts and Risks of Lead-based Ammunition

(H.P. 887) (L.D. 1364)

Signed:
Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot

GUERIN of Penobscot

Representatives:

LANCE of Paris

MASON of Lisbon

THORNE of Carmel

WOOD of Greene

WOODSOME of Waterboro

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-523)** on same Resolve.

Signed:
Senator:

CARNEY of Cumberland

Representatives:

ROBERTS of South Berwick

BRIDGEO of Augusta

CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham

DILL of Old Town

TERRY of Gorham

READ.

Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Minority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

Representative LANCE of Paris **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Minority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

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

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

Representative **LANCE**: Mr. Speaker and Members of the Body; we felt that a study on lead was unnecessary, because most of us as hunters and naturalists know the health and the risk about lead-based ammunition.

I will say this, lead makes a pretty good bullet. It's slippery, it's soft and it's very friendly to the rifling of a barrel. What we felt was this study is going to lead to request for us to remove our lead-based ammunition, and anybody who has shot other forms of ammunition like copper would notice that they have to re-sight their rifles, they're getting copper out of their barrels and it's just very intrusive to weapons that we spend a great deal of time, spending money on and taking care of.

So, we felt that this study was unnecessary. We're aware of the dangers of lead, and we're very expeditious as far as the lead we use in the field and hopefully any ammo that we do use in the field comes back to our table, Sir. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Augusta, Representative Bridgeo.

Representative **BRIDGEO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. It appears today is Bill's bills day in the House. This is my bill. I initially submitted it at the request of the Maine Audubon Society but quickly came to appreciate the broader importance of the issue to both the animal world and to humans.

First, let me tell you what LD 1364 is not. It's not an effort to ban anything or to start down any slippery slope in that direction. It is not an attempt to force hunters to do or not do anything. And it does not create any burden, financial or otherwise, on our hunting community or on our Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. If passed, LD 1364 would simply have the Department place an optional; and I repeat, optional; survey question on big game registration forms, so as to allow for the gathering of data on the effectiveness of the Department's existing public education efforts about the known risks of continued use of lead-based ammunition in hunting. A data-gathering process that already requires disclosure of the type and caliber of weapon used in a successful hunt.

Our professional staff at IF&W, for whom I have gained considerable respect during my service on their oversight committee, are unequivocal in their opinion, as evidenced in their testimony to our Committee and in their website information, that the growing body of scientific evidence clearly shows that lead-based ammunition poses serious risks to both wildlife and human health. The question that I and others have raised, and which this bill seeks to address, is how effective is that departmental message registering with the Maine hunting community? The simplest and most straightforward way to test that is to ask successful hunters what type of ammunition they used, lead-based or other readily available and comparably priced options? Again, I stress that respecting the sensitivity of the whole topic of guns and hunting, LD 1364 would make response to this question optional.

I started down this road with an eye toward phasing out the use of lead-based ammunition in the field. Because of departmental concerns about stirring up controversy and feedback from sportsman's groups, I amended the bill to instead gather data, in as unobtrusive a way as possible, over a three-year period. At that point, if the data bears out that the Department's belief that its messaging is registering, then great. If it doesn't, then the Administration and a future Legislature can decide on how best to proceed.

A few things to note from the Department's website, where it says, quote, 'despite their health and environmental benefits, non-lead alternatives have not always been embraced by

hunters. Early versions came with comparatively high prices and unknown efficacy, stalling widespread adoption. Now, however, we know that non-lead alternatives are not just safer, they are just as effective as lead, or more so, at a very similar price.'

I could read from several sections of the IF&W website that detail these points more expansively, including a section on effectiveness and a section on cost and a section on impacts to avian scavengers, but for the interests of time, I'm not going to. I do thank you for your patience, Mr. Speaker. We've got a lot to deal with over the next 10 days, but I've become convinced that this is a significant issue that shouldn't be partisan or divide hunters from non-hunters. I hope I can persuade my colleagues in this Body of the merits of gathering more important data.

Finally, I've had a pretty encouraging conversation over the weekend with a fishing buddy of mine who's also an avid and perennially successful deer hunter. His reaction to my explanation of LD 1364 to him was essentially, who knew? And a concession that even a dog as old as him ought to be open to new tricks and maybe a new box of copper-based .30-06 ammo for next fall. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I would encourage and ask the Representative from Augusta to speak to a couple of my friends, and I bet the conversation goes a little differently.

When we talk about bills that are solutions in search of a problem, this is what this bill is. There have been hunters for decades that have been shooting game animals with lead ammunition, and that's exclusively what they eat; whether it's lead shot, lead bullets; and they're not dying in droves of lead poisoning. So, that's not the issue.

So, I ask myself, what is the issue? Maybe our majestic eagles are dying in droves from scavenging on lead bullet and ammunition that come from deer that hunters don't recover. That's not it. In 1967, there were 21 nesting pairs of eagles. Today, there are 733 nesting pairs of eagles. So, we went from 21 nesting pair to 733. It's not because eagles are eating lead out of animals that we're doing this. Since 2013, we've grown the nesting pairs of eagles by 13%. So, what is it? Are buzzards dying off from eating lead-based ammunition out of carcasses? No, that's not it. So, why are we doing it?

The last thing we need is another study. There are studies and Resolves and report-backs. We already know. Mr. Speaker, if I sat here and ate a bowl of lead, it wouldn't be good for me. We know it's not good for animals. We know that. But there's nothing out there indicating that this is a problem. No problem? No solution needed. We've got many, many more things that need to be addressed besides something that's not a problem. Would it be a problem to hunters? Yes. If we had to replace every box of ammunition we had that was lead with some other composite of bullet, that's very much an inconvenience. Maine is a hunting state. Imagine how many boxes of ammunition are throughout this State that would have to be replaced. That's an inconvenience. Mr. Speaker, I'm not in the habit of inconveniencing my constituents because there's no problem.

I'm opposed to this measure, just because there's no study needed. We know lead is not good to ingest, but we're not showing that we have any data out there showing that it's a problem in Maine. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Greene, Representative Wood.

Representative **WOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. IF&W stated that they're already doing this. There is no need for this bill. And this is the camel's nose underneath the tent. This is the first step in banning lead ammo use in the field. And IF&W has also stated in their testimony that this is the most divisive issue in the sportsmen's field, the banning of lead ammo. And they asked not to pass this bill. So, please vote no on this motion. Thank you.

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

Representative **CLUCHEY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Colleagues of the House. Just to clarify some of what we've heard. This bill is not a mandate to switch, and it's not an inconvenience. You're already filling out information when you're registering your big game. I think having an optional checkbox is not an inconvenience.

Nationally and in Maine, the decision has been made to educate on this issue, not to mandate. And that's the preferred method for letting people know or getting people to the point where they choose to switch to the safer option. We asked the Department during the bill what are the educational efforts that they're pursuing, and they sounded good, but they were also quite modest. And so, we only know if those educational efforts are effective if we measure it. In 2022, the Department sent out a survey to big game hunters about the use of lead ammo and non-lead ammo and they got 900 responses, yet we have 10s of thousands of successful big game hunters annually.

So, this Amendment is not an inconvenience, it's not a mandate, it does raise awareness that there is an alternative solution out there and it collects additional data at no cost, which is a responsible and prudent way to evaluate government programs. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bridgton, Representative Cimino.

Representative **CIMINO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just have a question for anyone who can answer it. Does anybody know if any of these alternatives, such as the bismuth, tungsten and copper; if there have been studies done that would suggest the safety of these if people ingest them?

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Bridgton, Representative Cimino, has posed a question through the Chair to any Member who wishes to answer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bowdoinham, Representative Cluchey.

Representative **CLUCHEY**: The answer is yes.

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

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I guess we know why I'm standing today again. Once again, the Minority Report is being run and bypassing the bipartisan Committee work that was being done. Why not run the Majority? If that fails, then you can hammer through the other one. Just because you can, doesn't mean you should. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Milford, Representative Drinkwater.

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just two quick points I'd like to make. As an avid deer hunter, if that question is on a survey, I will not be answering it, neither will a lot of my fellow friends. Because we understand where this is intended to go. And as an avid deer hunter, I would like to say, Mr. Speaker, that I have planted a lot of lead bullets into trees when I miss the deer. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 359

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

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

ABSENT - Adams, Campbell, Lanigan, Mastraccio, Simmons, Underwood.

Yes, 73; No, 70; Absent, 6; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

73 having voted in the affirmative and 70 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Minority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Resolve was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-523)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Resolve was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-523)** and sent for concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Freedom of Access Act to Require a Specific Time Frame for Agencies to Comply with Requests for Public Records"

(H.P. 85) (L.D. 152)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
HAGGAN of Penobscot
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-558)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representative:

HENDERSON of Rumford

READ.

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

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

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 360

YEA - Abdi, Albert, Ankeles, Arata, Archer, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Beck, Bell, Blier, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Carlow, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Cooper, Copeland, Crafts, Cray, Crockett, Daigle, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faircloth, Farrin, Faulkingham, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Gifford, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Hasenfus, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Jackson, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lemelin, Lookner, Lyman, Macias, Malon, Mason, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, McIntyre, Meyer, Milliken, Mingo, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Osher, Parry, Pluecker, Poirier, Pomerleau, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Schmursal-Burgess, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Smith, Soboleski, Stover, Strout, Supica, Swallow, Terry, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Warren, Webb, White R, Wood S, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Bagshaw, Bishop, Boyer D, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collins, Flynn, Greenwood, Lance, Lavigne, Libby, Morris, Paul, Perkins, Quint, Rudnicki, Walker, White J, Wood P, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Adams, Campbell, Javner, Lanigan, Simmons, Underwood.

Yes, 122; No, 21; Absent, 6; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

122 having voted in the affirmative and 21 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on 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)

Signed:

Senators:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox
MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook
ADAMS of Lebanon
COPELAND of Saco
FARRIN of Jefferson
GREENWOOD of Wales
MATLACK of St. George
POMERLEAU of Standish
TUELL of East Machias
UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-566)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

BALDACCI of Penobscot

Representative:

ROLLINS of Augusta

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-557)** on Bill "An Act to Protect Holders of Distressed Mortgages from Fraud"

(H.P. 257) (L.D. 403)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
HAGGAN of Penobscot
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Representatives:

HENDERSON of Rumford
POIRIER of Skowhegan

Representative DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe - of the House - supports the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-557)** Report.

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-557)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-557)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Limit Sovereign Immunity for Schools and School Superintendents"

(H.P. 797) (L.D. 1222)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-555)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-554)** on Bill "An Act to Require Energy Efficiency Disclosure Statements and Energy Efficiency Standards for Certain Rental Housing in the State"

(H.P. 963) (L.D. 1471)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
HAGGAN of Penobscot
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Representatives:

O'HALLORAN of Brewer
POIRIER of Skowhegan

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (H-554)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-554)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-562)** on Resolve, to Establish a Pilot Project to Facilitate the Inclusion of Economic Impact Statements in the Legislative Process (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1108) (L.D. 1673)

Signed:

Senator:

MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

ADAMS of Lebanon
GREENWOOD of Wales
MATLACK of St. George
POMERLEAU of Standish
ROLLINS of Augusta
TUELL of East Machias
UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

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

Signed:

Senator:

BALDACCI of Penobscot

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook
COPELAND of Saco
FARRIN of Jefferson

READ.

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

The Resolve was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (H-562)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Resolve was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-562)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-561)** on Bill "An Act to Promote Responsible Outdoor Lighting"

(H.P. 1295) (L.D. 1934)

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot
BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Senator:

MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

ADAMS of Lebanon
GREENWOOD of Wales
POMERLEAU of Standish
TUELL of East Machias
UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Address Employee Recruitment and Retention Issues Within the Maine State Ferry Service by Providing a Yearly Stipend"

(H.P. 843) (L.D. 1268)

Signed:

Senators:

NANGLE of Cumberland
FARRIN of Somerset
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

CRAFTS of Newcastle
ALBERT of Madawaska
BISHOP of Bucksport
MASON of Lisbon
PARRY of Arundel
WHITE of Guilford

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-539)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representatives:

ANKELES of Brunswick
EATON of Deer Isle
MONTELL of Gardiner
RAY of Lincolnville

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Solicit Proposals for the Utilization of Unused State-owned Railroad Lines

(H.P. 1066) (L.D. 1612)

Signed:

Senators:

NANGLE of Cumberland
FARRIN of Somerset
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

CRAFTS of Newcastle
ALBERT of Madawaska
ANKELES of Brunswick
BISHOP of Bucksport
EATON of Deer Isle
MASON of Lisbon
PARRY of Arundel
RAY of Lincolnville
WHITE of Guilford

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-538)** on same Resolve.

Signed:

Representative:

MONTELL of Gardiner

READ.

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

Eight Members of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** report in Report "A" **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Protect Senior Homeowners in Home-sharing Agreements by Providing for an Expedited Eviction Process"

(H.P. 971) (L.D. 1479)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

Four Members of the same Committee report in Report "B" **Refer to the Committee on Housing and Economic Development** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

BABIN of Fort Fairfield
CARUSO of Caratunk
HENDERSON of Rumford

One Member of the same Committee reports in Report "C" **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-553)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representative:

POIRIER of Skowhegan

READ.

On motion of Representative KUHN of Falmouth, Report "A" **Ought Not to Pass** was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Six Members of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** report in Report "A" **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-531)** on RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Create Equity in State Senate Representation

(H.P. 216) (L.D. 316)

Signed:

Senator:

MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

ADAMS of Lebanon
GREENWOOD of Wales
POMERLEAU of Standish
TUELL of East Machias
UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

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

Signed:

Senator:

BALDACCI of Penobscot

Representatives:

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

READ.

On motion of Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook, Report "B" **Ought Not to Pass** was **ACCEPTED** and sent for 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. 76) (L.D. 140) Bill "An Act to Incrementally Increase the Homestead Property Tax Exemption" Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-280)**

(S.P. 81) (L.D. 145) Bill "An Act Pertaining to Sales and Use Tax Exemptions for Durable Medical Equipment, Breast Pumps and Mobility-enhancing Equipment" Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-281)**

(S.P. 416) (L.D. 985) Bill "An Act to Impose a Moratorium on the Ownership or Operation of Hospitals in the State by Private Equity Companies or Real Estate Investment Trusts" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-299)**

(S.P. 438) (L.D. 1065) Bill "An Act Regarding the Reduction and Recycling of Food Waste" Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-279)**

(S.P. 533) (L.D. 1303) Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Qualifications for the State Auditor" Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-282)**

(S.P. 541) (L.D. 1311) Bill "An Act to Expand Maine's Health Care Workforce by Improving Educational Opportunities" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-270)**

(S.P. 553) (L.D. 1339) Bill "An Act to Regulate Virtual Currency Kiosks" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-300)**

(S.P. 613) (L.D. 1529) Bill "An Act to Enhance the Protection of High-value Natural Resources Statewide" Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-271)**

(S.P. 645) (L.D. 1637) Bill "An Act to Reform the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority" Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-293)**

(S.P. 647) (L.D. 1639) Bill "An Act to Codify Minimum Instructional Hours in the State's Schools" Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-275)**

(S.P. 679) (L.D. 1733) Bill "An Act to Provide Reduced Interest Rates for Logging and Fishing Operations" Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-294)**

(H.P. 176) (L.D. 273) Bill "An Act to Preserve Legislative Authority over Investigating Committees" Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-567)**

(H.P. 226) (L.D. 326) Bill "An Act to Increase the Property Tax Exemption Provided to Individuals Who Are Legally Blind" Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-524)**

(H.P. 454) (L.D. 715) Bill "An Act to Provide Property Tax Relief by Increasing the Availability of the Property Tax Fairness Credit Based on a Resident's Age and Income" Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-525)**

(H.P. 543) (L.D. 857) Bill "An Act to Increase Government Transparency in the Procurement of Goods and Services" Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-568)**

(H.P. 681) (L.D. 1052) RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Establish the State Auditor as a Constitutional Officer Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-527)**

(H.P. 768) (L.D. 1163) Bill "An Act to Foster Career and Technical Education in Maine Schools by Creating an Additional Pathway to Certify Industrial Arts Teachers" Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-515)**

(H.P. 791) (L.D. 1186) Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Study the Feasibility of Ferry Service to Monhegan Island Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-540)**

(H.P. 850) (L.D. 1275) Bill "An Act to Promote the Production of Natural Resources Bioproducts by Amending the Renewable Chemicals Tax Credit" Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-547)**

(H.P. 884) (L.D. 1361) Bill "An Act to Require Insurance Coverage for Covered Dental Services Provided by Licensed Dental Hygienists and to Authorize Licensed Dental Hygienists to Bill Commercial Dental Insurance" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-536)**

(H.P. 1033) (L.D. 1575) Bill "An Act to Allow a Legislator to Choose to Be Paid on an Annual Basis" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-563)**

(H.P. 999) (L.D. 1515) Bill "An Act to Exempt Wheelchair Adapted Vehicles from the Sales and Use Tax" Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-526)**

(H.P. 1038) (L.D. 1580) Bill "An Act to Prohibit Pharmacy Benefits Managers from Imposing Certain Fees and Pricing" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-543)**

(H.P. 1069) (L.D. 1615) Bill "An Act to Expand Access to Oral Health Care by Creating a New Path for Obtaining a License to Practice Dentistry" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-535)**

(H.P. 1154) (L.D. 1727) Bill "An Act to Ensure Transparency in Consumer Transactions Involving Artificial Intelligence" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-544)**

(H.P. 1183) (L.D. 1764) Bill "An Act to Ensure Equitable Staffing Ratios Across the State for Career and Technical Education Programs in Areas with Smaller Student Populations" Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-514)**

(H.P. 1196) (L.D. 1785) Bill "An Act to Encourage Competition by Requiring Independent Health Care Provider Cost-of-living Adjustments in Health Insurance Contracts" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-534)**

(H.P. 1200) (L.D. 1789) Bill "An Act to Amend the Education and Experience Requirements and Add Reciprocity Privileges in the Certified Public Accountancy Licensure Laws" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-533)**

(H.P. 1205) (L.D. 1800) Bill "An Act to Prohibit Health Care Entities Providing Dental Plans from Requiring Dentists to Charge Fees for Uncovered Services" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-546)**

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

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

(H.P. 1179) (L.D. 1761) Bill "An Act to Prohibit Indemnification Agreements" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-545)**

On motion of Representative MORRIS of Turner, was **REMOVED** from the First Day Consent Calendar.

On further motion of the same Representative, the Bill and all accompanying papers were **COMMITTED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and sent for concurrence.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-276)** on Bill "An Act to Require School Administrative Units to Adopt Mentoring Programs for Teachers and to Improve Existing Programs" (S.P. 209) (L.D. 470)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

MURPHY of Scarborough
BRENNAN of Portland
CROCKETT of Portland
DODGE of Belfast
MITCHELL of Cumberland
SARGENT of York

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

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham
CARLOW of Buxton
HAGGAN of Hampden
LYMAN of Livermore Falls

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-276)**.

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-276)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-276)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-214)** on Bill "An Act to Require Cardiac Emergency Response Plans and Athletic Emergency Action Plans for Schools and School-sponsored Athletic Events"

(S.P. 270) (L.D. 587)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

MURPHY of Scarborough
BRENNAN of Portland
CROCKETT of Portland
DODGE of Belfast
MITCHELL of Cumberland
SARGENT of York

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

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham
CARLOW of Buxton
HAGGAN of Hampden
LYMAN of Livermore Falls

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-214) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-272)** thereto.

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (S-214)** was **READ** by the Clerk.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-272) to **Committee Amendment "A" (S-214)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-214) as Amended by Senate Amendment "A" (S-272) thereto was **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-214) as Amended by Senate Amendment "A" (S-272)** thereto in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-297)** on Resolve, to Reestablish and Continue the Work of the Blue Economy Task Force

(S.P. 441) (L.D. 1023)

Signed:

Senators:

CURRY of Waldo
BAILEY of York
BENNETT of Oxford

Representatives:

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

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (S-298)** on same Resolve.

Signed:

Representatives:

COLLAMORE of Pittsfield
MINGO of Calais
WALKER of Naples

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-297)**.

READ.

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

The Resolve was **READ ONCE. Committee Amendment "A" (S-297)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Resolve was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-297)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-290)** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Law Governing Dedimus Justices"

(S.P. 60) (L.D. 129)

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot
BEEBE-CENTER of Knox
MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook
ADAMS of Lebanon
COPELAND of Saco
FARRIN of Jefferson
GREENWOOD of Wales
MATLACK of St. George
POMERLEAU of Standish
ROLLINS of Augusta
TUELL of East Machias

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

Signed:

Representative:

UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-290)**.

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-290)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-290)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-291)** on Bill "An Act to Provide Funds Necessary for the Production and Delivery of Election Materials by the Secretary of State and to Reconvene the Working Group to Study Polling Places at Schools"

(S.P. 26) (L.D. 13)

Signed:

Senator:

HICKMAN of Kennebec

Representatives:

SUPICA of Bangor

BOYER of Poland

CHAPMAN of Auburn

FAIRCLOTH of Bangor

FREDERICKS of Sanford

FROST of Belgrade

GRAHAM of North Yarmouth

MALON of Biddeford

TERRY of Gorham

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

Signed:

Senator:

TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-291)**.

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-291)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-291)** in concurrence.

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

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

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This past Friday was June sixth, D-Day. A day when, in 1944, more than 156,000 Allied troops, including 73,000 brave Americans, stormed the beaches of Normandy in a mission that would mark the turning point of World War II, 81 years ago now. There aren't many left, World War II veterans, that 81 years ago fought for our country. It's not just a date in history, June 6th, it is a testament to courage, sacrifice and the unwavering resolve of a generation that answered the call of liberty when the world teetered on the edge of tyranny.

Maine was there. From Kittery to Fort Kent and Eastport to Fryeburg; I have a cyborg in my mouth; some of our State stepped forward. Fishermen, farmers, millworkers, loggers, young men who have never seen the coast of France waded ashore that morning, under fire and not knowing if they would ever return. Countless soldiers, known and unknown, from across our great State played a great role, whether storming the beaches, providing naval support, flying cover, jumping out of airplanes behind enemy lines, building the logistical backbone that made victory possible.

Over 2,500 Americans died on D-Day, and with them, a part of our shared future was bought, not with gold but with blood and bravery. We often speak in the Chamber of duty, service, sacrifice, but there are few better examples than the men on D-Day; the men who climbed cliffs under machine gun fire, who held fast on foreign sand, not for conquest, but for freedom. That was what they were told they were fighting for, to keep everyone that they were home fighting for was their freedom. The actions helped end a war, liberate a continent and preserve the ideals that we're sworn to uphold this very building.

So, today, let us honor them not just with our moment of silence, but with our actions. Let us lead with the courage they showed. Let us govern with the integrity they died for. Let us teach future generations not only what they did, but why they did it. Because the price of freedom has been paid by those who asked of nothing in return. May Maine always remember them. May America always honor them. And may we forever be grateful. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **SALISBURY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request the unanimous consent to address the House on the record.

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Westbrook, Representative Salisbury requests unanimous consent to address the House on the record. Hearing no objection, it is so ordered. The Member may proceed.

Representative **SALISBURY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In reference to Roll Call No. 331 on LD 68, had I been present, I would have voted yes.

ENACTORS

Emergency Measure

An Act to Amend the Law Governing Facilities Approved by the State Harness Racing Commission to Sell Pari-mutuel Pools and Common Pari-mutuel Pools for Simulcast Racing

(H.P. 793) (L.D. 1188)
(C. "A" H-413)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 103 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

An Act to Amend the Law Governing Watercraft Franchisor Warranty Reimbursements

(S.P. 526) (L.D. 1296)
(C. "A" S-245)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 103 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

An Act to Facilitate the Reconstruction of Storm-damaged Commercial Fisheries Facilities and Infrastructure

(S.P. 734) (L.D. 1864)
(C. "A" S-246)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 106 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study the Impact of Blockchain Technology and Cryptocurrency on Maine's Economy and the Risks of Fraud and Theft to Maine Consumers

(S.P. 515) (L.D. 1286)
(C. "A" S-240)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 113 voted in favor of the same and 1 against, and accordingly the Resolve was **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

Resolve, to Establish the Housing Production Innovation Working Group

(S.P. 594) (L.D. 1453)
(C. "A" S-243)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 110 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Resolve was **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study Consumer Grocery Pricing Fairness

(H.P. 1265) (L.D. 1894)
(C. "A" H-457)

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

Representative MOONEN of Portland **REQUESTED** a roll call on **FINAL PASSAGE**.

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

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

This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken.

ROLL CALL NO. 361

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

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

ABSENT - Adams, Gattine, Lanigan, Underwood.

Yes, 76; No, 69; Absent, 4; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

76 having voted in the affirmative and 69 voted in the negative, with 4 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Resolve **FAILED FINAL PASSAGE** and was sent to the Senate.

Acts

An Act to Offset the Costs of Client Medical Care Support Workers at Department of Corrections Facilities and Study Correctional Service Fees and Collections

(S.P. 30) (L.D. 18)
(C. "A" S-268)

An Act to Amend the State Tax Laws

(H.P. 32) (L.D. 68)

An Act to Update Certain Laws Regarding Extended Care and Adoption

(S.P. 43) (L.D. 122)
(C. "A" S-259)

An Act to Address the Effect of Changes to Federal Income Tax Laws on Maine Income Tax Laws

(H.P. 144) (L.D. 221)
(C. "A" H-483)

An Act to Establish the Option of Sentencing Alternatives for Primary Caregivers

(S.P. 112) (L.D. 246)
(C. "A" S-253)

An Act Regarding the Authority of Municipalities to Regulate Timber Harvesting

(H.P. 164) (L.D. 261)
(H. "A" H-500 to C. "A" H-295)

An Act to Protect Communications by Alleged Victims Regarding Sexual Assault, Sexual Harassment, Sexual Misconduct, Cyberbullying or Discrimination from Litigation

(S.P. 154) (L.D. 385)

An Act to Allow the Investment of Money Deposited with the Treasurer of State for the Maine Deer Management Fund

(H.P. 295) (L.D. 441)
(C. "A" H-478)

An Act to Establish Net Neutrality

(H.P. 355) (L.D. 536)
(H. "A" H-506 to C. "A" H-439)

An Act to Reimburse the City of Ellsworth for a Public Road to a New Court Facility in Hancock County

(H.P. 481) (L.D. 739)
(C. "A" H-472)

An Act Regarding Access to Behavioral Health Supports for Adults with Certain Disabilities

(S.P. 327) (L.D. 769)
(C. "A" S-234)

An Act to Fund the Aroostook County Drug Treatment Court

(S.P. 336) (L.D. 779)
(C. "A" S-258)

An Act to Create the Net Energy Billing Cost Stabilization Fund

(S.P. 372) (L.D. 839)
(C. "A" S-223)

An Act to Prohibit the Public Advocate and a Commissioner of the Public Utilities Commission from Certain Employment Activities Following Service

(H.P. 547) (L.D. 861)
(C. "A" H-476)

An Act to Clarify Licensing Jurisdiction for Manufactured Housing Communities

(H.P. 614) (L.D. 949)
(C. "A" H-491)

An Act to Integrate Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander History into the Statewide System of Learning Results

(H.P. 616) (L.D. 957)
(C. "A" H-397)

An Act to Include Employees of the Maine Indian Tribal-State Commission in the State's Group Health Plan and to Clarify Future Eligibility for the State's Group Health Plan

(H.P. 646) (L.D. 999)
(C. "A" H-482)

An Act to Fund the Operations of the University of Maine Cooperative Extension Tick Laboratory

(S.P. 429) (L.D. 1012)
(C. "A" S-206)

An Act to Strengthen the Law Regarding Relief for Improvident Transfers of Title

(S.P. 445) (L.D. 1027)

An Act to Reinforce Free Speech at Town Meetings by Requiring Opportunity for Public Comment

(H.P. 713) (L.D. 1091)
(C. "A" H-509)

An Act to Allow Electric Vehicle Charging Stations by Condominium and Residential Associations

(S.P. 457) (L.D. 1133)
(C. "A" S-257)

An Act to Amend the Statutory Balance Limit on the Finance Authority of Maine's Loan Insurance Reserves for General Fund Transfers

(S.P. 497) (L.D. 1208)
(C. "A" S-244)

An Act to Require Legislative Approval of Proposed Permanent Changes to the Overnight Docking of State Ferries on Islands

(H.P. 806) (L.D. 1231)
(C. "A" H-493)

An Act to Establish the Make Change for Wildlife Program to Support the Maine Endangered and Nongame Wildlife Fund

(H.P. 816) (L.D. 1241)
(C. "A" H-480)

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Public Employee Market Pay Studies and Comprehensive Reviews of the Classification Plan for State Service Positions

(H.P. 840) (L.D. 1265)
(C. "A" H-435)

An Act to Increase Access to Child Care for Maine Families

(H.P. 937) (L.D. 1428)
(C. "A" H-508)

An Act Regarding the Transfer of Moose Permits to Disabled Veterans

(H.P. 939) (L.D. 1430)
(C. "A" H-481)

An Act to Amend the Membership of the Washington County Budget Advisory Committee

(S.P. 626) (L.D. 1542)
(C. "A" S-266)

An Act Regarding Disability Retirement Benefits Under the Maine Public Employees Retirement System

(S.P. 646) (L.D. 1638)
(C. "A" S-261)

An Act to Require Law Enforcement Agencies to Adopt Written Policies Regarding Sex Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation

(H.P. 1130) (L.D. 1695)
(C. "A" H-495)

An Act to Increase Penalties to Deter Violations of the Laws Regarding Improper Pesticide Use

(H.P. 1132) (L.D. 1697)
(C. "A" H-486)

An Act to Enhance the Coordination and Effectiveness of Integrated Distribution Grid Planning

(H.P. 1153) (L.D. 1726)
(C. "A" H-438)

An Act to Provide an Income Tax Deduction for Certain Contributions to a Qualified Achieving a Better Life Experience Program Account

(S.P. 681) (L.D. 1735)
(C. "A" S-263)

An Act to Strengthen Oversight of Kennels by Changing the Licensing Authority from Municipalities to the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry

(S.P. 689) (L.D. 1771)
(H. "A" H-488 to C. "A" S-220)

An Act to Increase Seed Money Contribution Limits for Gubernatorial Candidates Under the Maine Clean Election Act

(H.P. 1198) (L.D. 1787)
(C. "A" H-414)

An Act to Make Technical Changes to the Laws Governing the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services

(S.P. 700) (L.D. 1801)
(C. "A" S-250)

An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services to Clarify When an Indigent Criminal Defendant Is Entitled to Counsel at State Expense

(S.P. 701) (L.D. 1802)
(C. "A" S-249)

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

(H.P. 1217) (L.D. 1819)
(H. "A" H-520 to C. "A" H-504)

An Act to Clarify the Availability of Alternative Claims Payment Methods to Dental Care Providers

(S.P. 716) (L.D. 1834)
(C. "A" S-239)

An Act to Expand the State's Workforce by Supporting the Transition from Incarceration to Employment

(H.P. 1228) (L.D. 1844)
(C. "A" H-499)

An Act to Implement Recommendations for Improved Dam Safety

(H.P. 1232) (L.D. 1848)
(C. "A" H-498)

An Act to Improve Access to Child Care and Early Childhood Education by Establishing Regional Resource Hubs

(S.P. 729) (L.D. 1859)
(C. "A" S-265)

An Act to Include Serious Bodily Injury in the Law Governing Motor Vehicle Violations Resulting in Death

(H.P. 1257) (L.D. 1886)
(C. "A" H-497)

An Act to Bring Parity to the State's Recognition of the Wabanaki Nations' Authority to Provide Electric Power Districts and Child Support Enforcement

(H.P. 1271) (L.D. 1900)

An Act Regarding the Authority of the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation and the Licensing Boards and Commissions Within That Office to Pursue Complaints

(S.P. 746) (L.D. 1905)
(C. "A" S-238)

An Act to Clarify the Laws Relating to the Licensure of Certain Facilities by the Department of Health and Human Services

(S.P. 768) (L.D. 1961)
(C. "A" S-236)

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

Resolves

Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Develop a Grant Program to Encourage Secondary Schools to Adopt Later Start Times

(S.P. 182) (L.D. 396)
(S. "A" S-235 to C. "A" S-217)

Resolve, to Direct the County Corrections Professional Standards Council to Examine Funding of and Compliance by County and Regional Jails

(H.P. 458) (L.D. 719)
(C. "A" H-494)

Resolve, to Establish a Working Group to Facilitate Public Access and Resilience Planning for Swan Island

(H.P. 636) (L.D. 976)
(C. "A" H-479)

Resolve, to Create a Pilot Program to Assist Nonprofit Housing Developers in Rehabilitating Existing Aging Housing Stock for First-time Home Buyers

(H.P. 772) (L.D. 1167)
(C. "A" H-492)

Resolve, Directing the Board of Pesticides Control to Evaluate the Impact of Neonicotinoids on Pollinators, Humans and the Environment

(H.P. 858) (L.D. 1323)
(H. "A" H-507 to C. "A" H-347)

Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Establish the Maine Coordinating Working Group on Access and Mobility

(S.P. 592) (L.D. 1451)
(C. "A" S-262)

Resolve, Directing the Department of Marine Resources to Submit a Report on the Findings and Recommendations of the Aquaculture Advisory Council

(H.P. 1054) (L.D. 1596)
(C. "A" H-463)

Resolve, to Honor Margaret Chase Smith and Joshua Chamberlain in the National Statuary Hall Collection

(S.P. 656) (L.D. 1648)
(H. "A" H-429 to C. "A" S-202)

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

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Paid Family and Medical Leave

(S.P. 383) (L.D. 894)

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

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

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

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 362

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

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

ABSENT - Adams, Lanigan, Underwood.

Yes, 75; No, 71; Absent, 3; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 71 voted in the negative, with 3 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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

SENATE PAPERS

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act Regarding the Approval of Transmission Lines" (H.P. 517) (L.D. 810)

Minority (5) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY READ** and **ACCEPTED** in the House on June 3, 2025.

Came from the Senate with the Majority (8) **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-410)** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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

Representative FOSTER of Dexter **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

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

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

Representative **CARUSO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in opposition to LD 810 and this motion.

Once again, this bill; if this bill had required legislative approval after a line location is known, then I would approve it. But as it is, it doesn't. Therefore, there is still no accountability

of a transmission line applicant to do their due diligence, to properly conduct community outreach, to do the studies needed to perform or to inform the PUC. The premise of the Referendum question that 60%; or 244,000; Mainers voted for is that their elected lawmakers would be a line of defense after the project location is known. This is essential for Mainers to be duly represented. And it's about forcing the applicant to be accountable.

Once again, we need to know why this is needed. I had already explained how the PUC had described, years ago, CMP's efforts as a community outreach failure, that they failed to plan, they failed to conduct studies, to explore options of various locations, they didn't consider emergency response resources, they admitted under oath that they never once considered burying the line. And this is huge. Because the applicant knew that they already had the approval of two consecutive Executive Administrations. And because of that, even the power source, Hydro Quebec, refused to testify under oath or to participate in any of the State proceedings. That's the DEP and the PUC. They weren't there. They avoided it completely. That wouldn't happen if there was accountability in this process and if the applicant knew that lawmakers who represented those communities and those constituents at risk would be able to have a voice.

I want to explain, for people who don't understand what accountability looks like, I want to explain why this is important to me and the 60% of the people who voted on this. When CMP came, as an example of an applicant, to present up at the PUC, according to the examiner's report, CMP; this is a quote from the examiners; 'CMP did not attempt to analyze or evaluate scenic value impacts. CMP did not explore mitigating the detrimental effects of a new corridor by considering potentially lower impact options such as burying significant portions of the transmission line underground.' This is why I oppose LD 810 and why we need accountability. The examiner said that 'based on the record, the Commission concludes that the scenic value of the area which the proposed new corridor would run is substantial, that running an overhead transmission line through the area would have considerable detrimental impact on the scenic value and;' this is the kicker; 'the Commission is unable to quantify the negative impact of the NECEC in the area in question.' What they talked about earlier is they can't quantify it, because none of the studies were done by the applicant. They continued and said that 'whether intentional or not, the applicant's failure to reach out to communicate with certain key stakeholders compromised the stakeholder's ability to understand the details of the corridor, evaluate the project's negative impacts and to participate in discussions relating to the mitigation of those negative impacts.'

This is accountability that we did not have. And what Maine people should never, ever, ever have to deal with again. And this is why we must stand and support the Referendum question. Because people are depending on us to represent them and their interests and hold the agencies and the applicants accountable. Accountability would ensure that we will never have to hear an examiner's report ever again that, what they said; I'm going to quote some more: "the record is replete with criticism about CMP's insufficient and selective communication with the affected communities regarding the project." The Referendum would eliminate this.

The criticism accuses CMP of failing to provide key stakeholders with accurate and timely information about the project. Failing to be transparent, failing to build trust throughout the area, failing to develop relationships among the affected

communities that is built on mutual respect. This criticism is fundamentally at odds with the core of their communication plan.

I urge that Members of this Body oppose this current motion and oppose LD 810 and once again uphold the Referendum and uphold the people's vote to make sure that there will not be a transmission line laid out without their legislative Representatives voting for them. Thank you.

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

Representative **SACHS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And the first thing I'd like to say is ditto, except for the very last part, for my good friend from Caratunk, the Representative from Caratunk.

The pieces that the Good Representative is talking about regarding the CMP corridor, I voted for, I went out in the cold to gather signatures for, completely agree with the Referendum. And this part does not negate any of that. In fact, much of the good bipartisan work that we have done in this Chamber has been around transparency, notification, eminent domain, including LD 197, that, in a bipartisan way, we have talked about this issue of notification, siting, *et cetera*. This in no way, LD 810, I would not vote for this if this in any way invalidated the Referendum in my eyes. This is only to clarify that if the Legislature has approved through an incredibly public process and asked an agency to do the thing, that they go ahead and do the thing and that it doesn't have to come back twice. That was not in the Referendum, that is not what people voted for. They really want us to continue if this goes across public lands, even if we ask them to do the thing, it will come back if it's going through public land, we have to vote on that, two-thirds. All of the egregious behavior that the Good Representative just talked about with CMP, that is not what this bill does. It doesn't negate any of that. The other bills that we have passed have certainly done so.

So, I urge the Body to look exactly at what the bill does, and not conflate it with some of these other pieces that have happened in the past, because I would not support that, either. I urge the Body to vote for the pending motion. Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **FOSTER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I'd just like to clarify what the thing is. The thing is the EUT Committee receives a piece of legislation and they vote after much discussion, input from the public, they vote to tell the PUC to go ahead and put out bids for a transmission line from point A up north somewhere to point B down south somewhere, and we approve it. That's the thing.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 363

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

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

ABSENT - Adams, Underwood.

Yes, 74; No, 73; Absent, 2; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 73 voted in the negative, with 2 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the House voted to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

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

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Establish the Interdisciplinary Advisory Board for the State House Complex"

(H.P. 1187) (L.D. 1776)

Majority (8) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT READ** and **ACCEPTED** in the House on June 5, 2025.

Came from the Senate with the Minority (5) **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-437)** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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

Representative MONTELL of Gardiner moved that the House **RECEDE**.

Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **RECEDE**.

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 364

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Beck, Bell, Bishop, Boyer D, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cluchey, Copeland, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Geiger, Golek, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Julia, Kessler, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Sargent, Sato, Shagoury, Skold, Supica, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager.

NAY - Albert, Arata, Archer, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Cloutier, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Crafts, Cray, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faircloth, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gattine, Gere, Gifford, Graham, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Kuhn, Lance, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Mastraccio, McIntyre, Meyer,

Mingo, Morris, Murphy, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rielly, Rudnicki, Salisbury, Sayre, Schmiersal-Burgess, Simmons, Sinclair, Smith, Soboleski, Stover, Strout, Swallow, Terry, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome, Mr. Speaker.

ABSENT - Adams, Underwood.

Yes, 60; No, 87; Absent, 2; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

60 having voted in the affirmative and 87 voted in the negative, with 2 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the motion to **RECEDE FAILED**.

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

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-289)** on Bill "An Act to Promote Local Seafood in Schools"

(S.P. 728) (L.D. 1858)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York

LIBBY of Cumberland

PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

MURPHY of Scarborough

BRENNAN of Portland

CROCKETT of Portland

DODGE of Belfast

MITCHELL of Cumberland

SARGENT of York

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

Signed:

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham

CARLOW of Buxton

HAGGAN of Hampden

LYMAN of Livermore Falls

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-289)**.

READ.

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

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on her motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 365

YEA - Abdi, Albert, Ankeles, Arata, Archer, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Beck, Bell, Bishop, Blier, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Campbell, Caruso, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Cooper, Copeland, Crafts, Cray, Crockett, Daigle, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faircloth, Farrin, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Fredette, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Guerrette, Hall, Hasenfus, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lance, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lee, Lemelin, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mason, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, McIntyre, Meyer, Milliken, Mingo, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Osher, Parry, Pluecker, Poirier, Pomerleau, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Simmons, Sinclair, Skold, Smith, Soboleski, Stover, Strout, Supica, Swallow, Terry, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Warren, Webb, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Bagshaw, Boyer D, Carlow, Chapman, Cimino, Collins, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Haggan, Libby, Lyman, Morris, Paul, Perkins, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmiersal-Burgess, Walker, White J.

ABSENT - Adams, Underwood.

Yes, 126; No, 21; Absent, 2; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

126 having voted in the affirmative and 21 voted in the negative, with 2 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-289)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-289)** in concurrence.

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

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-273)** on Bill "An Act to Protect Residents Living in Mobile Home Parks" (S.P. 477) (L.D. 1145)

Signed:

Senators:

CURRY of Waldo

BAILEY of York

Representatives:

GERE of Kennebunkport

EDER of Waterboro

GOLEK of Harpswell

JULIA of Waterville

MALON of Biddeford

ROBERTS of South Berwick

YUSUF of Portland

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (S-274)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

BENNETT of Oxford

Representatives:

COLLAMORE of Pittsfield

MINGO of Calais

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-273)**.

READ.

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

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on her motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

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

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

Representative **GERE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, mobile home parks offer one of our State's last truly affordable housing options for Maine families, often acting as attainable starter homes for young people and families and as affordable homes for retirees. As everyone in this Body knows, Maine faces a severe housing shortage, and we must protect every affordable housing option. But recently, mobile home park residents across our State have increasingly fallen victim to out-of-state corporate investors. Mr. Speaker, we have the chance to strengthen our existing law that helps mobile home park residents organize and purchase their own parks when they are under threat. We can help Maine people take control of their own destinies while at the same time preserving affordable housing.

In the 131st, we passed LD 1931 that gave co-ops formed by mobile park residents for the first time an option to purchase their park when it was up for sale. Since then, 10 different communities have received sale notice, and in three of them, residents have been successful: the Blueberry Fields Cooperative in Brunswick, the Cedar Falls Cooperative in Bangor and a park in Monmouth. However, of the 10 parks who have gone through the process, six were outright rejected, and each of the residents' purchase offers was for more money than the park seller had on the table from another company.

Mr. Speaker, there are almost 500 mobile home parks in Maine, home to over 45,000 people, a larger population than any city except Portland. Today, of the 500, just 13 are owned by residents, and residents continue to face a challenging situation as their mom-and-pop owners retire and move on to other phases of their lives.

Mr. Speaker, LD 1145 will clarify and strengthen current law. It will require park owners to accept an offer that is at the same price and substantially equivalent terms and conditions. It requires the notification process to continue and will require re-notification if an owner receives a different offer at a different price.

Mr. Speaker, the situation is urgent, and we are fighting for Maine communities to make sure that residents in other mobile home park communities across Maine can experience the sense of victory, security and joy that those in the successful parks have already had. I urge everyone in the Body to please follow my light and vote in favor of the pending motion. Thank you.

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

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion. This bill, as we've heard, puts a lot of restrictions on property owner rights and their ability to sell their property.

The bill passed in the 131st ensures residents of a manufactured housing community has 60 days to provide an offer to purchase their park. And as we just heard, Mr. Speaker, it's working. We've already had park owners be taken; parks purchased by the residents of their parks. What this bill does is require that residents have the right of first refusal, which is very different than what we were doing before. This means that a property owner is required to sell their property to the co-op if their offer is, quote, "substantially equivalent terms and conditions," end quote, of an offer that the property owner intends to accept.

There are many problems with this bill. First of all, how do the residents know what the offer is? If the property owner receives 10, is it 60 days from every time a new offer is made that's better; that now, the residents have an additional 60 days to consider whether or not they can afford to do it or to organize, because they take time to organize, they have to have 51% of all of their residents agree. And does this mean that every time there's a new offer that comes in after the initial 60 days, we have to restart the 60 days, so then, it could take maybe a year to actually sell the mobile home park? Well, what if the mobile home owner has died now because of that and now the trust is trying to deal with it, does everything restart now that that's happened?

So, there's a lot of unanswered questions with this bill, Mr. Speaker, and I think we should just let the program that we know is working and has had not even a full year, to keep working and vote down this motion. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 366

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

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

ABSENT - Adams, Gattine, Montell, Underwood.

Yes, 81; No, 64; Absent, 4; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

81 having voted in the affirmative and 64 voted in the negative, with 4 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-273)** was **READ** by the Clerk

Representative GERE of Kennebunkport **PRESENTED House Amendment "A" (H-594) to Committee Amendment "A" (S-273)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-273) as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-594) thereto was **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-273) as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-594)** thereto in **NON-CONCURRENCE** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-287)** on Bill "An Act to Create a State Employee Compensation Stabilization Fund"

(S.P. 623) (L.D. 1539)

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook

COPELAND of Saco

FARRIN of Jefferson

MATLACK of St. George

ROLLINS of Augusta

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

Signed:

Senator:

MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

ADAMS of Lebanon

GREENWOOD of Wales

POMERLEAU of Standish

TUELL of East Machias

UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUCH TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-287)**.

READ.

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

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

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

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

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the pending motion. Although I would agree that some of our State employees and their wage gap may be not in line, this is a solution in search of a problem.

This originally came to us to take from the cascade at one percent and take it from the transportation. During Committee, I said I couldn't support that, so, the Amendment that we're voting on now is to actually take it from the cascade, but it makes the cascade from 80% to 75% and it earmarks 5% for this stabilization fund.

Mr. Speaker, our State employees, we have about a 10% vacancy rate. All of the funds from that vacancy get used and moved into contract negotiations and so on. This is something that we do not need, and I am adamantly opposed to it. So, for those reasons, I ask you to vote no on the pending motion. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 367

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

NAY - Albert, Ankeles, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Crafts, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance,

Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Adams, Cray, Underwood.

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

74 having voted in the affirmative and 72 voted in the negative, with 3 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-287)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-287)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-288)** on Bill "An Act to Exempt Over-the-counter Medicines from the Sales and Use Tax"

(S.P. 680) (L.D. 1734)

Signed:

Senators:

GROHOSKI of Hancock

TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:

CLOUTIER of Lewiston

CROCKETT of Portland

FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor

MATLACK of St. George

SAYRE of Kennebunk

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

Signed:

Senator:

BICKFORD of Androscoggin

Representatives:

LAVIGNE of Berwick

QUINT of Hodgdon

RUDNICKI of Fairfield

SWALLOW of Houlton

WHITE of Ellsworth

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-288)**.

READ.

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

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on her motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

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

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

Representative **CLOUTIER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the goal of LD 1734 is simple, but meaningful: to lower everyday costs for Maine families who continue to feel the squeeze of high prices.

Currently, prescription medicines are exempt from Maine's sales and use tax, but over-the-counter medicines, despite being just as essential for maintaining health, are not. LD 1734 updates our tax code to exempt a range of over-the-counter medicines, such as cough and cold treatments, allergy medications, eye and ear preparations, opioid antagonists and other critical health products. These are items families rely on every day to stay healthy, prevent illness and manage chronic conditions.

This bill makes a common-sense change that will make it a little easier for Mainers to care for themselves and their loved ones without the added burden of a sales tax at the register. At a time when families are working hard to stretch every dollar, this small but targeted exemption would put meaningful savings back into their pockets. Please join me in support of the pending motion.

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

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. As much as I agree that this is just; it's another way to help folks, the problem is we're doing carveouts and we continue to do carveouts for specifics instead of an overall tax change, and this is a problem with this.

So, I can't support more carveouts with our tax dollars, because we're still looking at, you know, too many problems with property taxes and income taxes and sales tax. If we're going to do it, let's do it for everything. This doesn't even cover vitamins when your doctor actually requires that you, you know, that they require you take vitamins. Vitamins aren't included, but apparently, you know, other things such as; oh, my goodness, I'm sorry, it's one of those days already; but it's not including everything, it's only including certain things, and I think that if your doctor writes a prescription and you're going to give a carveout for those prescription items, or your doctor requires that you take vitamins, then you should be able to, you know, get the same thing. And because we can't and we're not doing that for everyone, then we need to stop the carveouts and do an overall change. Thank you.

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

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I just wanted to piggyback on what the Good Representative from Fairfield had mentioned. I had asked specifically; as a nurse, I just see so many of our older folks that are taking vitamins that the doctors are prescribing and many of them are buying them over-the-counter and they're extremely expensive, and I wanted to have that particular portion added on. That was not added on. I had asked the Sponsor of the bill to get back with me and work on doing something to actually add that on, and that wasn't done, that's why I was opposed to it. It's only giving specific over-the-counter medications and not some of them that I feel are very valuable and should be included. Thank you.

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

Representative **CLOUTIER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to clarify that the Ought to Pass as Amended Report matches the State code for these items with the Code of Federal Regulations as it relates to over-the-counter medications.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 368

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Bishop, Boyer D, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Foley, Fredericks, Friedmann, Frost, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Greenwood, Hasenfus, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Jackson, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lanigan, Lee, Libby, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mason, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pomerleau, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Skold, Stover, Strout, Supica, Terry, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, Warren, Webb, Woodsome, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collins, Cooper, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foster, Fredette, Gifford, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lyman, Mastraccio, McIntyre, Mingo, Montell, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmiersal-Burgess, Simmons, Sinclair, Smith, Soboleski, Swallow, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S.

ABSENT - Adams, Cray, Gattine, Underwood.

Yes, 92; No, 53; Absent, 4; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

92 having voted in the affirmative and 53 voted in the negative, with 4 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-288)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-288)** in concurrence.

Six Members of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** report in Report "A" **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Expand Hydroelectric Development by Removing the 100-megawatt Cap"

(S.P. 163) (L.D. 371)

Signed:

Senator:

GROHOSKI of Hancock

Representatives:

SACHS of Freeport

GEIGER of Rockland

KESSLER of South Portland

WARREN of Scarborough

WEBB of Durham

Four Members of the same Committee report in Report "B" **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-277)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

LAWRENCE of York

Representatives:

FOSTER of Dexter

RUNTE of York

WADSWORTH of Hiram

Three Members of the same Committee report in Report "C" **Ought to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

HARRINGTON of York

Representatives:

MCINTYRE of Lowell

PAUL of Winterport

Came from the Senate with Report "B" **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED READ and ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-277)**.

READ.

Representative SACHS Of Freeport moved that the House **ACCEPT** Report "A" **Ought Not to Pass**.

Representative FOSTER of Dexter **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** Report "A" **Ought Not to Pass**.

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

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

Representative **FOSTER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I would ask that you defeat the pending motion.

Although it was the Majority Report, the majority of us that did not support it actually supported something that's more palatable. And this original bill that you're being asked to defeat here would have removed the 100-megawatt cap on hydro, period. However, we're trying to limit that to within the State of Maine, it had a lot of support in that way, and I'd ask that you defeat the pending motion, so that we can proceed with that opportunity. There are some hydro projects within the State of Maine that I am told and convinced that can be upgraded to 100 megawatts or more should this bill, this motion be defeated and we move on to the Minority Report.

So, I'd ask that you think about this. Again, it would be helpful to the State of Maine as we develop our renewable energy in the State that is generated in the State for the benefit of Maine ratepayers, and I'd ask that you follow my light. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **SACHS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise to support the pending motion.

The Committee did much rigorous work in trying to find different options. Unfortunately, this is the only Report that does not violate the U.S. Constitution Commerce Clause, for example. It also does not disrupt the renewable energy credit market to the expense of Maine renewables versus perhaps those from other states or out of the country. For broader policy context, there is no other state but one that would open this up. And I would also say that the largest Maine facility is only at 86 megawatts, with no intention, per the information the Committee got, to upgrade past 100 megawatts.

So, we are very grateful for our hydropower facilities that we do have, we want to support them within the renewable energy credit market and I urge this Body to follow my light and support the pending motion on those bases. Thank you.

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

Representative **FOSTER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just mention that one of those who was in support with us for this measure for the State of Maine is our only lawyer on the Committee. He was not too concerned about the commerce act that has been referred to that we might violate.

And I would also say that I also got confirmation that there are at least two dams, I've been to both of them, that are several years old and the type of wheels and things that they have in place now that can be upgraded, and they believe that they could get above the 100 megawatt limit; however, the current Statute in Maine, because it prohibits that being counted as renewable energy, meeting the standards, they are not willing to invest that money. However, if this motion were to fail and we were to pass the bill, that would be an opportunity for them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **SACHS**: Thank you for allowing me to rise a second time, Mr. Speaker. I will just note that our own Attorney General's Office stated that other Reports may raise substantial Commerce Clause concerns under the U.S. Constitution and it would be difficult to defend. I neglected to quote the Attorney General last time. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 369

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

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

ABSENT - Adams, Cray, Gattine, Underwood.

Yes, 76; No, 69; Absent, 4; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

76 having voted in the affirmative and 69 voted in the negative, with 4 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly Report "A" **Ought Not to Pass** was **ACCEPTED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE** and sent for concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Establish Content Standards for Legislation"

(H.P. 1021) (L.D. 1563)

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook

COPELAND of Saco

FARRIN of Jefferson

MATLACK of St. George

ROLLINS of Augusta

UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-564)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

ADAMS of Lebanon

GREENWOOD of Wales

POMERLEAU of Standish

TUELL of East Machias

READ.

Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

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

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

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

Representative **TUELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I rise in opposition to the pending motion and in support of the bill before us, which eliminates the overused practice of concept drafts or; for the general public watching's benefit; 'placeholder bills.'

Some will say this issue has and should go before the Rules Committee. I would counter that by saying the Rules Committee rarely meets and only makes changes when its backs are against the wall, as we found out during the supplemental budget process earlier this session. Some will argue that the Rules Committee has in fact improved the process by requiring a Sponsor to provide actual bill text days in advance. And while I won't deny that that is an improvement, we have all been told from the day we set foot in this place that the Revisor's Office is here to help us draft bills and will walk us through the process step by step from day one. So, there should be no reason why even a new lawmaker should need to put a concept draft forward right out of the gate. If you don't know what you want to do or how you want to go about it, don't put in a bill.

As an aside, I have heard from many, many more people this Session that we have too many bills, that lawmakers don't need a cap on how many they can put in or do need a cap on how many they can put in and simply shouldn't be able to submit

placeholders. It's really not hard; you say, no more placeholders. And I am well aware that there are Members on both sides with them operating under the rules we have currently, currently in place, but we really do need to say that this is the last Legislature to allow concept drafts. In fact, I remember the Representative from Madawaska's predecessor, who served as our State and Local Chair during one of my previous times here; during my previous time here, regularly reminding the Committee and offending Sponsors not to even bother bringing a concept draft forward unless you were ready to roll with it out of the gate, and we killed them. Pretty much every one of them.

My point there is that we ought not even allow them. Our Committees have enough work to do; we have enough work to do here on the floor without wasting resources or trying to make some not-ready-for-primetime idea ready for primetime. Besides all of that, it isn't very transparent, and it doesn't give the public confidence in the Legislature or its process.

I will close simply by saying that we are going to see more and more bills like this if the Rules Committee doesn't do some work and the Legislative Council doesn't take steps to improve transparency of what work we do have. I sit here every morning when there's a school group coming in, the tour guide gives that school group; or any other group; a crash course in how our work is done and always says that we always make the work open and accessible to the public. A one-liner bill that doesn't say or do anything specific kind of flies in the face of that message, that we lawmakers, through our Legislative Council and staff, are putting out there. It's time to change that, and it's time to vote no on the pending motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 370

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

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

ABSENT - Cray, Gattine, Underwood.

Yes, 76; No, 70; Absent, 3; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

76 having voted in the affirmative and 70 voted in the negative, with 3 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Require Certain Public Entities to Define Their Use of the Term 'Equity'"

(H.P. 1051) (L.D. 1593)

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot
BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representatives:

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

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-565)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

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

READ.

Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

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

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in opposition to the pending motion and request a Roll Call.

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

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 371

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

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan,

Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Cray, Gattine, Soboleski, Underwood.

Yes, 76; No, 69; Absent, 4; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

76 having voted in the affirmative and 69 voted in the negative, with 4 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-556)** on Bill "An Act Regarding Fairness in Sentencing for Persons Under 26 Years of Age"

(H.P. 732) (L.D. 1113)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth
LEE of Auburn
PUGH of Portland
SATO of Gorham
SINCLAIR of Bath

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

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

BABIN of Fort Fairfield
CARUSO of Caratunk
HENDERSON of Rumford
O'HALLORAN of Brewer
POIRIER of Skowhegan

READ.

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

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

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

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

Representative **POIRIER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and Esteemed Colleagues, I rise today in strong opposition to the pending motion. The intent behind the bill is to recognize the developmental differences in young adults, but the approach it proposes is deeply flawed and could have unintended consequences that undermine public safety and the integrity of our justice system. The amended version of the bill removes the 'under 26' language, but still presents much to be concerned about.

By taking a person's age into account when sentencing, we risk creating a system where accountability is diminished based solely on a person's age. This could lead to lighter sentences for serious offenses, undermining the principle that the severity of the crime should correspond with the severity of its punishment. Such an approach could erode public trust in our justice system and send a message that certain individuals are above the law. Victims of crime deserve justice, and the public deserves to feel safe knowing that those who commit crimes are held appropriately accountable.

If this bill passes, it could lead to sentences that are perceived as lenient, particularly for violent crimes. This perception could undermine confidence in our legal system and may even embolden potential offenders, knowing that they might receive more lenient treatment due to their age. We need to remember that crimes have victims, and those victims deserve to see justice. Please join me and oppose the pending motion.

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

Representative **KUHN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill adds an additional consideration to the analysis applied by judges upon sentencing for Class A, B and C crimes. The current law, which we had occasion to discuss last week, states that "relevant sentencing factors include, but are not limited to, the character of the individual, the individual's criminal history, the effect of the offense on the victim and the protection of the public interest." This would add an additional consideration, the court shall consider "the age of the individual at the time the conduct forming the basis for the conviction occurred."

I want to be clear that this change would not introduce any leniency into charging of crimes or conviction of crimes. It doesn't even introduce leniency in sentencing of crimes. But it does allow a judge to consider age as a possible factor, as has been established through scientific research on brain development. The bill's Sponsor stated in her testimony numerous empirical studies show that "individuals are at the highest risk of committing crimes during their late teenage years through their mid-20s, a pattern that aligns with findings from neurodevelopmental brain science about the capacity the brain has within these years to make sound decisions."

This bill strikes just the right balance. It allows a judge to take relevant factors into account without tying her hands to impose a just sentence that is commensurate with the crime. I would ask the Members to support the pending motion.

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

Representative **POIRIER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just, to add on to this really quickly, I want you to think of a scenario, and I won't form it as a question, but think about this: Your loved one is raped, your loved one is murdered. Should it matter if the person is 19, 40 or 70, how it is perceived and the sentence handed down? If it was your family member; think about that.

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

Representative **LEE**: Yes, I just, responsive to the concerns raised by the Good Representative from Skowhegan, I'm sure that those factors would also be part of the analysis as to the effect of the offense on the victim and the protection of the public interest, which is presently part of that same analysis.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 372

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

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

ABSENT - Archer, Cray, Gattine, Underwood.

Yes, 74; No, 71; Absent, 4; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 71 voted in the negative, with 4 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-556)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-556)** and sent for concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Affirm Parental Rights" (H.P. 1318) (L.D. 1974)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland

TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth

LEE of Auburn

O'HALLORAN of Brewer

PUGH of Portland

SATO of Gorham

SINCLAIR of Bath

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-548)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

BABIN of Fort Fairfield

CARUSO of Caratunk

HENDERSON of Rumford

POIRIER of Skowhegan

READ.

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

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

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

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

Representative **POIRIER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I rise today to speak in strong support of LD 1974.

This legislation is a reaffirmation of the foundational principle that parents are the primary and most invested guardian of their children's well-being, education and upbringing. At its core, this bill seeks to restore and protect the natural, inherent and inalienable rights of parents to direct the upbringing, education and care of their minor children. These rights are not merely privileges, but are fundamental to the family unit and the fabric of our society, and these rights are being eroded.

By enacting this law, we send a clear message that our State recognizes and respects the authority of parents in making decisions that are in the best interests of their children. While this bill affirms parental rights, it also recognizes the State's responsibility to protect children from abuse and neglect. The Amended version includes safeguards that allow for State intervention in cases where a child's safety is at risk. This balanced approach ensures that parental rights are upheld while also prioritizing the protection of children from harm.

The legislation encourages schools to work collaboratively with parents to develop policies and practices that promote parental involvement in the education process. By fostering a partnership between parents and schools, we create an environment where children can thrive academically and emotionally.

This bill does strike a careful balance between affirming parental rights and safeguarding the well-being of children. Mr. Speaker, I ask you to stand with me, stand with parents and oppose the pending motion. Thank you.

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

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

The Due Process Clause of the U.S. Constitution already protects the fundamental rights of parents and, in fact, that right is also specifically referenced in Maine Statute. I'm looking at 10-A MRS §1651, that states "the parents are the joint natural guardians of their minor children and are jointly entitled to the care, custody, control services and earnings of their children. Neither parent has any rights paramount to the rights of the other with reference to any matter affecting their children."

So, this is already in law in certain parts of the Code. However, courts have recognized that a parent's right is not absolute nor forever free from State interference. This is true because the rights of another person, the child, must also be protected by the State. And that's where this bill comes into conflict with other laws designed to protect Maine kids, their access to health care and their educational services.

So, specifically, when it comes to health care, this bill would call into conflict current law that allows minors to consent to certain health care such as sexual and reproductive care, mental health services, substance use treatment and so on. This is especially needed when young people are not in safe and supporting homes. We wish that they all were. For example, we heard testimony from Planned Parenthood, who said young people who have a supportive relationship with their parents are likely to consult with them about an important medical decision, but those who do not disclose their health care decision making to their parents often have good reason. For young people living in abusive households, disclosing sexual activity or pregnancy can trigger physical or emotional abuse or being thrown out of the home. Rather than helping young people, parental involvement laws can create an environment that makes young people less likely to seek the care they need.

In addition, regarding imposition of this phrase with respect to education, the bill would create conflict with numerous laws around public education, including, for example, requirements around vaccination or oversight of home schooling, not to mention the smooth day-to-day functioning of our public schools. We heard from the Maine School Board Association and the superintendents that under this Statute, parents could be free to challenge and/or sue a school district over any decision that goes against their wishes. This could be a decision around curriculum, extracurriculars, special ed services or even the classroom a student is assigned to. While schools of course seek to listen and respond to parent input, putting the final word on these decisions in the hands of parents could create an untenable situation that could challenge the smooth operation of our schools and/or lead to more lawsuits and potential financial damages against school districts. And I would note that, indeed, the Fiscal Note on this bill referenced the possibility of additional litigation costs.

So, for all of these reasons, this bill is both unnecessary and not implementable and I urge the Body to support the pending motion. Thank you.

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

Representative **CARUSO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of LD 1974, and I oppose the current motion, because this bill is about Maine families.

The unique and intimate relationship between a parent and a child, otherwise known as 'family.' It creates a high duty and a natural right that pre-dates all cultural structures, even government itself. It addresses what our society fundamentally recognizes as the primacy and responsibility of parents to raise their offspring. These rights, while seemingly self-evident, do merit legislative protection.

This bill brings into focus why we need to protect families. Why are we even here? What do we even hope for? It's safe to say that you and I enjoy having individual liberty and autonomy, the ability to work, the freedom to purchase personal property and pursue happiness, but even more so, we strive for the health and well-being of our families. To create the conditions and abilities to raise our future generation. The big picture is that the strength and well-being of our families directly contributes to the strength of our communities and our State.

Let's face it, children are born to parents, not to the government, and into families that form society. The laws of society should affirm the natural order of parents raising their children and reject the idea that children are the property of government. LD 1974 simply recognizes the hierarchy of family and society, and that parents are the joint natural guardians of their minor children, with the fundamental right and responsibility to direct their upbringing, their education and their care, without undue interference or overreach from their government. I agree, teachers and schools are absolutely valuable partners, but it's parents who have the 365/24/7 responsibility for the direction, the well-being, the finances and most matters concerning their minor children.

After all, Mainers are diverse regionally, socioeconomically and culturally. Not all families are the same, and the government's role has never been to raise families or to form children out of cookie-cutter molds. Affirming parental rights is public policy that the majority of Mainers are expecting from us. Whether people realize it or not, on a daily basis, parents are supplying the next generation, which we need to pass the baton to. We need our offspring to be whole and healthy, strong and confident, cared for and caring, capable and equipped, empowered to succeed, self-sufficient and independent, problem-solvers, excellent employees and employers, entrepreneurs, business owners, overall successfully navigators of daily life. And it's the parents who do this, who raise strong families. This is a critical path for society.

Clearly, government-run schools were never created to raise our children for us. Schools are places of instruction. And governments can't do it, either. Government was created to protect our rights and defend us. Of course, LD 1974 acknowledges that parental rights are not absolute when abuse, neglect and custody issues are present. Courts maintain the role to intervene when a child's well-being is at risk, and it would still decide on parental rights, responsibilities and termination of parental rights. This is a necessary balance to ensure our children's welfare.

While LD 1974 upholds the fundamental right of parents, supports joint responsibility and the consistent legal foundation for families, it ensures that children's best interests are upheld. It's a carefully balanced, common-sense and natural order of legislation that supports parents while promoting transparency, communication and collaboration between parents and those who interact with their children. It also safeguards the well-being of our minors. So, I encourage my colleagues to vote against the pending motion and support constituents and their families and their communities. Thank you.

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

Representative **LYMAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May I pose a question?

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **LYMAN**: I'm just curious if it is the goal of the State to encourage parents to choose home-schooling rather than public education?

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Livermore Falls, Representative Lyman, has posed a question through the Chair to any Member who wishes to answer. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Chelsea, Representative Lemelin.

Representative **LEMELIN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Wow, I'm perplexed. I can't even believe what I'm hearing today. The thought that people think that a parent who goes against the system is a dysfunctional parent is mind-blowing to me. So, if I want to talk my child out of robbing a bank, of wanting to change their sex, wanting to do dysfunctional things,

then I'm a bad parent. But if Planned Parenthood wants to give advice to my child to change their sex or to have an abortion, then they're good people and they should be parenting my child. I don't think I've ever heard anything more demonic in my whole life.

Schools and Planned Parenthood and the like are not parents. Can they give advice if they want to the parents? Sure. But the parents are definitely, 100% the final say in their child's lives, period. Unless somebody can prove that those parents aren't capable of being parents, that they're not protecting their children. Stopping my child from doing something wrong in the eyes of basically everybody except a select few doesn't make me a bad parent. If I want to pull my kids out of a school that is promoting DEI and other dysfunctional things, and I want to put them in a Catholic school, so they can have a proper upbringing, I have that right and that does not make me a bad parent.

This is absurd. For thousands of years, everybody's been in agreement that parents are in the care of their children, unless they've been proven not to be able to have the capacity to fulfill that goal. This is unbelievable. Absolutely unbelievable. I mean, I've never heard anything like this in my life, and I can't believe that there's any parents out there that disagree with this bill. Wow. That's all I can say. Thank you.

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

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

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm a little perplexed by the Fiscal Note and the claim that this will increase legal fees. With a quick Google search and not enough time to read both MRS 20-A and 22, I cannot find any private right to action clauses in there. So, what would cause this to increase lawsuits in those Fiscal Notes?

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 373

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

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

ABSENT - Cray, Lookner, Underwood.

Yes, 75; No, 71; Absent, 3; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 71 voted in the negative, with 3 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-530)** on RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Provide for the Popular Election of the Secretary of State

(H.P. 80) (L.D. 147)

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot
MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

ADAMS of Lebanon
GREENWOOD of Wales
POMERLEAU of Standish
TUELL of East Machias
UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

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

Signed:

Senator:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representatives:

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

READ.

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

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on her motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

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

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

Representative **SALISBURY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for allowing me to speak. I wanted to speak because I wanted to share that I will not be supporting this motion and I wanted to explain why.

We received, in State and Local Government, a series of six bills that were all Constitutional Amendments that are all related to the same section of Statute, Section 241. And the problem is, once we received all these bills and we were able to analyze them, each one talks about the different Constitutional Officers and the elections related to those different offices. And the problem is if all passed, they would negate each other --

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Point of Order.

The SPEAKER: The Member will defer. The Chair would inquire as to why the Representative from Wales rises.

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Good Representative from Westbrook is referring to other bills that are not before us at this time. We should only be discussing the bill that is before us, because we can't predict what votes would be on other pieces of legislation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

On **POINT OF ORDER**, Representative GREENWOOD of Wales asked the Chair if the remarks of Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook were germane to the pending question.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would ask the Member from Westbrook to ensure that her comments about the impact this bill might have on other issues at hand, so, try to keep your comments germane to this bill. Thank you.

The Chair reminded Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook to stay as close as possible to the pending question.

Representative **SALISBURY**: Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker, I'd be glad to do that. I just wanted to share for the group I will not be supporting this motion. I did pass; ask the group to move to Accept the Majority Report because that is something that is important to this Body, but I would have passed the Ought Not to Pass motion on the floor, the Minority Report.

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

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of the pending motion and would just draw attention to the bipartisan Report that we received. Thank you.

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

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

I just want to say these Constitutional Officer positions are very important to the people of Maine and I think we've; I think it's long past time to put this out to a vote of the people, Mr. Speaker. And I really, I mean, we've spoken about this many times. So, let's just turn this over to the people and let them decide these positions. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from St. George, Representative Matlack.

Representative **MATLACK**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I am in opposition to this bill. I have been in opposition to this bill since I first came into the Legislature, and even before that.

The State of Maine has a unique way of electing Constitutional Officers and the Auditor, and nobody else in the country does it this way. But other states in this country spend millions and millions of dollars of dark money on advertising and anything else they can think of to elect different people. We don't do that. We spend modest amounts of money on letters to people asking for their vote, telephone calls or emails asking for people's votes. I think that allowing for a statewide election of the Secretary of State just opens us up to huge amounts of money being spent for no good reason. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bridgton, Representative Cimino.

Representative **CIMINO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I have a question. Why is it dark money if we elect to have a popular election for Secretary of State, but it's not for the Chief Executive Officer to be elected by the people of the State, and then the Representatives, the State Reps, the State Senators and the Congresspeople?

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

Representative **LEE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I support the people having an opportunity to vote on whether we should democratically elect our Constitutional Officers. I don't think that the *ad hoc* approach of this bill is the right approach, and I'll be voting against the motion.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 374

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

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

ABSENT - Cray, Underwood, Wood S.

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

69 having voted in the affirmative and 77 voted in the negative, with 3 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **NOT ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, on motion of Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook, the Minority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-529)** on RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Provide for the Popular Election of the Attorney General (H.P. 82) (L.D. 149)

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot
MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

ADAMS of Lebanon
GREENWOOD of Wales
POMERLEAU of Standish
TUELL of East Machias
UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

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

Signed:

Senator:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook

COPELAND of Saco

FARRIN of Jefferson

MATLACK of St. George

ROLLINS of Augusta

READ.

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

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on her motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

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

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

Representative **SALISBURY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, the reason I'm rising to speak is that I will not be supporting this Report. I am on the Minority Report, which was the Ought Not to Pass. Again, this is a proposal for a Constitutional Amendment electing the Attorney General, and I do not support that. I would like to point out on these bills that is a Constitutional Referendum, the Fiscal Note on these is approximately \$341,000 for each of those. Thank you.

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

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of the pending motion, and I'll just note that almost all of these bills will have a Fiscal Note which will probably not be seen, because it's the potential that the ballot be longer, so, it's just there as a token, but it's not really a Fiscal Note, Mr. Speaker.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 375

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

NAY - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Bagshaw, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Bridgeo, Bunker, Campbell, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury,

Sinclair, Skold, Soboleski, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

ABSENT - Cray, Lanigan, Underwood, Wood S.

Yes, 66; No, 79; Absent, 4; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

66 having voted in the affirmative and 79 voted in the negative, with 4 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **NOT ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, on motion of Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook, the Minority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-559)** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Legislative Reimbursement"

(H.P. 1312) (L.D. 1968)

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representatives:

SALISBURY of Westbrook

COPELAND of Saco

FARRIN of Jefferson

MATLACK of St. George

ROLLINS of Augusta

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-560)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

ADAMS of Lebanon

GREENWOOD of Wales

POMERLEAU of Standish

TUELL of East Machias

UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

READ.

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

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

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in opposition to the pending motion and request a Roll Call.

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

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

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

Representative **TUELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in staunch opposition to the pending motion and do so for several reasons.

First, I believe it sends the wrong message to the Maine people that we are taking lawmakers' meals, lodging and travel reimbursement rates out of Statute and giving legislative leadership *carte blanche* to raise those rates every year. Most of our constituents are struggling. They don't get \$120 a day for food and lodging while we sit here debating frogs, dogs, mushrooms, outdoor lighting regulations and an increasing number of frivolous bills every Session, instead of finding ways to reduce spending, lower taxes and improve the quality of life for our elderly, disabled and veterans. Whether it's a vote keeping our hospitals open, providing badly needed funding for our schools, ensuring rural law enforcement has the resources it needs to root out crime, this bill should be one of the absolute last things we should be considering given the current state of affairs. Perhaps, then, that is why it was, in fact, one of the last bills we heard in Committee this Session and voted out two days before all bills were to be reported out of Committee.

I also oppose this bill because the 131st Legislature already gave lawmakers a hefty boost in reimbursement rates on top of, I will say on top of, a salary increase. The difference: there was consensus after years of bipartisan work to make it happen in that case. I know because I was part of that work before the pandemic derailed it days before the 129th Legislature adjourned *sine die*. The Chairs and Leads of State and Local had an agreement in place at that time, having consulted with our leaderships, as there was recognition that the rates, reimbursement rates, needed a boost. If memory serves, in the 130th Legislature, we approved something very similar, but it did not get off the Special Appropriations Table. While I was not here last Session, the raise that those who were came up with, something very close to what we had previously worked on and finally got it to pass. I certainly recognize that doing so is a heavy lift, but it needs to be a heavy lift. We have gone from an overdue adjustment to what will become an annual adjustment that will never be enough, no matter how often it's changed.

I also object to this bill because I believe we are turning this Legislature into a full-time professional Body instead of a citizen Legislature made up of everyday people. Whether it's refusing to give the people on the other side of these windows a vote in our legislative pay every time we take a fancy to pushing a pay raise or an annual meals and lodging reimbursement or plans to extend the session by a simple majority or half-baked studies to look at longer legislative sessions in general, that is the road we're on and the Maine people need to know that this bill is one piece of a much grander design. A design to morph the Maine Legislature into the United States Congress, turning this into the very thing that nobody on either side of the aisle says they want. Mr. Speaker, I reject that notion and object to this bill. I believe our focus should not be what goes on under this dome, but what goes on out in the heartland of the State.

Before I close, I want to highlight the other provision in this bill, which seeks to give equal pay to Members elected to the Legislature midway through a term. That is right, just and fair, and is worth supporting in and of itself. I believe we can achieve that goal by rejecting the pending motion and moving on to another Report which keeps that portion of the bill intact and would urge everyone to do so. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

I appreciate the supportive comments of the Representative from East Machias for one aspect of that bill. It is a very important aspect that I had to actually inform the Representative from Bangor, Representative Faircloth about this morning, which is that anyone elected in a special election to this Body gets paid dramatically less than all of the rest of us. Current Statute is a tiny stipend and this bill proposes to give someone elected in a special election the full salary, but prorated to when they were sworn in. While that certainly applies to a Member of my caucus this session, it is not unique to my party. The Representative from Waldoboro, Representative Simmons, was elected in a special election last Session, and he was equally not well served by how low the stipend was when he should've been paid the real salary prorated to when he was sworn in. So, appreciate that we have bipartisan agreement that we should fix that.

The other portion of the bill, though, I think is equally important. It deals with reimbursements to Members for hotels and meals. I believe that this is something that the Legislative Council can and would easily handle. I know folks like to think that we fight all the time, but we actually have very little drama in Legislative Council. Everything we do has to be done within the confines of the budget for the Legislature. In fact, recently, we had unanimous agreement to give the Senate Republican Office two additional staff positions, as well as to extend a temporary staff position in the House Republican Office for an additional length of time. All of those votes were unanimous, all of those votes were done within the confines of the budget of the Legislature, just like reimbursements would have to be done if Legislative Council was the one deciding them.

In addition to the fact that there's the safeguard of it having to be done within the confines of the budget, the bill also clarifies another safeguard, which is that these reimbursements could never be set higher than what is allowed by the federal government. I think those safeguards are sufficient. I trust that leaders in both parties could come together in Legislative Council and figure out an appropriate rate for all of our Members in both parties to be adequately reimbursed for their expenses that they accrue while serving the people of Maine. I ask for your support for the bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **SUPICA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise because recently, in speaking with another Member of the House, I was talking about how since serving in the Legislature, what little savings I had previous to this, I've blown through, and I make very little money. So, something about me is that I wait tables for a living, and it's really hard to tell your boss, I can only be here on certain days, certain times and I never know when I'll get called in, especially around June. And so, I haven't gone into a lot of debt from serving, but it's really hard to kind of lose money on coming here every day when you're not really making an income, a livable income.

And so, I would say if we want to actually work on these issues that people outside of these walls are asking us to work on and the people who are just on the margins barely getting by, we need to have a system where those people can partake in this and have a seat at the table. Because I have a saying: It's not a compromise when you're on the losing end of a compromise. And so, you know, if we want to keep it a citizen Legislature, we need to be able to reimburse people properly for it and so that I can be here working with people like the Good Representative from East Machias to save the Maine veteran homes. Thank you.

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

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to take a moment for the good words for the Good Representative from East Machias, he put it into context that the per diems should be set by this Body, not by the leadership or Legislative Council.

That being said, there was a piece of this bill that I did support, and that's why you'll see; I would hope you would vote down this motion, so we could get to that next piece, which would align the salaries, as the Good Representative from Portland indicated, for Members who are elected in a special election, so, they'd be fairly compensated. So, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I encourage you to vote no on the pending and look for the next Report.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 376

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

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

ABSENT - Cray, Julia, Lanigan, Underwood, Wood S.

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

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-559)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-559)** and sent for concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-528)** on **RESOLUTION**, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Provide for the Popular Election of the Treasurer of State

(H.P. 83) (L.D. 150)

Signed:

Senators:

BALDACCI of Penobscot
MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

ADAMS of Lebanon
GREENWOOD of Wales
POMERLEAU of Standish
TUELL of East Machias
UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

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

Signed:

Representatives:

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

READ.

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

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on her motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

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

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

Representative **SALISBURY**: I'm just standing again to let you know that I will not be supporting this motion. I am on the Minority Report of Ought Not to Pass. Again, I am not in favor of the proposal to the Amendment to elect Constitutional Officers or, in this case, the Treasurer of the State. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 377

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

NAY - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen,

Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

ABSENT - Cray, Lanigan, Underwood, Wood S.

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

70 having voted in the affirmative and 75 voted in the negative, with 4 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **NOT ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, on motion of Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook, the Minority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Phase out the Sales and Use Tax"

(H.P. 989) (L.D. 1505)

Signed:

Senators:

GROHOSKI of Hancock

TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:

CLOUTIER of Lewiston

CROCKETT of Portland

FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor

LAVIGNE of Berwick

MATLACK of St. George

SAYRE of Kennebunk

WHITE of Ellsworth

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-552)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

BICKFORD of Androscoggin

Representatives:

QUINT of Hodgdon

RUDNICKI of Fairfield

SWALLOW of Houlton

READ.

Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

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

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

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is a very simple bill, and it helps everyone, there's no carveouts. It's a half a percent off the sales tax every two years until it's gone. It's as simple as that. Thank you.

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

Representative **CLOUTIER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, LD 1505 proposes phasing out the current sales and use tax by half a percentage point every two years for a total period of 22 to 40 years, depending on sales tax rates, which currently range from 5.5% on most taxable goods and some services to 10% on car rentals and cannabis. The sales and use tax provides an important source of revenue for the State. This bill would eliminate the source of approximately 38% of State tax revenue and create an annual loss of over \$2 billion for the State's General Fund. As a result, the Legislature would have to cut crucial programs and services that Mainers rely on every day. This would also significantly impact municipal revenue sharing, which provides five percent of State sales tax receipts to municipalities. As a result, municipalities would also have to cut services or raise property taxes to make up for this lost revenue. In addition, the bill would cost \$86 million in FY '25 and '26, increasing to \$379 million in FY '28-'29 in lost revenue, without a means by which to replace it.

Please join me in support of the bipartisan Majority Report out of the Taxation Committee and vote Ought Not to Pass.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 378

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arata, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Bishop, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Caruso, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Cooper, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, Daigle, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eder, Faircloth, Farrin, Flynn, Foley, Fredericks, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Greenwood, Hall, Hasenfus, Henderson, Hepler, Jackson, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lavigne, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mingo, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Nutting, O'Halloran, Osher, Parry, Pluecker, Pomerleau, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Simmons, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Tuell, Warren, Webb, White R, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Chapman, Cimino, Collins, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Foster, Fredette, Gifford, Guerrette, Haggan, Hymes, Javner, Lance, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Morris, Olsen, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmiersal-Burgess, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, Wood P, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Cray, Lanigan, Underwood, Wood S.

Yes, 99; No, 46; Absent, 4; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

99 having voted in the affirmative and 46 voted in the negative, with 4 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Eliminate Taxation on Health Care Spending"

(H.P. 1270) (L.D. 1899)

Signed:

Senators:

GROHOSKI of Hancock

TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:

CLOUTIER of Lewiston

CROCKETT of Portland

FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor

MATLACK of St. George

SAYRE of Kennebunk

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-550)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

BICKFORD of Androscoggin

Representatives:

LAVIGNE of Berwick

QUINT of Hodgdon

RUDNICKI of Fairfield

SWALLOW of Houlton

WHITE of Ellsworth

READ.

Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

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

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

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

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill gives taxpayers the ability to take a tax deduction for out-of-pocket medical and dental expenses, even if they don't qualify for the federal deductions. For example, on your federal taxes, you have to spend 7.5%, better than 7.5% on medical or dental to have it count. And the thing we have right now is our standard deduction is high enough that that's very rare that people are taking that. But on the Maine side, if we look at that, what this would do is actually allow those out-of-pocket expenses that have not been reimbursed by the insurance companies or anything to be able to claim as a tax deduction. Just follow my light and vote for this particular bill. Thank you.

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

Representative **CLOUTIER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, LD 1899 proposes to provide an income tax subtraction modification for medical and dental expenses paid by the taxpayer, the taxpayer's spouse or dependents during the taxable year to the extent the expenses were not compensated by insurance or deducted when determining federal adjusted gross income.

This proposal will benefit higher-income individuals more than lower-income individuals, due to lower-income individuals having far less Maine income tax liability by which to take advantage of the deduction. In addition, Maine Revenue Services noted in their testimony that as currently written, the bill would allow not only the taxpayer, the taxpayer's spouse if filing separately and the taxpayer's dependents to each claim an

income subtraction modification for the same expenditures and amounts claimed as itemized deductions. Finally, this bill would cost \$185 million in FY '26-'27, increasing to \$200 million in FY '28-'29 in lost revenue, again without a means by which to replace it.

Please join me in support of the pending motion.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 379

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

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

ABSENT - Cray, Lanigan, Underwood, Wood S.

Yes, 77; No, 68; Absent, 4; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

77 having voted in the affirmative and 68 voted in the negative, with 4 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

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

BILLS IN THE SECOND READING

Senate as Amended

Bill "An Act Regarding the Voting Requirement to Extend the Date for Adjournment of the Legislature"

(S.P. 663) (L.D. 1668)

(C. "A" S-215)

Was reported by the Committee on **Bills in the Second Reading**.

Representative GREENWOOD of Wales **REQUESTED** a roll call on **ACCEPTANCE** of the Committee Report.

Subsequently, Representative GREENWOOD of Wales **WITHDREW** his **REQUEST** for a roll call.

The Bill was **READ** the second time.

Representative GREENWOOD of Wales **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-215)**.

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

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

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to draw Members' attention to LD 1668.

Currently in Statute, it states that the Legislature, in the case of emergency may by a vote of two-thirds of the Members extend legislative session by five days. This proposal takes away any bipartisanship that we had wanted to have, Mr. Speaker. This changes it to a simple majority. That is a dramatic change and that is something that I want the Members to take careful consideration. Yes, one party has a majority now, but the next party may have a majority at a later date.

Mr. Speaker, the purpose of a two-thirds was to get buy-in from both sides. This takes that away. I ask the Members to vote no on the pending motion. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Passage to be Engrossed as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-215). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 380

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

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

ABSENT - Cray, Lanigan, Underwood, Wood S.

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

73 having voted in the affirmative and 72 voted in the negative, with 4 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-215)** in concurrence.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Report

Majority Report of the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-247)** on Bill "An Act to Establish the Manufactured Housing Community and Mobile Home Park Preservation and Assistance Fund" (S.P. 433) (L.D. 1016)

Signed:

Senator:

CURRY of Waldo

Representatives:

GERE of Kennebunkport

EDER of Waterboro

GOLEK of Harpswell

JULIA of Waterville

MALON of Biddeford

YUSUF of Portland

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

Signed:

Senator:

BENNETT of Oxford

Representatives:

COLLAMORE of Pittsfield

MINGO of Calais

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-247)**.

READ.

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

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The following matters, in the consideration of which the House was engaged at the time of adjournment Thursday, June 5, 2025, had preference in the Orders of the Day and continued with such preference until disposed of as provided by House Rule 502.

An Act to Decriminalize Personal Possession of Therapeutic Amounts of Psilocybin for Adults

(H.P. 663) (L.D. 1034)

TABLED - June 4, 2025 (Till Later Today) by Representative MOONEN of Portland.

PENDING - PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED. (Roll Call Ordered)

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

ROLL CALL NO. 381

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

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Archer, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Bunker, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredette, Frost, Gifford, Graham, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Javner, Kuhn, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lyman, Mason, Mastraccio, McIntyre, Meyer, Mingo, Mitchell, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmiersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Stover, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Woodsome, Zager.

ABSENT - Cray, Underwood, Wood S.

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

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

An Act to Provide for the Direct Shipment of Spirits to Consumers

(H.P. 1172) (L.D. 1754)

(C. "A" H-385)

TABLED - June 4, 2025 (Till Later Today) by Representative MOONEN of Portland.

PENDING - **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED.** (Roll Call Ordered)

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

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think I will need a spirit shipped directly to my seat after all that drama. The highs, the lows, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I stand tonight in support of free markets, small businesses and consumer choice. All we're asking for in this bill is to give a pathway for things to become listed, out-of-state companies to have their products become listed and bought and sold in Maine, and then also to allow the couple dozen Maine distilleries to ship inside our State, and out of state. Right now, they can't, and because of the Commerce Clause, we have to let it go both ways, Mr. Speaker.

So, these distilleries, they came to our Committee, they asked for this bill. We have distilleries all the way from I believe Harrington, Maine all the way down to York County, Maine and everywhere in between. The bill is very, very narrowly tailored. You sell 60 cases, then it becomes listed. Mr. Speaker, no one is going to spend more money and wait longer to get a product that's available down the road that they can pick up on the way home. That's not what this bill is about. This bill is about choice to allow; if you want a specialty bottle, Mr. Speaker, and you go

to the liquor store, they're not going to put an order for one bottle for you. So, that's the other issue we're trying to solve.

And again, it's very narrowly tailored, it supports free market, it supports a pathway for businesses to become listed where there is demand and I think the idea that it's going to hurt our mom-and-pop businesses, it's just not there with that, the way it's constructed. We've had direct-to-consumer wine shipping for a couple decades, and it hasn't been an issue in the State. Again, look in the bill; taxes are taken care of, spirits pricing, you have to be 21 to sign for the common carrier. So, a lot of thought's been put into it. The Department, BABLO is ready to implement, they worked on this bill, this Amendment, so that it could become workable and implementable. So, I hope the Body would follow my light. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 382

YEA - Abdi, Archer, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Carlow, Caruso, Cimino, Cloutier, Collamore, Cooper, Crockett, Dill, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Fredericks, Frost, Gattine, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Hasenfus, Henderson, Hymes, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lance, Lanigan, Lavigne, Lee, Libby, Lyman, McIntyre, Murphy, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pluecker, Pomerleau, Quint, Ray, Roberts, Roeder, Rudnicki, Runte, Salisbury, Sargent, Sayre, Schmiersal-Burgess, Simmons, Skold, Smith, Soboleski, Stover, Strout, Swallow, Terry, Thorne, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Woodsome, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Ankeles, Arata, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Campbell, Chapman, Cluchey, Collins, Copeland, Crafts, Daigle, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Faircloth, Farrin, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredette, Friedmann, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hepler, Jackson, Javner, Lajoie, Lemelin, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mason, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mingo, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Morris, Nutting, Osher, Poirier, Pugh, Rana, Rielly, Rollins, Sachs, Sato, Shagoury, Sinclair, Supica, Tuell, Wadsworth, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager.

ABSENT - Cray, Underwood, Wood S.

Yes, 71; No, 75; Absent, 3; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

71 having voted in the affirmative and 75 voted in the negative, with 3 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Bill **FAILED PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED** and was sent to the Senate.

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

HOUSE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (7) **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-466)** - Minority (4) **Ought Not to Pass** - Committee on **LABOR** on Bill "An Act to Allow Teachers to Qualify for Overtime Pay"

(H.P. 421) (L.D. 653)

TABLED - June 5, 2025 (Till Later Today) by Representative ROEDER of Bangor.

PENDING - **ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT.**

On motion of Representative RIOEDER of Bangor, the Bill and all accompanying papers were **COMMITTED** to the Committee on **LABOR** and sent for concurrence.

SENATE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (8) **Ought Not to Pass** - Minority (5) **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-75)** - Committee on **TAXATION** on Bill "An Act to Increase the Total Amount of Credits Authorized Under the Maine Seed Capital Tax Credit Program"

(S.P. 52) (L.D. 125)

- In Senate, Minority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-75)**.

TABLED - May 20, 2025 (Till Later Today) by Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston.

PENDING - **ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT**.

Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

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

Representative **SAYRE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. With all due respect to my colleagues on the Taxation Committee and the good work of the Committee, I rise in opposition to the pending motion.

The Seed Capital Tax Credit is an important tool in the arsenal that we have here in the State; I'm sorry, you don't have tools in arsenals, you have weapons; tool in the toolkit. It's late. To help grow Maine's economy. We debate a lot in this Chamber about how to fund the needs of folks in the community who are in need, and the limitations on the burden of taxation that the people of Maine can bear. And really, the only way out of that bind is to grow the economy, to grow the pie. And the Seed Capital Tax Credit Program is a very important component, a unique component, in the mix of vehicles that we have to support growth in Maine's economy. Companies that benefitted from this include companies like Tanbark, like TimberHP, like bluShift Aerospace. These are the sources of family-supporting wage jobs that are absolutely essential to take Maine to a more prosperous future.

This bill will; voting no on the pending motion will support an increase of the amount of credits from the five million dollars that it has recently been cut to, back to \$10 million. In the past, it has been as high as \$15 million per year, and the current level of demand is six or seven million dollars. It's a substantial multiplier and a benefit to the State from the investment that is made in early-stage companies through this program, and I encourage you for the sake of Maine's prosperity that you follow my light. Thank you.

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

Representative **FREDETTE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I actually used this program for a client about 15 years ago that was starting a company that was doing research on potatoes. It helped them quite a bit to get started and have a program that worked for them. So, I will not be supporting the Majority Ought Not to Pass Report.

Representative QUINT of Hodgdon **REQUESTED** that the Clerk **READ** the Committee Report.

The Clerk **READ** the Committee Report in its entirety.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 383

YEA - Adams, Arata, Bagshaw, Bishop, Boyer M, Brennan, Chapman, Cimino, Cloutier, Collins, Gattine, Gifford, Golek, Greenwood, Haggan, Henderson, Hymes, Javner, Lance, Lanigan, Lavigne, Libby, Lyman, Macias, McIntyre, Milliken, Morris, Olsen, Paul, Pluecker, Poirier, Quint, Rana, Rielly, Rudnicki, Sachs, Schmearsal-Burgess, Skold, Stover, Tuell, Walker, Warren.

NAY - Abdi, Albert, Ankeles, Archer, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Beck, Bell, Blier, Boyer D, Bridgeo, Bunker, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Cluchey, Collamore, Cooper, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, Daigle, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faircloth, Farrin, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Friedmann, Frost, Geiger, Gere, Graham, Gramlich, Guerrette, Hall, Hasenfus, Hepler, Jackson, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lemelin, Lookner, Malon, Mason, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Mingo, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Nutting, O'Halloran, Osher, Parry, Perkins, Pomerleau, Pugh, Ray, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Simmons, Sinclair, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Supica, Swallow, Terry, Thorne, Wadsworth, Webb, White J, White R, Wood P, Woodsome, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

ABSENT - Cray, Underwood, Wood S.

Yes, 42; No, 104; Absent, 3; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

42 having voted in the affirmative and 104 voted in the negative, with 3 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **NOT ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, on motion of Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston, the Minority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-75)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-75)** in concurrence.

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

HOUSE REPORT - **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-442)** - Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Establish the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias Prevention and Support Program"

(H.P. 1112) (L.D. 1677)

TABLED - June 3, 2025 (Till Later Today) by Representative MOONEN of Portland.

PENDING - **ACCEPTANCE OF COMMITTEE REPORT**.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-442)** was **READ** by the Clerk.

Representative SHAGOURY of Hallowell **PRESENTED** House Amendment "A" (H-512) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-442), which was **READ** by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Hallowell, Representative Shagoury.

Representative **SHAGOURY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Alzheimer's disease and other related dementias are a serious and growing problem in Maine, and LD 1677 helps keep the State preparedness project in place. The State is doing a good job right now in planning for Alzheimer's disease, but that work is paid for by a federal grant and there is some concern that the grant may go away. This Amendment merely allows the Department to continue its work and seek outside funding from private sources should the federal grant go away. And it just clarifies that it has no Fiscal Note.

Subsequently, **House Amendment "A" (H-512)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (H-442)** was **ADOPTED**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-442) as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-512) thereto was **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules, the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-442) as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-512)** thereto and sent for concurrence.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Prevent the MaineCare Program from Covering Abortion Services"

(H.P. 162) (L.D. 253)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland

TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth

LEE of Auburn

O'HALLORAN of Brewer

PUGH of Portland

SATO of Gorham

SINCLAIR of Bath

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-593)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

BABIN of Fort Fairfield

CARUSO of Caratunk

HENDERSON of Rumford

POIRIER of Skowhegan

READ.

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

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

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

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

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Hyde Amendment, enacted in 1976 with bipartisan support, established a longstanding principle that federal taxpayer dollars should not be used to fund abortions except in cases of rape, incest or when the mother's life is at risk. This policy has been upheld for decades, recognizing the deeply held convictions of millions of Americans who oppose abortion.

While Maine is not bound by the Hyde Amendment in State-funded programs, the principle remains: Taxpayers should not be forced to fund a practice that so many find morally objectionable. Public funding of abortion compels taxpayers to support a procedure that many believe ends human life. Government should never mandate its citizens to act against their core values, particularly when it comes to matters of life and death. The fundamental right to freedom of conscience must be upheld in our budgeting decisions, and forcing Mainers to subsidize abortions directly contradicts that principle.

Additionally, our State faces significant financial challenges. Maine's budget is stretched thin and we must make difficult decisions about how to allocate resources. Taxpayer dollars should be directed toward critical needs such as education, infrastructure and health care services that preserve and enhance life rather than terminating it. Funding elective abortion is an unnecessary expense. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **KUHN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The goal of this restrictive policy is to prevent women from having access to abortion care.

Representative Henry Hyde, previously mentioned, who championed the ban on federal funds for abortion, famously stated, 'I would certainly like to prevent, if I could legally, anyone having an abortion; a rich woman, a middle-class woman or a poor woman.' Unfortunately, the only vehicle available is the Medicaid bill, which we know directly and singularly impacts low-income women.

Denying low-income women access to critical health care can have devastating consequences. In the Committee, we heard testimony from numerous health care providers on this impact, including from the Maine Public Health Association, whose director testified, "forcing someone who is pregnant to carry a high-risk pregnancy to term threatens the life; and quality of life; of the mother and the fetus. For many life-threatening cases, abortion is standard care. Denying people the right to access safe abortion services makes it more likely they will suffer complications and increases the likelihood of dying. In states with restrictions on Medicaid coverage for abortion care, there is a 29% higher maternal mortality rate compared to states with less restrictive policies."

It is both unfair and unconscionable that a person on MaineCare can go forward with a pregnancy, with all the costs from prenatal to postpartum care covered, but if they are unable or unwilling to carry to term, they are on their own. This will result in patients being forced to carry pregnancy against their will and/or contrary to their health.

I urge my colleagues to reject this cruel measure and vote in support of the pending motion to ensure that all patients, rich and poor, are able to make their own medical decisions. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Chester, Representative Javner.

Representative **JAVNER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I really want to bring attention to the Fiscal Note. I guess I was a little bit naïve in thinking when I put this bill in that it was going to be just the straight across-the-board savings for the State. But come to find out, there is an initial savings of \$500,000 for the abortions that do get paid through MaineCare, but then on the other hand, you have \$2 million that would be spent for babies that would be born. And that just really shocked me that people would vote against this measure for the amount of money that it will cost to actually have a baby come to term and birth.

We're losing our, you know, places where they have babies; thank you, birthing centers; and everything. It's quite late. And so, I just would really bring attention to that Fiscal Note, that it is; it's objectionable; morally objectionable to me that you would vote against this because it's going to cost more for having term births than not having term births. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 384

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

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

ABSENT - Cray, Underwood, Wood S.

Yes, 80; No, 66; Absent, 3; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

80 having voted in the affirmative and 66 voted in the negative, with 3 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Regulate Medication Abortions"

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

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-592)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

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

READ.

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

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

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

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

Representative **HENDERSON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I am no stranger to debating abortion bills on this House Floor. But generally, from the inception of legalization of abortion, women have been told that abortion rights are 'essential,' because it helps or would avoid unsafe abortions, that it would protect women's health, keep them from having back-alley coat hanger abortions. But currently, just to kind of give you the landscape of where we are today and how this bill plugs into Maine's current abortion laws, right now, Maine's abortion laws are incredibly broad, expansive and permissive. And this bill would put necessary guardrails on the 'abortion ecosystem' laws in the State of Maine, as it were.

Currently in Maine, one does not need to be a medical doctor to perform an abortion. An ultrasound is not performed. Taxpayers are forced to pay for abortions, as we just saw. There's no waiting period. And parental consent is not required, and that's just to name a few things. And we do know that full-term abortions are fully permissible in the State of Maine as well. But what this bill does is simple. It just says that if a doctor prescribes a chemical abortion, they need to oversee the administration of the drug. I've had a number of procedures myself that I was very thankful a doctor was there to oversee the procedure. The doctor has to inform the patient what to expect as far as side effects go, and the doctor has to inform the patient what the risks are associated with the procedure.

Now, there is a massive new study, to the tune of just over 865,000 subjects of mifepristone abortions from 2027 to 2023, and it shows that almost 11% of women experience serious

adverse events. That's 22 times higher than the drug labeled to claim. Complications include sepsis, hemorrhaging, infection, emergency surgery and hospitalization, all within the month and a half of taking the pill, just 45 days within taking the pill. The FDA relies on an outdated and limited clinical trial of less than 31,000 participants, and it claims that the drug is safe after this study proves 22 times higher than what the label claims is safe. But the trials themselves that are labeled safe exclude many real-world risk factors, especially around the carefully controlled medical setting. So, all these subjects, 31,000 subjects, were in a carefully controlled medical setting. But I right now can go online and purchase abortion drugs and take them at home with no oversight. That is not a carefully controlled medical setting.

Today, prescribers only have to report; ready; today, a prescriber only has to report if a patient dies. From my health of where I stand right now to death, there's a lot of steps, but the only time a medical professional has to report is if I'm dead? No reporting required for serious but nonfatal complications. This means the policymakers and the public are operating without accurate safety data and that chemical abortions right now in the U.S.; granted, this is not State of Maine data, but it in the U.S. broadly; make up two out of every three abortions. And as use increases, so does the number of women harmed.

Abortion providers claim to care about women's health. If that's true, they should support measures that protect women from bleeding out at home. They should support measures that protect women from going septic alone at home. They should support measures that protect women from needing emergency surgery without warning. I find it a really uncomfortable and odd, odd position to be in to be supporting and defending safe abortions. I don't know if I ever thought that I'd be here, but here we are. At the precipice of legalizing abortion, the focus was on the health and safety of the mother. The focus was on the health and safety of the woman. That was the thing that was of paramount concern. And now, it's the abortion itself that's elevated above all else. The opposition to this measure alone, that doesn't seek to protect women, it seeks to protect abortions at all cost. This bill moves the needle back in the right direction, where women are actually valued greater than the abortion is valued and where our laws can reflect our desire to protect Maine women.

I would encourage every Member in this building, every Member in this room, to vote down the pending motion. Every person in this room that states that they protect and support women's health, women's well-being, women's mental and emotional well-being. This bill doesn't take it too far. What you have in front of you, Mr. Speaker, is a strong, conservative, Republican woman asking you to support safe abortions. I mean, I think that's a record somewhere. I mean, I think that we should probably write this on our calendar. What's today? June eighth or ninth? I think June ninth should go down in history in the State of Maine as a strong, Republican, conservative standing before you asking you to please implement safe abortions in the State of Maine. Thank you.

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

Representative **KUHN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Honorable Colleagues. I rise in support of this motion.

LD 886 proposes a number of restrictions on medications that are used to treat miscarriage and induce abortion. These medications have been proven safe and effective. Since the FDA approved them more than 20 years ago, over five million Americans have used these medications for abortion and miscarriage care. As we're seeing with many attempts to roll back access to reproductive health care, this legislation is

founded in misinformation. It replaces science and medical standards of care with unnecessary barriers to essential health care that Maine people rely on.

This bill would prohibit patients from obtaining and taking abortion medication via online telehealth services. These remote appointments and prescriptions offer patients more flexible scheduling, reduce costs and the privacy of taking the medications at home. Many patients, especially in rural Maine, already have to travel to receive medical care. For them, telehealth is a crucial option, and the delivery of these services by telehealth has proven to be extremely safe and effective.

Additionally, LD 886 would require doctors to provide their patients with misinformation, including requiring that they inform patients "of any chemical agent, drug or other means by which medication abortion may be reversed." According to the American Medical Association, messages about potential abortion reversal, quote, "contradict reality and science." We learned in the Judiciary Committee that there was a study on the possibility of a drug regimen to reverse these drugs. However, that study was actually halted due to patient safety concerns when a number of the subjects experienced extreme hemorrhaging. Relying on science is the best way to protect Maine women, and requiring doctors to suggest unproven and unsafe drug regimens would be an affront to the independent, professional judgment of medical providers and their professional standards of care.

Every Maine patient deserves to be able to access safe and effective care. LD 886 would do the opposite. It is not grounded in health or accurate science. It is another attack on fundamental rights where politicians try to insert themselves between patients and doctors. I urge my colleagues to support the pending motion.

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

Representative **ARATA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, I rise as an optimist tonight. Because I'm an optimist who believes that sometimes, evil can expose the truth. And the truth is that every human life is intrinsically valuable, regardless of their age, gender, race. Your life is intrinsically valuable. And the truth is that now that women can get medication abortions at home, with a drug that is approved for up to 12 weeks, sometimes they'll get it when they're much, much further along, and they don't know and they will have that abortion at home. And after 12 weeks, the baby is about the size of a plum and continues to grow very rapidly after that. And at some point during the abortion at home, the woman will be forced to look down and see the small, innocent face of the truth.

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

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a few issues.

One, I am a nurse in a rural area and I am more and more concerned with what's going on. I've spoken about telemedicine before, but with this specific topic within telemedicine, doctors have no way of knowing if the person on the other end of that phone is giving them accurate information or not. There is no way for them to physically verify this. Telemedicine calls do not have to be visual; it doesn't have to be a Zoom. It can be a simple telephone call. And with maternity wards closing all over in the rural areas, people are having to drive even further.

And I'm extremely concerned with the way that we're talking about these medications publicly and that you just take them and it takes care of the problem, and that we have younger people now taking these medications as well, there are complications and what are they supposed to do if they run into

those complications? I do not believe that people are being truly informed about the potential negative consequences of some of these medications. We're giving them too flippantly, there's no other way for me to say that. And as someone who actually hemorrhaged and needed to go to the hospital very rapidly, luckily, I was there. If you look at a situation like this and this happens to someone at home, not only is it very frightening, but once again with not having medical access, and specifically departments that are very used to dealing with these sorts of situations, they're specifically trained. Yes, you can show up at the emergency room, but the physician's assistant that may be covering the emergency room in Houlton, Maine that evening may have never experienced this type of issue coming before them before.

This is not an unreasonable bill, Mr. Speaker, and I just really want people to hear, since rural areas are brought up, as a nurse in a rural area, my great concerns over this. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Gorham, Representative Sato.

Representative **SATO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and Honorable Colleagues, I speak in favor of the pending motion.

Something that I think is important, at least for me when I think about this bill, is it's not just rural areas who are impacted by the access to telemedicine. It's also those in our communities who are most vulnerable, who may not have the ability to take time off of work to go to attend an appointment, who may not be able to; do not have access to a car or to public transportation to go to an appointment in person. And we've seen cases across the country where people who are pregnant are experiencing miscarriages and access to this, to this medication, is critical for their survival, that it is a life-saving drug for them. And something that I would also am reminded of is ultimately, when I think about access to abortion, it's critical for me ultimately to remember that this decision really should solely reside between the patient and their health care provider, because ultimately, it is not up to politicians and government to decide what the right medical care is for a patient in a specific case. And I think when we're talking about, you know, LD 886, we're talking about ensuring that Mainers have access to critical health care when they need it most. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 385

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

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mingo, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry,

Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmersal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Cray, Lanigan, Underwood, Wood S.

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

78 having voted in the affirmative and 67 voted in the negative, with 4 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on 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)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-591)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

BABIN of Fort Fairfield
CARUSO of Caratunk
HENDERSON of Rumford

READ.

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

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

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

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

Representative **PAUL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in opposition to the pending motion, but in strong support of LD 887, known as the 'Clean Water for All Life Act.' A bill that confronts a disturbing and growing public health and environmental crisis: the unchecked use and disposal of chemical abortion drugs and the treatment of the remains of pre-born children.

This bill does the following. It requires that a licensed health care provider be physically present when these powerful drugs are administered. It mandates a follow-up visit within seven days to ensure that a woman's health has not been compromised, and it requires the use of a catch kit and biohazard bags, so the human remains of pre-born children are not flushed into our public sewer systems like garbage.

A recent study by the ethics and public policy center using data from the CDC, FDA, and insurance reports found that 10.93% of women experienced serious side effects from the first abortion pill itself and that this drug regime is 22 times more dangerous than originally reported. Thousands of women have suffered from sepsis, infection, hemorrhaging and other severe complications, including death.

Right now, we are seeing a dangerous trend. Chemical abortion drugs are being sent through the mail, used in isolation and resulting in the birth and disposal of human babies into toilets. These are not abstractions; these are real human bodies with fingers, with hearts and faces, being discarded into household plumbing. Let me be clear: If these same children had been lost in a clinic or a hospital, the law would require that their remains to be treated as medical waste, handled with caution and care, using biohazard bags and proper disposal systems. Brick-and-mortar abortion facilities are already required to do this. Why should the standard be any different when the procedure happens at home?

And the consequences go beyond the individual. When the remains of aborted children, along with blood, placenta and drug residue are flushed into our wastewater systems, these biological and chemical materials do not simply disappear. The Environmental Protection Agency has warned about the impact of endocrine-disrupting compounds like those found in abortion drugs entering our water supply. These chemicals interfere with hormones in both wildlife and humans, potentially affecting fertility, development and long-term health. Mifepristone is considered an endocrine disrupter because it blocks progesterone receptors, interfering with the body's natural hormonal signaling essential for maintaining a pregnancy. Its use in chemical abortion is specifically intended to disrupt this hormone pathway to terminate the pregnancy. In contrast, when used to treat conditions like Cushing's syndrome or experimentally with Crohn's disease, mifepristone is administered at different doses and for different purposes, mainly to modulate cortisol receptors rather than reproductive hormones. These distinct mechanisms and treatment goals mean its use in abortion cannot be directly compared to its use in managing chronic illness.

If we care about our ecosystems, if we care about clean drinking water and if we care about the well-being of future generations, we cannot ignore this reality. LD 887 addresses this crisis directly. It introduces basic safeguards, nothing more than what is already required at any responsible medical setting. It recognizes that what is being disposed of is not waste, but human life, life that deserves recognition and protection. I urge this Body to oppose the pending motion and to support this bill. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **KUHN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and Honorable Colleagues of the House, this bill restricts access to medication abortion as discussed in the previous bill, but goes several steps further in relying on misinformation and punishing medical professionals.

To reiterate, there is no evidence to suggest that remote prescription administration is unsafe. However, this bill imposes criminal punishment on doctors who do not require a necessary series of appointments and exams before prescribing medication that has been proven to be safe and effective. Since 1996, the FDA and EPA have repeatedly concluded that normal disposal of this medication poses no threat to humans, animals or the environment. This legislation also makes unnecessary requirements for the disposal of medication that seems to be based on a national effort to weaponize environmental policy in pursuit of restricting access to abortion care.

The case for implementing rigorous disposal requirements relies on a falsehood that abortion medication contaminates wastewater and harms the environment. It is true that products containing endocrine disrupters like phthalates in cosmetics and PFAS in dental floss end up in our wastewater. These actual endocrine disrupters are present in wastewater at significantly higher rates than mifepristone and do not face the same scrutiny.

This bill creates punitive barriers to prevent patients from seeking abortion care that are grounded in politics rather than science. Once again, I urge my colleagues to reject this effort to deny Mainers access to fundamental personal care. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 386

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

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

ABSENT - Cray, Lanigan, Parry, Underwood, Wood S.

Yes, 78; No, 66; Absent, 5; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

78 having voted in the affirmative and 66 voted in the negative, with 5 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Update the State's Informed Consent Laws Regarding Drug-induced Abortion" (H.P. 654) (L.D. 1007)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-590)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

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

READ.

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

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

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

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

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

We talk a lot about choice in this Chamber when it comes to ending the life of an irreplaceable child, but what about when a woman wants to choose life? If death is the only choice, is that really a choice at all? This bill ensures women are fully informed about chemical abortion and the possibility of reversal, empowering them to make informed decisions and giving pre-born babies a chance at life.

Chemical abortions make up to 63% of all abortions nationally and 70% in Maine. The first drug, mifepristone, blocks progesterone, starving the baby. But what many women do not know is that this process may be reversible if they act quickly. If a woman seeks reversal within 24 hours of taking the first pill, and before taking a second pill; misoprostol; she may be able to continue her pregnancy. Administering progesterone, a hormone safely used in pregnancy for decades, can counter the first pill's effects. Peer-reviewed studies from the NIH show reversal works between 64% to 68% of the time and babies born after reversal show no increase in birth defects. As a matter of fact, the NIH summarizes that progesterone for chemical abortion pill reversal is safe and effective. Over 6,000 children are alive today because their mothers chose reversal. That number could grow in Maine if this bill were to pass.

This is a real chance to save a life and women deserve to know about it. Once the second pill is taken, reversal is no longer possible. That is why this information must be given up front, before it is too late.

Opponents of this bill often cite ACOG, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, in their arguments, claiming that this group does not include informed consent for chemical abortion pill reversal. But here's the irony: ACOG publicly claims that informed consent is a cornerstone of abortion care, yet their own materials and guidelines have no informed consent information about chemical abortion itself. If they refuse to offer informed consent for a procedure that is known to have serious dangers, like chemical abortion, why would they suddenly advocate for informed consent in abortion pill reversal? The hypocrisy is astounding.

Even more troubling, opponents often point to a single case where a woman experienced bleeding after receiving progesterone, and she survived, but they conveniently ignore far more alarming data. This Chamber has heard this information a couple of times, but repetition is how we remember and retain information, so, here we go again. A recent study by the Ethics and Public Policy Center using data from the CDC, FDA and insurance reports found that 10.93% of women experienced serious side effects from the first abortion pill itself and the drug regime is 22 times more dangerous than originally reported. Thousands of women have suffered from sepsis, infection, hemorrhaging and other severe complications, and yes, once again, including death. Yet that is a risk that is downplayed, while the option of reversal is dismissed.

This bill is straightforward. It ensures women are informed about the option to reverse a chemical abortion if they choose. It empowers women to make an informed decision for life. For those who claim to be pro-choice, here is your chance to prove it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **KUHN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Colleagues of the House. I rise again in strong opposition to this bill. LD 1007 would require health care professionals to give patients seeking medication abortion false information about abortion reversal drugs. The majority of the Judiciary Committee voted against this legislation, because this requirement would force doctors to provide misleading information to their patients, endangering their health and well-being and violating their own professional standard of care.

There is simply no credible scientific research to support this idea. In fact, as I mentioned earlier, the only clinical trial on this subject was terminated suddenly because 25% of the participants experienced hemorrhage. Requiring medical professionals to give false information to patients would harm the fundamental relationship between doctors and patients and represent harmful government overreach in decisions around medical care. Please vote Ought Not to Pass on this bill.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 387

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

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

ABSENT - Cray, Lanigan, Parry, Underwood, Wood S.

Yes, 77; No, 67; Absent, 5; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

77 having voted in the affirmative and 67 voted in the negative, with 5 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Require That Informed Consent for Abortion Include Information on Perinatal Hospice" (H.P. 759) (L.D. 1154)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland

TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth

LEE of Auburn

O'HALLORAN of Brewer

PUGH of Portland

SATO of Gorham

SINCLAIR of Bath

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

BABIN of Fort Fairfield

CARUSO of Caratunk

HENDERSON of Rumford

POIRIER of Skowhegan

READ.

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

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

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

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

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

This bill ensures that Maine women facing a fatal fetal diagnosis are informed about perinatal hospice, a compassionate option that offers comfort, time and support with their child. It does not mandate a decision, it simply ensures women know that this path exists. Right now, many women are effectively given two options: end the pregnancy through a brutal procedure, crushing the baby's skull and dismembering the baby, or carry to term and face it all alone. That's not compassion; that's cruelty. The ethical, humane response is to offer real support. And this is not some fringe idea. Even the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists; hardly a pro-life group; supports informed consent about perinatal hospice. When ACOG agrees with something like this, it's clear this bill is not extreme; it is basic decency.

Some legislators expressed concern about asking a woman to sign a form, but patients sign forms for everything from anesthesia, to surgery, to DNR orders. Why should this be the exception? Acknowledging that support was offered is not emotional harm; it's standard responsible medical care. Another objection was that women have enough to deal with in these moments, they don't need more heaped onto them. Think about that. Since when is giving a woman more options, especially one rooted in compassion, a bad thing? Women deserve better than a rushed decision based on fear, isolation or incomplete information. We also need to acknowledge the reality that fatal fetal diagnoses are often wrong. Many parents who have been told their child would not survive, only to welcome a baby who lived longer than expected or even defied the diagnosis entirely. Perinatal hospice gives space for that possibility. It supports hope, not just heartbreak.

This bill is not about politics; it's about humanity. It is about treating women with respect and compassion in one of the hardest moments of their lives. When the system offers only despair or violence, that is not a choice; that's abandonment. This bill says you are not alone, there is another way, there is support and there is time. Passing this bill means Maine stands for informed care, real compassion and the belief that every life, even the briefest, deserves to be honored. I urge you to vote yes on the bill and against this pending motion, because doing so is not just medically sound, it is morally right. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **KUHN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Honorable Colleagues. This bill would require a person, who has just learned that their fetus has a fatal anomaly and declines perinatal/natal hospital services, to certify that they've been advised of the availability of services and they've decided to terminate the pregnancy. The bill further imposes a 24-hour waiting period before an abortion can be obtained.

The majority of the Committee rejected this proposal for a number of reasons. First, the provision requiring information about perinatal services is unnecessary, because the providers are already doing it. The Department of Health and Human Services confirmed that options, counseling and reviewing available resources including, as appropriate, palliative care and mental health services are already part of ensuring informed consent. Second, mandating a 24-hour waiting period for an abortion is unjust and potentially a dangerous delay. In this case, it seems particularly cruel, as the waiting period is only applied to women seeking to obtain an abortion for a fetus diagnosed with a fetal anomaly. Finally, the requirements are unjustified. Imagine forcing a person who's just learned that the fetus she's carrying has a lethal anomaly to sit down with their provider and fill out extra paperwork. Is that what the standard of care for women in Maine should be who are facing possibly the most devastating news of their lives?

On this point, I feel compelled to share just a quote from some testimony that we received from the Maine Council of Churches that I think really speaks to the moral foundation here, and they say: 'Abortion is a complex health and moral issue, requiring sensitive medical, ethical and spiritual discernment in each unique situation. We take seriously the complexities of specific lives and circumstances and honor the dignity and agency of pregnant people. We appreciate the need for nuance and humility when considering the moral agency of others and believe that what we, as people of faith, have to offer our world is not a simplistic set of answers to life's difficult questions. Rather, we are called to offer compassion, mercy and advocacy for access to health care as a basic human right.'

This bill is a punitive measure that intrudes into personal and familial privacy and denies women the compassionate and respectful care they deserve. Most Maine people agree that patients should make decisions about personal reproductive health care, not politicians imposing arbitrary requirements. And so, I'd ask the Body to support the pending motion.

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

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I know you asked us to think about if we were going to say I didn't intend to rise. And I thought about it. And I thought about it every single time it was mentioned that the baby that I lost was a fetus.

Mr. Speaker, that was my baby. That was my baby that I have missed 18 birthdays; 18. And I can tell you right now, Mr. Speaker, I wasn't told that there was any options for me for mental health services, that I wasn't told that there were options for me to seek counsel from my priest, I was told nothing. I was scared, I was alone and I didn't know what I was going to do when I found out that my baby was dying. And my baby was dying because a doctor did not take care of me as the mother, and my infection from my kidney infection spread to my baby; not my fetus, my baby that was wanted. And I had to make a choice. Do I go home and have my baby at my house? Do I stay here and receive care? Those were the only choices I was given, Mr. Speaker. I had no idea that there were other options to be able to help me through my grief.

In the end, I chose to stay at the hospital, because I was still highly infected in my kidney and I was afraid of what would happen when I went home. But they still gave me that option, even though I was still fighting a kidney infection. How is that compassion and care for the mother? How is that ensuring that we are okay, the ones losing our babies; not fetuses; babies. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 388

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

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

ABSENT - Cray, Lanigan, Parry, Underwood, Wood S.

Yes, 76; No, 68; Absent, 5; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

76 having voted in the affirmative and 68 voted in the negative, with 5 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act Regarding Acts of Violence Committed Against a Pregnant Woman"

(H.P. 1291) (L.D. 1930)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland

TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth

LEE of Auburn

O'HALLORAN of Brewer

PUGH of Portland

SATO of Gorham

SINCLAIR of Bath

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-589)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

HAGGAN of Penobscot

Representatives:

BABIN of Fort Fairfield

CARUSO of Caratunk

HENDERSON of Rumford

POIRIER of Skowhegan

Representative DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe - of the House - supports the Minority **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-589)** Report.

READ.

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

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

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

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

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

This bill amends Maine's criminal code to recognize pre-born children as persons under laws governing murder, manslaughter and assault. It's about equal protection, a justice system that holds the scale steady for all. When violence takes a pregnant woman's pre-born child, the law must name that loss for what it is: the death of a human being. Right now, Maine's laws fall short. If someone harmed a pregnant woman and killed her child, the mother's injuries may be prosecuted, but the loss of her baby, no matter how far along, goes unrecognized. That's not justice; it's a gap we have the power and the duty to close.

Consider the horrific case of Heather Sargent, an eight-month pregnant Maine woman brutally murdered in 2003. She was stabbed 50 times, with many wounds targeting her stomach where her pre-born child was growing. Her attacker's blade tore through her flesh, ending her life and that of her son named Jonah, who was just weeks from being born. Her family lost not only Heather, but also Jonah. A double tragedy left unaddressed by Maine's laws at the time. Her husband was convicted only for her murder, with no legal accountability for the death of Jonah. This glaring injustice underscores the urgent need for this bill, to ensure that such losses are fully recognized.

The stakes are real. A 2020 National Institute of Health Study found homicide among the leading causes of death for pregnant women, often at the hands of someone that they know. When violence claims two lives, justice must answer for both.

Mr. Speaker, I am unapologetically pro-life, but I also recognize the political reality in this Chamber. The majority party is clinging to power by just 60 votes, hardly a mandate, and I fully understand the influence Planned Parenthood holds over this majority. We saw it firsthand in the last Legislature with LD 1619. That is why this bill has very clear and targeted language, and that language has been upheld in courts across the country as applying to acts committed by third parties only. That is why Planned Parenthood's testimony on this bill was so interesting. They admitted this was a narrowly focused bill, and then went on to question the motives of the Sponsor rather than the merits of the bill. I thought that was frowned upon in this building. I thought we were supposed to debate legislation, not disparage legislators.

It's worth noting that 38 states already have fetal homicide laws, and courts; including those in California, Pennsylvania and Minnesota; have upheld them against claims that they infringe on abortion rights. These laws are carefully crafted to address criminal acts committed by third parties, and legal scholars affirm this interpretation in *Webster v. Reproductive Health Services* in 1989. So, what's the problem?

Furthermore, this bill also stands on solid scientific ground. A 2021 PubMed study found that 96% of over 1,000 biologists agree that human life begins at conception. Among the 38 states with fetal homicide laws, 29 of them define life at conception. This is not radical thinking; it's science, and it's already woven into laws all across the country, red and blue states alike.

But let's be clear: this bill simply closes a painful gap in our Criminal Code. It ensures that when violence ends a pre-born child's life, that loss carries the weight it deserves. If Maine could amend its laws in 2023 to allow one woman named Dana Pierce to end the life of her own child due to a fatal fetal diagnosis; which is often wrong; it can surely act to deliver justice when another woman named Heather Sargent has her 8-month-old pre-born child savagely taken by violence.

Equal protection means standing for all victims, consistently and without exception. This bill is straightforward, just and long overdue. It affirms that a pre-born child's life matters. Their loss matters. And families deserve more than silence, they deserve justice. I urge this Body to pass this bill, because justice that excludes the most vulnerable is no justice at all. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **KUHN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and Esteemed Colleagues. This bill proposes taking our State down a dangerous path by granting personhood status to fetuses within parts of the Maine Criminal Code.

Enshrining the notion of fetal personhood into law is a longstanding mission of the national anti-abortion movement, one that if successful would outright ban and criminalize all abortion care. In fact, the language of this bill is almost identical to model legislation on an anti-abortion group's website included among other model legislation documents across the country to ban and criminalize abortion.

Maine's Criminal Code already imposes harsher punishment on those who commit crimes against pregnant persons, impacting both the class of crime and the severity of the sentence. Aggravated assault and domestic violence assault are already Class A crimes when committed against a pregnant person and added weight is given in imposing the term of imprisonment as well. Unlike the Amended language in the Minority Report, current Maine criminal law elevates the class of crime, the severity of the sentence, without having to prove specific harm to the fetus.

The concern of many of my colleagues on the Judiciary Committee is that inserting fetal personhood into Maine's Criminal Code would contradict the careful balancing we have reached in all of our Statutes to protect the rights of pregnant persons, safeguard the doctor-patient relationship and maintain the rights of Mainers to control our own bodies.

In sum, this legislation in its original or Amended form would open the door to legal interpretations that would put the fundamental reproductive freedoms of all Mainers at risk. Mainers have repeatedly affirmed that Maine should not be a State that walks down the path towards a total abortion ban. I believe the legislation before us would point us in that direction, and I urge the Body to support the pending Ought Not to Pass motion.

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

Representative **HENDERSON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I did intend to rise today to speak on this bill.

I'm thankful for the Representative from Falmouth for talking a little bit about the technicalities of the bill and how currently in State law, there are harsher punishments on people who commit crimes against pregnant women. There are not only harsher punishments as far as the actual charges that can be brought, but the sentences are harsher as well. But I think what is really clearly and quite obviously missing is that there's no punishment for the life that was lost.

So, in mid-July, my fourth nephew is due. My little brother somehow found a wife, and he has a little girl who, somehow he made this perfectly wonderful little two-year-old. I wish each of you would get an opportunity to meet her, she's fantastic. She knows about 50 words; one of them is 'Auntie,' by the way. It was one of her first words. But we'll ask; Eleanor, is her name, it's a great name, I think we have a colleague named Eleanor; but we'll ask, 'Elly, Elly, where's Hudson?' And she'll run over to her Mom's belly, and she'll point at the belly. And we show her pictures of a 3D sonogram. And Hudson looks like his Mom; thank God, because my little brother's his Dad; but he's cute, you know, they've got little videos of him, he's got a little personality. He moves, he responds to his Dad's singing. And for those of you who have heard my brother sing in this room, I think you know why. But I have some real heartburn and real concerns with the thought of someone physically harming my sister-in-law and only ever getting justice for her and never getting justice for Hudson.

What current State law does not take into account is it does not take into account the life that was ended. Although yes, there are harsher punishments against people who commit crimes against pregnant women, and there should be, this is a human being who's growing a child, who is vulnerable, who is weaker; absolutely should be harsher punishments for that. An individual who commits a crime against a pregnant person, I've got special words for them I can't use in this room. But the fact that there is no justice that can be found for the lives lost? Hudson is a very real, tangible, living human being who is already loved by the entire Henderson clan and beyond. And he's not a one-off. There are thousands, probably 10s of thousands of women pregnant right now in this State who have hopes and dreams of their child being born, who maybe have started college funds, perhaps even tonight are even painting nurseries or picking out what they're going to bring their child home from the hospital in. And yet, our laws don't have any justice for that life lost?

I think probably one of the greatest travesties that's happened tonight in this room is that this bill has been looped in with all the other abortion bills. This is not an anti-abortion movement. This is not an anti-abortion bill. This is talking about implementing penalties into Maine State law that would find justice for Mainers being killed. This has got nothing to do with abortion, Mr. Speaker. And when our loved ones across the State or people in our State are killed or their lives are cut short, we have rallies, we have days of remembrance in this very building. We have wristbands; justice for so-and-so, remember so-and-so. But children who never had the opportunity to feel a mother's love, to be held by their Dad, to learn how to ride a bike, to experience their first day of school or graduation, those lives that are cut short; family members who will never get to hold a newborn infant, with all their little foldy arms and legs, everything about them that smells good; mostly smells good; but everything about a newborn child and as you get to watch the joy and the excitement of watching this human being grow, and as they learn and experience life.

You know, last night, I got an opportunity to run through mud puddles with my two-year-old niece. I'm not a runner, okay? I'm not built for speed. But I'll tell you, it was one of the most wonderful times of my entire weekend. We had ice cream. I didn't have rubber boots on, she did, and we ran through mud puddles together. And the idea that there are some parents who will never get to experience that, there are some aunts and uncles and grandparents who will never get to experience that, because a life has been cut short, but the State of Maine, we're not going to have anything on the books to hold anybody accountable for those actions. I would strongly encourage every Member in this room to vote down this motion. Thank you.

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

Representative **LEE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You've heard from my very good friend from Falmouth, and you've heard from my very good friend from Rumford. We all agree that the *status quo* harshly punishes criminal acts against pregnant women. Those harsh punishments exist in 17-A MRS 208-C, the crime of "elevated aggravated assault on a pregnant person." It's a Class A crime, the highest class a crime can be in this State. They exist in 17-A MRS §208-F, "Domestic violence aggravated assault on a pregnant person," also a Class A crime. They exist in several other penalty enhancements when it comes to the commission of a crime against a pregnant woman.

This bill isn't about increasing the way that we punish people who do violent things to pregnant women. It's about writing into our laws that life begins at conception. Mr. Speaker, there are people I love, whom I care about, who are family members and friends, many friends in this Chamber, who think differently than me on this issue. That's okay. It's a question that has split opinion in philosophy, religion, science and all fields of human experience since humans have existed. It is not a question we can or will or should settle by amending a small portion of our Criminal Code, particularly when that amendment will have no effect on the policy. A policy that all of us, every single person in this room, agrees on that those who harm a pregnant woman should be treated more harshly. That policy does not require us to convince each other of something neither of us will ever be able to convince each other of. I support the motion.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bridgton, Representative Cimino.

Representative **CIMINO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just have a question for clarification. I've heard the term 'pregnant person' being used. I'd just like the definition of what a 'pregnant person' is. To my knowledge, only a woman can be pregnant. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 389

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

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

ABSENT - Cray, Javner, Lanigan, Parry, Underwood, Wood S.

Yes, 77; No, 66; Absent, 6; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

77 having voted in the affirmative and 66 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

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

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

HOUSE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (7) **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-561)** - Minority (6) **Ought Not to Pass** - Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act to Promote Responsible Outdoor Lighting"

(H.P. 1295) (L.D. 1934)

Which was **TABLED** by Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook pending **ACCEPTANCE** of either Report.

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

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

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in opposition to the pending motion and request a Roll Call.

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

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

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

Representative **TUELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I rise today in respectful but illuminated opposition to LD 1934. Because if this bill becomes law, we won't just be dimming the lights, we'll be dimming local control, common sense and maybe even Christmas.

Let me walk you through what this bill does. It regulates every lumen, mandates correlated color temperatures like we're lighting the Louvre and demands that your average Mainer know the difference between a light trespasser and a neighbor. I don't know about you, but most of my constituents are just trying to keep the porcupine off the porch, not hire an NC-certified lighting consultant.

Now, I do get it, there's good intent here, but this bill is trying to solve a problem that's more shadow than substance; it's a fix in search of a flicker. And let's not ignore the irony. We're going to spend \$15,000 on a State consultant to help write

model lighting ordinances that towns are quote-unquote 'encouraged' to implement. Meanwhile, in rural Maine, most people are having all they can do to keep the lights on, thanks to soaring property taxes brought about by entreaties from Augusta and even more needless red tape.

Mr. Speaker, that dog won't hunt, especially if you're trying to keep her out of the aforementioned porcupine when nature calls at midnight and she bolts off into the woods, only to come back with a muzzle full of quills and a necessary trip to the nearest emergency vet, two hours away. This is government overreach dressed up like a Charlie Brown Christmas tree.

Under LD 1934, it's recommended that nonessential lighting be dimmed during nighttime hours, which means if you've got a glowing Santa on your lawn, you'd better put him to bed by 10:00 p.m. sharp, or a neighbor with an axe to grind will call it in. I won't attempt to sing Elvis songs, but it's going to be a "blue, blue, blue" light Christmas, indeed, if this legislation sees the light of day and our already stretched police departments are having to respond to light trespassers instead of real criminals swiping Christmas gifts off the front porch.

How do I know this is a really bad bill? Because there are so many exceptions and carveouts that had to be clapped on before the Committee could; like a popular '80s commercial, they advertised a product that let you turn your lights on and off from bed; clap off. There's an exception for ski lodges, Little League fields, the Sea Dogs and, in areas where people have the money to light them, and pretty much anything DOT-related. And while that's good, it will be a case of "turn out the lights, the party's over," for anyone else. Because it won't be long before the light police start writing tickets for first-degree light trespass once that 'may' becomes a 'shall.'

If a town wants to adopt a lighting ordinance, they can now. They don't need a law to do it. That's local control. But telling every town in rural Maine they really ought to comply with a State-created light ordinance, then pressuring them to go even stricter; that's not leadership, it's micromanagement with a dimmer switch. And dare I say it, one more reason why people in northern and eastern Maine think the southern part of the State wants to turn us into a national park. And you know, the proponents don't really even deny that, touting the tourist dollars the pitch-black sky could generate, especially in areas where it isn't already too late. If you want any more proof of that, look no further than the unorganized territories, where the Land Use Planning Commission has, by fiat, already implemented the endgame of this bill, darkness on 10s of millions of acres of land that people from one end of the State to the other are screaming has suddenly become much more valuable, at least in the eyes of the State re-evaluators.

This is the Pine Tree State, not the "Night the Lights Went Out in Georgia." This bill turns code enforcement into flashlight police, and makes every LED into a potential lawsuit. So, before we trade "This Little Light of Mine" for "Midnight on Montgomery," let's remember good laws don't shine too bright, and they don't leave us stumbling in the dark. LD 1939 does both. Let's flip the red switch on this one, because you know, red has a lower Kelvin temperature than green on the correlated color scale. We should lead and not be "Blinded by the Light." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Augusta, Representative Bridgeo.

Representative **BRIDGEO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Members of the House. You already know that from, like, around 1999, 1998, through the year 2021, I was the City Manager in Augusta. During that time, the City was a leader among Maine's 498 cities and towns in the area of public and

private outdoor lighting regulation and upgrades, to the great satisfaction of our residents for both its cost savings and its environmental benefits. It's a story that we in Augusta are rightly proud of, as former City Councilor and then Mayor and now current Representative Dave Rollins can attest.

Outdoor lighting has a significant impact on how we experience our communities. Obviously, it's critical for safety and it has allowed us to move around at night much more easily than our grandparents or their grandparents were able to. But too much lighting, lighting aimed in the wrong direction or lighting that is too cool in its color will have the opposite effect that we intend. When outdoor lighting is too bright, it makes neighboring properties appear dark even when they are lit, reducing security

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Point of Order.
The SPEAKER: The Member will defer. The Chair would inquire as to the Point of Order from the Representative from Fairfield.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: I'd like to invoke the 9:00 p.m. Rule, please.

Representative **RUDNICKI** of Fairfield **OBJECTED** to extending the session past 9:00 p.m. and requested a vote.

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Fairfield, Representative Rudnicki, has invoked House Rule 501. In order to proceed with our work, it will require a 2/3 vote of the Chamber.

The Chair would inform Members of the Body that we have a number of Supplements still in our possession that we were hoping to do this evening, this item that's before us and two matters on Unfinished Business that we previously Tabled.

The Chair will order a Division.

The Chair ordered a division on **SUSPENSION** of House Rule 501.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would ask those who are currently in queue for Item 6-38, if you would please get out of queue, so I can understand who wants to speak on the question of House Rule 501. The Chair would recognize the Representative from Fairfield, Representative Rudnicki.

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, we wouldn't be in this position if we weren't an hour late starting this morning and 50 minutes late starting after we came back from break. Being that the way it's been going the last several weeks that we are continuously late and continuously not coming here, my side of the aisle is usually ready and willing to start work on time. And for us to actually take and move forward and go after the 9:00 o'clock hour seems to me, you know, can be avoided completely if we show up on time. Thank you.

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

Representative **FREDETTE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, we certainly are gearing up in our work in Appropriations. We look forward to probably a couple voting sessions in that tomorrow. I don't suspect we have too much of a Calendar tonight. I don't disagree with the Good Representative from Fairfield, starting on time or something closer thereto might be a bit helpful, but I want to get out of here on June the 18th, and so, I'll be voting in favor of extending beyond 9:00 o'clock.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Windham, Representative Bagshaw.

Representative **BAGSHAW**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to agree with what the Representative from Fairfield said. If we started on time this morning and every morning and we didn't take an extra hour after we're told we're coming back to

work, our work would be done. So, I'm with the Fairfield Representative.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, before I vote on the pending motion, I would like to hear the Chair read the list of Supplements he's proposing to go forward with, and I would also furthermore request that the Majority Leader commit to only running those that the Chair plans on running.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would inform the Body that we have Supplement No. 1, which are Consent Calendar items; Supplement No. 2, which are a series of Divided Reports, I think in total, there are four on Supplement No. 2; Supplement No. 3, Consent Calendar items; Supplement No. 4, which is two Divided Reports; Supplement No. 5, which is two divided, three divided, four Divided Reports, Supplement No. 6 are a number of Enactors; Supplement No. 8, which is three Divided Reports that are 12-1 Reports; Supplement No. 9, one Enactor, two Enactors; Supplement No. 10, Consent Calendar; and Supplement No. 11, which is a Unanimous Report that has a Senate Amendment that's been added to it. Those are the Supplements that are before us.

There were two items on our regular Calendar that are Divided Reports that we skipped; the one that we were just debating and another one that was Tabled earlier before our last break that I intend to bring back up; and there's an item, Unfinished 15, that I intend to bring up that was Tabled, and item Unfinished 8. Those are the items before us.

The Chair would inform the Body that the work we don't get done tonight gets pushed onto the next day. The Calendars are going to be; there's going to be a lot of work, and I would concur; I don't usually enter into the debate from the rostrum; but I would concur with the Representative from Newport that I would like to get out of here on June 18th as well.

The Chair recognizes the Representative from Portland, Representative Moonen.

Representative **MOONEN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Colleagues of the House, I appreciate the question from the Representative from Winter Harbor and happy to address it, since the last time we had some interesting times around the 9:00 p.m. rule, it was a result of my actions. I want to be clear about what happened that evening.

I had held a bill, as is the right of any Member of this Body, and I really found it unfortunate that people were accusing you, Mr. Speaker, of having done something inappropriate or dishonest. That's not what happened. A Member who holds a bill has the right to ask for Reconsideration when they've held it. I had that right, and there was nothing you could do to stop me, Mr. Speaker, from asking for Reconsideration on that bill. And you didn't know I was going to do that. And so, I'm sorry that my actions led folks to doubt your words. So, I apologize for that. It's really not that hard to say I'm sorry, happy to do it. And I can commit that I am not holding a bill tonight, I do not need to ask for Reconsideration on anything and happy to move forward with all, or may I suggest part, of that list that you just outlined, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: A division has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Suspension of House Rule 501. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

The Chair will recognize the Representative from Winter Harbor, Representative Faulkingham; although, the vote is open, so, it's highly unusual the Chair is giving the Member the latitude to do so.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: I just want to say to my Members that I think it's reasonable to go till about 10 o'clock, but if it goes beyond that, that we should just stop and push the work to tomorrow.

The **SPEAKER**: The vote is open. The Chair would inform the Body that a 'yes' vote means we proceed with our work past 9:00 p.m., a 'no' vote means we do not proceed with our work past 9:00 p.m..

Have all now voted? The Chair will close the vote.

Representative **LIBBY** of Auburn **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **SUSPEND** House Rule 501.

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

The **SPEAKER**: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Suspension of House Rule 501. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 390

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

NAY - Adams, Arata, Babin, Bagshaw, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collins, Cooper, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Hymes, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmearsal-Burgess, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Cray, Javner, Lanigan, Parry, Pomerleau, Underwood, Wood.

Yes, 90; No, 52; Absent, 7; Excused, 2.

90 having voted in the affirmative and 52 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly House Rule 501 was **NOT SUSPENDED**.

Representative **FAULKINGHAM** of Winter Harbor moved that the House **RECONSIDER** its action whereby House Rule 501 was **NOT SUSPENDED**.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We discussed this at length in our caucus. We have tried to make sure that the 9:00 o'clock rule means something. Appreciate being able to vote on it a couple times in the last week. We don't think it's a good idea to do business late in the night, but some of us also don't want to push too much work forward as we know we have a lot of work to get done. So, Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to vote yes to extend if we don't go past 11 o'clock and only take up matters that won't be Roll Called.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair would inform the Body that based on the conversation with the Representative from Winter Harbor, the Chair intends to put matters before us until 11:00 p.m.; items that will not be Roll Called based on conversations that the Representative from Winter Harbor and I have had earlier today and will do as much work as we can in that posture until 11 p.m.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bridgton, Representative Cimino.

Representative **CIMINO**: I just have a question. So, that means then tomorrow we will reconvene at 10:00 a.m. and we will be on time, correct? We're not going to be rolling in at 11:00 a.m.? We'll be ready to work.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair would answer in the affirmative. The intention would be to start at 10:00 a.m.

Representative **LIBBY** of Auburn **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **RECONSIDER** the House's action whereby House Rule 501 was **NOT SUSPENDED**.

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

The **SPEAKER**: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Reconsideration of the House's action whereby House Rule 501 was not Suspended. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 391

YEA - Abdi, Albert, Ankeles, Arata, Archer, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Beck, Bell, Bishop, Blier, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Campbell, Caruso, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, Daigle, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Ducharme, Faircloth, Farrin, Faulkingham, Foley, Foster, Fredette, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Gifford, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Guerrette, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hymes, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie Lee, Lemelin, Lookner, Lyman, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, McIntyre, Meyer, Milliken, Mingo, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Osher, Perkins, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Schmearsal-Burgess, Shagoury, Simmons, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Strout, Supica, Swallow, Terry, Thorne, Warren, Webb, Wood P, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Bagshaw, Boyer D, Carlow, Chapman, Cimino, Eder, Flynn, Henderson, Lance, Libby, Mason, Morris, Paul, Poirier, Quint, Rudnicki, Smith, Tuell, White J.

ABSENT - Adams, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Drinkwater, Fredericks, Greenwood, Haggan, Hall, Jackson, Javner, Julia, Lanigan, Lavigne, Parry, Pomerleau, Roberts, Soboleski, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White R, Wood S, Woodsome.

Yes, 106; No, 19; Absent, 24; Excused, 2.

106 having voted in the affirmative and 19 voted in the negative, with 24 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the House **RECONSIDERED** its action whereby House Rule 501 was **NOT SUSPENDED**.

Subsequently, Representative **LIBBY** of Auburn **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **SUSPEND** House Rule 501.

Fewer than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was not ordered.

Representative **CARLOW** of Buxton **REQUESTED** a division on the motion to **SUSPEND** House Rule 501.

The Chair ordered a division on the motion to **SUSPEND** House Rule 501.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Chelsea, Representative Lemelin.

Representative **LEMELIN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, what are we voting on?

The **SPEAKER**: The staff is currently trying to get the motion onto the board.

Representative **LEMELIN**: Can you just tell it to us at the same time?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would inform the Body that the question before the House will be Suspension of House Rule 501. If you want to continue to work, you'll vote 'yes.' If you're opposed, you'll vote 'no.'

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

Representative **BOYER**: Mr. Speaker, is a Roll Call in order?

The SPEAKER: A Roll Call was not in order. A Division has been ordered.

Representative **BOYER**: I believe the Member to my left was asking for a Division on the vote of the Roll Call?

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

Representative **LIBBY**: Point of Inquiry. Two-thirds of present or two-thirds of Body?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would inform the Member it's two-thirds present and voting to Suspend House Rule 501. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bangor, Representative Supica.

Representative **SUPICA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm really confused if we're here to work or if we're here just to waste time until it's 11:00 o'clock.

The SPEAKER: There is a Division that's been ordered. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Buxton, Representative Carlow.

Representative **CARLOW**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. My first term, I was given a very helpful piece of advice: Don't come to the floor when you're in a bad mood. And I'm in a pretty bad mood right now, and the previous comment that was made I think demonstrates the lack of trust that we have in this building.

We are here because of a lack of trust, and I think it's high time that we see some humanity in one another. I'm not here to waste anybody's time, and I was offended by the last comment and that's why I pushed my button. The Rule, Rule 501, instituted because there was a Member several Legislatures ago who died in a car crash. I mean, we have people across the aisle who have their own health problems who shouldn't be driving at night, don't want to be driving at night, and this is a question of safety, not about wasting peoples' time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to second that, as I was a person who now spends my entire week away from my family, because I did in fact hit a moose, and I guess you can say that I'm very fortunate that I walked away, as that's what everyone else told me. So, I do find that offensive. But I wanted to ask, no one has requested a Roll Call?

The SPEAKER: A Roll Call was requested, there was not sufficient support, there was not one-fifth of the Members present that requested the Roll Call; sorry, one-fifth of the Members did not request a Roll Call, which is 30 Members, I counted 18 hands. A Roll Call is not in order, but a Division has been ordered.

Representative **QUINT**: A Division has been ordered. So, am I; this is a procedural question.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **QUINT**: May I request a Roll Call?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would answer in the affirmative. Given that there's been a series of debate that's occurred since the last time one's been requested, another Member may now request one again. Would the Member from Hodgdon like to request a Roll Call?

Representative **QUINT**: Request by Division? Yes.

Representative **QUINT** of Hodgdon **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **SUSPEND** House Rule 501.

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

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Suspension of House Rule 501. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 392

YEA - Abdi, Albert, Ankeles, Arata, Archer, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Beck, Bell, Bishop, Blier, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Campbell, Caruso, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, Daigle, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Ducharme, Faircloth, Farrin, Faulkingham, Foley, Foster, Fredette, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Gifford, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Guerrette, Hasenfus, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Lyman, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, McIntyre, Meyer, Milliken, Mingo, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Osher, Perkins, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Simmons, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Strout, Supica, Swallow, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Bagshaw, Boyer D, Carlow, Chapman, Cimino, Eder, Flynn, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Mason, Morris, Paul, Poirier, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmursal-Burgess, Smith Thorne, Tuell, White J, Wood P.

ABSENT - Adams, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Drinkwater, Fredericks, Greenwood, Haggan, Hall, Jackson, Javner, Lanigan, Parry, Pomerleau, Soboleski, Underwood, Wadsworth, Walker, White R, Wood S, Woodsome.

Yes, 105; No, 23; Absent, 21; Excused, 2.

105 having voted in the affirmative and 23 voted in the negative, with 21 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly House Rule 501 was **SUSPENDED**.

Subsequently, on motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, the Bill was **TABLED** pending the motion of Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report and later today assigned.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-322)** on Bill "An Act to Strengthen Housing Stability Services by Increasing Support and Outreach"

(S.P. 751) (L.D. 1910)

Signed:

Senators:

CURRY of Waldo
BAILEY of York
BENNETT of Oxford

Representatives:

GERE of Kennebunkport
GOLEK of Harpswell
JULIA of Waterville
MALON of Biddeford
MINGO of Calais
ROBERTS of South Berwick
WALKER of Naples

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

Signed:

Representative:

COLLAMORE of Pittsfield

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-322)**.

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-322)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-322)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-600)** on Bill "An Act Regarding Dam Repair"

(H.P. 904) (L.D. 1382)

Signed:

Senators:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

CURRY of Waldo

CYRWAY of Kennebec

Representatives:

HASENFUS of Readfield

ABDI of Lewiston

BUNKER of Farmington

LAJOIE of Lewiston

LOOKNER of Portland

MCINTYRE of Lowell

MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

NUTTING of Oakland

PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

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

Signed:

Representative:

ARDELL of Monticello

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-600)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-600)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-602)** on Bill "An Act Extending the Statute of Limitations on Criminal Actions Involving Aggravated Sex Trafficking"

(H.P. 936) (L.D. 1427)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland

HAGGAN of Penobscot

TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland

Representatives:

KUHN of Falmouth

BABIN of Fort Fairfield

CARUSO of Caratunk

HENDERSON of Rumford

LEE of Auburn

O'HALLORAN of Brewer

POIRIER of Skowhegan

PUGH of Portland

SATO of Gorham

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-603)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representative:

SINCLAIR of Bath

Representative DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe - of the House - supports the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-602)** Report.

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-602)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-602)** and sent for concurrence.

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

Ought to Pass

Report of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Affecting Insurance"

(S.P. 720) (L.D. 1837)

Reporting **Ought to Pass**.

Came from the Senate with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-278)**.

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

Senate Amendment "A" (S-278) was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Senate Amendment "A" (S-278)** in concurrence.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR First Day

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

(H.P. 109) (L.D. 176) Bill "An Act to Establish a Regional Ambulance Service in Southern Penobscot County" Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-596)**

(H.P. 733) (L.D. 1114) Bill "An Act to Provide That Spouses and Children of Corrections Officers Who Die in the Line of Duty Receive a Pension" Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-597)**

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

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

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

ENACTORS Acts

An Act to Exempt Over-the-counter Medicines from the Sales and Use Tax

(S.P. 680) (L.D. 1734)
(C. "A" S-288)

An Act to Promote Local Seafood in Schools

(S.P. 728) (L.D. 1858)
(C. "A" S-289)

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

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

CONSENT CALENDAR First Day

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

(H.P. 1152) (L.D. 1725) Bill "An Act Regarding the Membership of and Requirements for County Jail Boards of Visitors" Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-573)**

(H.P. 1294) (L.D. 1933) Bill "An Act to Require Law Enforcement Officers Employed by Tribal Governments to Complete the Same Training Required for Other Law Enforcement Officers" Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-574)**

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

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

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE Divided Report

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-569)** on Bill "An Act to Modify Certification Standards for Full-time Teachers in Public Charter Schools and for Educational Technicians"

(H.P. 1029) (L.D. 1571)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

MURPHY of Scarborough
BRENNAN of Portland
CARLOW of Buxton
CROCKETT of Portland
DODGE of Belfast
HAGGAN of Hampden
LYMAN of Livermore Falls
MITCHELL of Cumberland
SARGENT of York

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

Signed:

Senator:

LIBBY of Cumberland

Representative:

BAGSHAW of Windham

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-569)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-569)** and sent for concurrence.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(S.P. 141) (L.D. 355) Bill "An Act to Advance the Maine Retirement Savings Program" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-305)**

(S.P. 414) (L.D. 984) Bill "An Act to Require Every State and Municipal Building to Have at Least One Automated External Defibrillator" Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-309)**

(S.P. 538) (L.D. 1308) Resolve, Directing the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to Establish a Working Group to Explore Opportunities to Maintain Public Access of Land Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-314)**

(S.P. 584) (L.D. 1443) Bill "An Act to Ensure the Financial Stability of Behavioral Health Service Providers and Housing Assistance Providers" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-302)**

(S.P. 605) (L.D. 1490) Bill "An Act to Allow Nonprofit Organizations to Sell Progressive Pull-tab Games and to Offer Partner-assisted Beano and to Establish New Guidelines for the Expansion of Gambling" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-306)**

(S.P. 608) (L.D. 1493) Bill "An Act to Eliminate Tax and Wage Incentives for Visual Media Production Companies" Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-313)**

(S.P. 632) (L.D. 1548) Bill "An Act to Prevent the Introduction or Transfer of Invasive Fish Species in Inland Waters of the State" Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-312)**

(S.P. 687) (L.D. 1769) Bill "An Act to Ensure Data Reporting for Temporary Nurse Agencies" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-319)**

(S.P. 736) (L.D. 1866) Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding the State-designated Agency Advocating for Individuals with Serious Mental Illness" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-318)**

(S.P. 773) (L.D. 1977) Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Elections" Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-317)**

(H.P. 1020) (L.D. 1562) Bill "An Act Regarding Municipal Road Standards" Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-579)**

(H.P. 1164) (L.D. 1746) Bill "An Act to Reduce Dental Disease and Ensure Access to Essential Preventive Dental Care Among Maine Children" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-585)**

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

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

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-584)** on Bill "An Act to Prohibit the Sale of Potentially Intoxicating Hemp Products to a Person Under 21 Years of Age" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 1281) (L.D. 1920)

Signed:

Senators:

TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland
INGWERSEN of York

Representatives:

PLUECKER of Warren
BUNKER of Farmington
COOPER of Windham
CRAY of Palmyra
FROST of Belgrade
GUERRETTE of Caribou
HEPLER of Woolwich
JACKSON of Oxford

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

Signed:

Senator:

BLACK of Franklin

Representative:

DILL of Old Town

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-584)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-584)** and sent for concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-296)** on Bill "An Act Regarding Benefits and Training for Long-term Care Workers" (S.P. 673) (L.D. 1720)

Signed:

Senators:

INGWERSEN of York
NANGLE of Cumberland

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Senator:

MOORE of Washington

Representatives:

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

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-296)**.

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-296)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-296)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-304)** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Law Governing the Competitive Skills Scholarship Program and Establish the Community Workforce Connections Program" (S.P. 764) (L.D. 1956)

Signed:

Senators:

TIPPING of Penobscot
BRADSTREET of Kennebec
RAFFERTY of York

Representatives:

ROEDER of Bangor
ARCHER of Saco
BECK of South Portland
GEIGER of Rockland
MACIAS of Topsham
SKOLD of Portland

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

Signed:

Representatives:

COLLINS of Sidney
DRINKWATER of Milford
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-304)**.

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-304)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-304)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Control Property Taxes by Increasing the Percentage of the Business Equipment Tax Exemption That Municipalities May Recover" (S.P. 495) (L.D. 1206)

Signed:

Senators:

GROHOSKI of Hancock
BICKFORD of Androskoggin
TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:

CLOUTIER of Lewiston
FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor
LAVIGNE of Berwick
MATLACK of St. George
QUINT of Hodgdon
RUDNICKI of Fairfield
SAYRE of Kennebunk
SWALLOW of Houlton
WHITE of Ellsworth

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-311)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representative:

CROCKETT of Portland

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

READ.

On motion of Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston, the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in concurrence.

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

ENACTORS

Emergency Measure

An Act to Amend the Law Governing Dedimus Justices
(S.P. 60) (L.D. 129)
(C. "A" S-290)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 107 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

An Act to Impose a Moratorium on the Ownership or Operation of Hospitals in the State by Private Equity Companies or Real Estate Investment Trusts
(S.P. 416) (L.D. 985)
(C. "A" S-299)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 105 voted in favor of the same and 1 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

An Act to Regulate Virtual Currency Kiosks
(S.P. 553) (L.D. 1339)
(C. "A" S-300)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 107 voted in favor of the same and 1 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

Resolve, to Reestablish the Blue Economy Task Force to Support Maine's Emergence as a Center for Blue Economy Innovation and Opportunity in the 21st Century
(S.P. 441) (L.D. 1023)
(C. "A" S-297)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 87 voted in favor of the same and 33 against, and accordingly the Resolve **FAILED FINAL PASSAGE** and was sent to the Senate.

Acts

An Act to Provide Funds Necessary for the Production and Delivery of Election Materials by the Secretary of State
(S.P. 26) (L.D. 13)
(C. "A" S-291)

An Act to Incrementally Increase the Homestead Property Tax Exemption
(S.P. 76) (L.D. 140)
(C. "A" S-280)

An Act Pertaining to Sales and Use Tax Exemptions for Durable Medical Equipment, Breast Pumps and Mobility-enhancing Equipment
(S.P. 81) (L.D. 145)
(C. "A" S-281)

An Act to Prohibit the Sale of Tobacco Products in Pharmacies and Retail Establishments Containing Pharmacies
(H.P. 99) (L.D. 166)
(C. "A" H-501)

An Act to Require School Boards to Adopt a Policy on Automated External Defibrillator Access at School-sponsored Athletic Events
(S.P. 270) (L.D. 587)
(S. "A" S-272 to C. "A" S-214)

An Act Regarding the Reduction and Recycling of Food Waste
(S.P. 438) (L.D. 1065)
(C. "A" S-279)

An Act to Support Maine's Public Health Objectives by Increasing Access to Hypodermic Apparatus Exchange Programs
(H.P. 700) (L.D. 1078)
(C. "A" H-485)

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Qualifications for the State Auditor
(S.P. 533) (L.D. 1303)
(C. "A" S-282)

An Act to Expand Maine's Health Care Workforce by Improving Educational Opportunities
(S.P. 541) (L.D. 1311)
(C. "A" S-270)

An Act to Enhance the Protection of High-value Natural Resources Statewide
(S.P. 613) (L.D. 1529)
(C. "A" S-271)

An Act to Reform the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority
(S.P. 645) (L.D. 1637)
(C. "A" S-293)

An Act to Provide Reduced Interest Rates for Logging and Fishing Operations
(S.P. 679) (L.D. 1733)
(C. "A" S-294)

An Act to Establish the Biohazard Waste Disposal Grant Program to Support Public Health Efforts in the State
(H.P. 1156) (L.D. 1738)
(C. "A" H-484)

An Act to Provide Peer Respite for Individuals with Mental Health Care Needs
(H.P. 1227) (L.D. 1843)
(C. "A" H-445)

An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Maine Abandoned and Discontinued Roads Commission
(H.P. 1332) (L.D. 1985)

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

Resolves

Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Review
Teacher Mentoring Programs in Maine Public Schools

(S.P. 209) (L.D. 470)

(C. "A" S-276)

Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to
Conduct a Statewide Survey Related to Instructional Time in
Public Schools

(S.P. 647) (L.D. 1639)

(C. "A" S-275)

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

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

On motion of Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter
Harbor, the House adjourned at 10:54 p.m., until 10:00 a.m.,
Tuesday, June 10, 2025.