

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION
29th Legislative Day
Wednesday, June 11, 2025

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

Prayer by Reverend Marty Pelham, First Universalist of Rockland.

National Anthem by Nacole Palmer, Bowdoin.

Pledge of Allegiance.

The Journal of yesterday was read and approved.

SENATE PAPERS

Non-Concurrent Matter

Resolve, Authorizing a Study on the Impacts and Risks of Lead-based Ammunition

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

Minority (6) **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-523)** in the House on June 9, 2025.

Came from the Senate with the Majority (7) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE READ** and **ACCEPTED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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

Representative MASON of Lisbon moved that the House **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

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

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 426

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

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

ABSENT - Bridgeo, Carlow, Crafts, Fredette, Jackson, Lanigan, Mingo, Underwood, Walker.

Yes, 67; No, 73; Absent, 9; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

67 having voted in the affirmative and 73 voted in the negative, with 9 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR FAILED**.

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

Non-Concurrent Matter

An Act to Provide for the Direct Shipment of Spirits to Consumers

(H.P. 1172) (L.D. 1754)

(C. "A" H-385)

FAILED of **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED** in the House on June 9, 2025.

Came from the Senate **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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

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

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 427

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Babin, Bagshaw, Beck, Bunker, Caruso, Cloutier, Collamore, Cooper, Dhalac, Dill, Doudera, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Fredericks, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Gere, Gifford, Greenwood, Haggan, Hasenfus, Henderson, Hymes, Kessler, Kuhn, Lance, Lavigne, Lee, Libby, Lookner, Lyman, Mastraccio, McIntyre, Murphy, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pluecker, Rana, Rudnicki, Runte, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Skold, Smith, Stover, Strout, Terry, Thorne, White J, Woodsome, Yusuf, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Ardell, Arford, Bell, Blier, Boyer D, Boyer M, Brennan, Campbell, Chapman, Cimino, Cluchey, Collins, Copeland, Cray, Crockett, Daigle, DeBrito, Dodge, Drinkwater, Faircloth, Farrin, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Geiger, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Guerrette, Hall, Hepler, Jackson, Javner, Julia, Lajoie, Lemelin, Macias, Malon, Mason, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, Osher, Poirier, Pomerleau, Pugh, Quint, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Sachs, Shagoury, Sinclair, Soboleski, Supica, Swallow, Tuell, Wadsworth, Warren, Webb, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Zager.

ABSENT - Arata, Bishop, Bridgeo, Carlow, Crafts, Fredette, Lanigan, Mingo, Underwood, Walker.

Yes, 63; No, 76; Absent, 10; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

63 having voted in the affirmative and 76 voted in the negative, with 10 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR FAILED**.

Representative MOONEN of Portland moved that the House **RECONSIDER** its action whereby the motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR FAILED**.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on his motion to **RECONSIDER** whereby the motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR FAILED**.

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

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

Representative **MOONEN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would ask everyone to vote against the motion that I just made, as I will be doing. I believe we have voted on this bill enough times and it's time to put it to bed. Thank you.

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

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 understand the concerns of the industry that doesn't want to have business taken away from them, but I think this is a form of protectionism from a threat that doesn't really exist. I don't think that these businesses are going to lose business through this other avenue of distribution. How these spirits are distributed is not going to affect retailers. I heard one person say it to me, and I thought it was pretty good observation and I think more money has been spent on lobbying against this than what they would lose in revenue.

I think, as I've heard from Members who have worked very closely on this bill, it's very narrowly tailored and to very small, specific markets. And I even heard, you know, one person say how it was better for; you know, unfortunately, and it's a little bit weird that I'm standing up and speaking on this issue, because I don't drink; I used to, but I don't anymore; but that these people would be better off having the spirits shipped to their house than putting them out on the road, driving for them.

So, I don't see any need for this level of protection. I don't think they're going to lose anything if this passes, and I'd like to see it pass, because I think this is a very niche market that needs this bill to pass, so that they can succeed, and if we don't pass it, then they won't succeed, but the businesses that we're protecting will see no change in their business. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before we vote, could you clarify what a 'yes' and a 'no' would mean on this particular vote? Just for --

The SPEAKER: The Chair would inform the Body that if the motion prevails, we will Reconsider our action whereby this bill failed the Recede and Concur motion. If the motion fails, we will not Reconsider our action, and this bill will not be Reconsidered, whereas this bill failed the Recede and Concur. If it succeeds, we will once again vote on whether or not we Recede and Concur with the action taken by the Other Body.

The Chair recognizes the Representative from Carmel, Representative Thorne.

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of the pending motion. Essentially, it comes down to this: my bottle, my choice. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: House will be in order. House will be in order. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Poland, Representative Boyer.

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just briefly want to rise in support of the dozens of Maine distillers that have asked for this bill that would put them, you know, in parity with winemakers in the State.

They're looking; people from all over the country and the world come to Maine and some of them stop in our distilleries and would like to ship a bottle or a case back to wherever they're visiting from; perhaps even in Maine, we do a lot of staycations; and they can't. And so, they're asking for this. This bill is so narrowly tailored, \$50,000 worth of product, that product now becomes available in Maine. So, it's an on-ramp, a signal provider for BABLO, for the industry to say, this product has some demand, maybe we should offer it to Mainers. For a specialty bottle that you want delivered, you can't right now. Go to a liquor store, try it, they're not going to put an order for one bottle for you.

So, this is about free market, it's about consumer choice, it's about supporting our small businesses, small distilleries and I hope folks just vote in support of choice. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Auburn, Representative Chapman.

Representative **CHAPMAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This is an awkward position to be in, I'm asking that you vote no on this and put it to bed.

I represent; I work for a retailer, we will special order a bottle. And this bill is not a 'no,' it's a 'not right now.' I believe it opens the door to a pathway. Most people shop from their phone, I wonder how many things have been bought while sitting in this Chamber via the phone. It does offer that opportunity. Retailers would love to have that opportunity as well. A wine-of-the-month club to be able to direct ship spirits to your home. Also, wine sales have declined 20%. I can't say that's because of direct-to-consumer shipping in wine, but it does make you wonder, and thank you for your time.

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

Representative **SUPICA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll just brief, and I feel like the kind of the best words were said and I'll reiterate them. It opens the door to a pathway. I don't want to get into all of the details, but having folks just dropping liquor on doorsteps when we don't really have IDing happening; you know, I kind of think about how cannabis can be delivered and how people are being required to wear cameras and how far we lean in that direction, but on this direction, we seem to be kind of willing to open up some floodgates when we're already having a hard enough time making sure that our retail stores, you know, the law is being followed.

So, I hope that you follow my light in defeating this motion. Thank you very much.

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

Representative **GOLEK**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I didn't plan on speaking on this bill. I'm going to ask, you know, the reason I'll be a no is we have lots of small stores. I know in my community, I have lots of mom-and-pop stores that have spent thousands of dollars to get their alcohol license. And the majority of the money that comes into those stores and various parts of my community are from tourism. If this bill is to pass, it will be poaching from our local mom-and-pop stores that have bought these licenses, and it helps bring money into them and support our community by doing so. Because if somebody's coming from another state, they could go to that store, yeah, and they could see if maybe they could order it. But if it's not there and they have the ability to call and order this from another state, it will be taking money out of the pockets of our local community. Thank you.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 428

YEA - Archer, Beck, Boyer D, Carlow, Caruso, Cloutier, Collamore, Collins, Dhalac, Dill, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Fredericks, Frost, Gattine, Gere, Gifford, Greenwood, Haggan, Henderson, Hymes, Kessler, Kuhn, Lance, Lee, Libby, Lookner, Mastraccio, McIntyre, Meyer, Murphy, Nutting, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pluecker, Quint, Rudnicki, Runte, Sargent, Sayre, Simmons, Smith, Stover, Strout, Terry, Thorne, White J, Woodsome, Yusuf, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Abdi, Adams, Albert, Ankeles, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Bagshaw, Bell, Blier, Boyer M, Brennan, Bunker, Campbell, Chapman, Cimino, Cluchey, Cooper, Copeland, Cray, Crockett, Daigle, DeBrito, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Eder, Faircloth, Farrin, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredette, Friedmann, Geiger, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Guerrette, Hall, Hasenfus, Hepler, Jackson, Javner, Julia, Lajoie, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lyman, Macias, Malon, Mason, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Morris, O'Halloran, Olsen, Osher, Poirier, Pomerleau, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Sachs, Salisbury, Sato, Schmursal-Burgess, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Soboleski, Supica, Swallow, Tuell, Wadsworth, Warren, Webb, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Zager.

ABSENT - Arata, Bishop, Bridgeo, Crafts, Lanigan, Mingo, Underwood, Walker.

Yes, 51; No, 90; Absent, 8; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

51 having voted in the affirmative and 90 voted in the negative, with 8 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the motion to **RECONSIDER** whereby the motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR FAILED, FAILED.**

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

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

Representative **MOONEN**: I apologize in advance to everyone in this House, but I made that Reconsideration motion one motion too soon, so, I now ask that we Reconsider our action whereby this bill; we Insisted, and I ask everyone to oppose the motion to Reconsider our Insisting.

Representative **MOONEN** of Portland moved that the House **RECONSIDER** its action whereby the House voted to **INSIST.**

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on his motion to **RECONSIDER** whereby the House voted to **INSIST.**

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. May I ask a question through the Chair?

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **HENDERSON**: Just to anyone who could answer, why we would make a procedural motion and then ask people to vote against it?

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

Representative **MOONEN**: I am making the motion and asking you to vote against, because as I said before, I think we've voted on this enough times and if we vote down Reconsideration, we're done voting on it. And once again, I

apologize for making that motion on the Recede and Concur when I should've waited till Insist happened. My apologies.

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

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was just going to answer the Good Representative from Rumford that the Good Representative from Portland wanted to burn the option to Reconsider, so, that's what we were doing here.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 429

YEA - Archer, Beck, Boyer D, Carlow, Caruso, Cloutier, Collamore, Collins, Dhalac, Dill, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Fredericks, Frost, Gattine, Gifford, Greenwood, Haggan, Henderson, Hymes, Kessler, Lance, Lee, Libby, Lookner, Mastraccio, McIntyre, Murphy, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Pluecker, Quint, Rudnicki, Salisbury, Simmons, Smith, Stover, Strout, Terry, Thorne, White J, Woodsome, Yusuf, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Abdi, Adams, Albert, Ankeles, Arata, Ardell, Arford, Babin, Bagshaw, Bell, Blier, Boyer M, Brennan, Bunker, Campbell, Chapman, Cimino, Cluchey, Cooper, Copeland, Cray, Crockett, Daigle, DeBrito, Dodge, Doudera, Drinkwater, Eder, Faircloth, Farrin, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredette, Friedmann, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Guerrette, Hall, Hasenfus, Hepler, Jackson, Javner, Julia, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lyman, Macias, Malon, Mason, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Morris, O'Halloran, Osher, Poirier, Pomerleau, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Schmursal-Burgess, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Soboleski, Supica, Swallow, Tuell, Wadsworth, Warren, Webb, White R, Wood P, Wood S.

ABSENT - Bishop, Bridgeo, Crafts, Lanigan, Mingo, Underwood, Walker, Zager.

Yes, 47; No, 94; Absent, 8; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

47 having voted in the affirmative and 94 voted in the negative, with 8 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the motion to **RECONSIDER** whereby the House voted to **INSIST FAILED.**

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 Ensure Accountability for Repairs Conducted by Independent Repair Facilities on Motor Vehicles Under Warranty"

(H.P. 959) (L.D. 1467)

Majority (7) **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-586)** in the House on June 10, 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 to Support Maine's Agricultural Economy by Increasing Revenue from the Corporate Income Tax and Providing Property Tax Exemptions"

(H.P. 1250) (L.D. 1879)

Majority (6) **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **TAXATION READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-571)** in the House on June 10, 2025.

Came from the Senate with the Minority (5) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **TAXATION READ** and **ACCEPTED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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

Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor moved that the House **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

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

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 430

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

NAY - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Cooper, Copeland, Cray, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hall, Hepler, Jackson, 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.

ABSENT - Bridgeo, Crafts, Lanigan, Mingo, Underwood, Walker.

Yes, 65; No, 78; Absent, 6; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

65 having voted in the affirmative and 78 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR FAILED**.

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 197)

STATE OF MAINE

CLERK'S OFFICE

2 STATE HOUSE STATION

AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0002

June 11, 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. 975 An Act to Repeal Laws Allowing Abortion and to Criminalize Abortion

L.D. 1254 An Act to Expand the Licensing of Outpatient Surgical Facilities

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

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

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

ORDERS

On motion of Representative DHALAC of South Portland, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 1334) (Cosponsored by Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, DEBRITO of Waterville, MACIAS of Topsham, MATLACK of St. George, MCCABE of Lewiston, RANA of Bangor, SATO of Gorham, YUSUF of Portland)

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JUNE 20, 2025 AS
WORLD REFUGEE DAY IN MAINE**

WHEREAS, World Refugee Day was launched by the United Nations in 2000 to honor the bravery, strength and determination of refugees around the world who have been forced to flee their home countries under threat of conflict, violence, persecution and natural disaster; and

WHEREAS, more than 100 million people worldwide have been forcibly displaced from their homes due to conflict, persecution, natural disasters and human rights violations; and

WHEREAS, refugees resettle across the welcoming state of Maine in hopes of finding peace and safety for themselves and their families; and

WHEREAS, for over 45 years, refugees from diverse social, cultural, racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds with a variety of skills, abilities and experiences have resettled in Maine and have been woven into the fabric of Maine's vibrant cultural tapestry; and

WHEREAS, refugee-led organizations in Maine share with the State the work of strengthening communities by engaging with and improving the lives of all Maine people through fair and equitable access to education, health care and employment; and

WHEREAS, refugee-owned and immigrant-owned businesses are important contributors to the economic and social vitality of communities across the State, supporting local economies and employing local people; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize June 20, 2025 as World Refugee Day in Maine and the positive impact and enduring contributions of refugee communities in the State.

READ and ADOPTED.

Sent for concurrence.

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

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

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

Recognizing:

Kinsley Paul, of Standish, who won First Place in the 50cc 7-9 Category of the Maine Motocross Series. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 355)

Presented by Representative POMERLEAU of Standish.

Cosponsored by Senator LIBBY of Cumberland, Representative WALKER of Naples.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative POMERLEAU of Standish, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Standish, Representative Pomerleau.

Representative **POMERLEAU**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I am thrilled to recognize my seven-year-old great granddaughter Kinsley here this morning in honor of her championship Maine Motocross win.

Kinsley started racing when she was four years old. She saw other kids racing and wanted to try it. So, her parents bought her a STACYC and she learned to ride without training wheels in two hours. She rides it all the time and has gone through a few bikes already, early in her racing career. Thank you.

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

Recognizing:

Lisa J. Marchese Eames, of Cumberland, on her retirement as Chief of the Criminal Division of the Maine Attorney General's office. Ms. Marchese Eames was hired to work in the Criminal Division after her graduation from law school in 1986. As a member of the Criminal Division, she taught for many years at the Maine Criminal Justice Academy and handled extradition cases for several Governors. She prosecuted all types of criminal cases from OUI to welfare fraud to sexual assault to murder. For several years, she served as the State's first Statewide Drug Coordinator for drug prosecution matters. In 1997, she became one of four statewide homicide prosecutors in the State. In that capacity, she handled over 100 cases involving murder or manslaughter charges. A substantial number of those cases were complicated jury trials involving technical forensic evidence such as DNA, ballistics, fingerprints,

pathology and state of mind. Ms. Marchese Eames chaired the Domestic Violence Homicide Review panel, which examines all domestic violence related homicides in search of ways to reduce the number of people who die as a result of domestic abuse. She also served on the Attorney General's Human Trafficking working group and as the Attorney General's designee on the Rules of Evidence Advisory Committee. In 2001, The Maine Child Abuse Action Network awarded Ms. Marchese Eames the Professional of the Year Award. In 2010, she was awarded the prestigious Caroline Duby Glassman Award by the Women's Law Section of the Maine State Bar Association. In 2014, she was promoted to Deputy Attorney General, Chief of the Criminal Division, the first woman to hold that position. A graduate of the University of Maine, she was appointed by two Governors to the University of Maine System Board of Trustees, serving as Vice-Chair, and in 2018 she received the Maryann Hartman Award, which recognizes outstanding women with strong ties to the State. We extend to Ms. Marchese Eames our appreciation for her long service to the people of Maine and offer her our best wishes;

(HLS 377)

Presented by Representative GRAHAM of North Yarmouth.

Cosponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland, Representative MITCHELL of Cumberland.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from North Yarmouth, Representative Graham.

Representative **GRAHAM**: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, it's not very often that one has the opportunity to stand and honor one of her very best friends, but I have that chance today, before this austere Body. No crying in baseball.

Lisa Jane Pelkey Marchese Eames has been one of my dearest friends since high school. We went to high school in Bangor. She went to UMO and I to Boston College. We then started our 'grownup lives' in Portland until she set off to law school and I to grad school. The next thing we knew, we were each married. She was my maid of honor, or as she would say, 'maid of horror,' and we started our families. Her sons, Ben and Gabe, were basically my nephews, and my sons, Drew, Cam and Hunter, were basically hers. I'm truly blessed to have Lisa as a friend, along with 10 other wonderful women who continue our friendships to this day.

Mr. Speaker, we are public servants, but Lisa exemplifies extraordinary public service. From prosecuting drug crimes to prosecuting devastating sexual assault cases and murder cases, she gave her all for the people of our communities. I marvel at my friend's accomplishments, but the greatest of all accomplishments and achievements she has is that she is a wonderful mom; a great grandmother, with Gracie being 16 months old and I'm jealous that she has a grandchild; and she's one of the best friends one could ever have.

I want to congratulate Lisa from the entire Graham family and from this House. Much love to you and John for the best times in your retirement and in your travels and I truly thank you for your public service.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Biddeford, Representative Malon.

Representative **MALON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Given how annoyed I get when there are multiple speeches on a given topic, you must know it means something to me when I become part of the problem. I would be remiss, having worked in the

Attorney General's Office, if I didn't note that Lisa Marchese's retirement is the true end of an era.

I was able to have a firsthand witness to her leadership, both in terms of how she ran her Department and Division within the AG's office but also in how critical of a role she played to the administration of justice in the State of Maine. The care and support she showed for victims of crimes and their families and also to her staff, who also had to bear quite a significant weight under some of the most challenging and disturbing cases you could possibly imagine. Lisa performed her role with tremendous grace, dignity and toughness. And as the person who had to speak to the press for the office, I frequently would have to go to her when I would get multiple press questions on any given topic, and she would make sure I knew exactly what I was allowed to say and, more important and frequently, what I was not allowed to say. And for that, I am very grateful to the way she conducted her business and affairs within the office. She will be missed in State service, although I don't think she'll be going away anytime soon. Thank you.

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

Recognizing:

Rotary Club of Brunswick, which is celebrating its 100th Anniversary. One hundred years ago, on May 19, 1925, the Rotary Club of Brunswick, Number 2056 of Rotary International, was established and granted its charter. As Rotarians, the members were then and will always be committed to service above self, to building community and to engaging in thoughtful dialogue about the issues that shape our world. To provide service to the community, their yearly events and projects include co-sponsoring the Brunswick Bike Rodeo and Family Safety Day, which includes giving free bike helmets to all in need, flags on veterans' graves for Memorial Day, Games on the Mall every 4th of July, higher education scholarships for local students and much more. Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self" has been followed by Rotary Club of Brunswick for the last 100 years. Going forward, the plan will be to continue service to the Brunswick area for at least the next 100 years, improving the community for all. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 378)

Presented by Representative ARFORD of Brunswick.
Cosponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, Representative ANKELES of Brunswick, Representative GOLEK of Harpswell.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative ARFORD of Brunswick, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

On motion of the same Representative, **TABLED** pending **PASSAGE** and later today assigned.

In Memory of:

Shiloh Schulte, of Kennebunk. Dr. Schulte was a lifelong birdwatcher, conservationist and scientist who worked on a variety of landbird, seabird and shorebird projects throughout North America. While earning his doctorate at North Carolina State University, he studied the ecology and population biology of American Oystercatchers on the Outer Banks, helping to coordinate a coastwide banding and resighting effort with multiple research partners. His career was dedicated to understanding and safeguarding migratory bird populations, particularly those under threat from climate change and habitat loss. Dr. Schulte worked with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences and was known for his meticulous fieldwork, his leadership in collaborative research projects and his skill in translating complex science into accessible, actionable insight. He also served on the Kennebunk Select Board for several years and was named Chair in 2022. Dr. Schulte will be long remembered and sadly missed by his family, friends and community;

(HLS 380)

Presented by Representative SAYRE of Kennebunk.

Cosponsored by Senator RAFFERTY of York, Representative GERE of Kennebunkport.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative SAYRE of Kennebunk, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

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

Representative **SAYRE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, friends and colleagues of the House. My good friends on the Tax Committee know I like to introduce myself as representing the greater part of the great town of Kennebunk. The great town of Kennebunk has suffered a great loss. We have lost a great man. Dr. Shiloh Schulte was a dedicated scientist, conservationist, husband, father and friend. He lost his life doing what he loves, what he loved: conducting field research in Alaska, one of the many remote regions where he spent years working to protect and understand the natural world.

He was world class, a pillar in the field of avian conservation. He dedicated his life to understanding and safeguarding migratory bird populations, particularly those under threat from climate change and habitat loss. He was deeply committed to his family, and despite his demanding field work, was always present for the people he loved. He was deeply committed to his community and served on the select board, including a term as Chair. I remember Shiloh as someone who was calm, quiet, even-tempered and even-handed, the person you could rely on to balance interests and keep people aligned. And I think everyone in this Chamber knows the importance of those skills in a committee or team context.

The loss of Dr. Schulte is being felt across scientific communities, environmental circles and his home State of Maine. Tributes have poured in from colleagues around the world who recall his gentle nature, keen intellect and fierce commitment to the planet. Shiloh was a scientist's scientist, driven by purpose, 'powered by compassion,' said one fellow conservationist. He gave his life doing what he loved, protecting the Earth. The world has lost a passionate voice for nature. Please join me in remembering Dr. Shiloh Schulte.

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

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

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-634)** on Bill "An Act to Require the Maine State Police to Create a Statewide List of Missing Persons"

(H.P. 105) (L.D. 172)

Signed:

Senators:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox
CURRY of Waldo

Representatives:

HASENFUS of Readfield
ABDI of Lewiston
BUNKER of Farmington
LAJOIE of Lewiston
LOOKNER of Portland
MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

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

Signed:

Senator:

CYRWAY of Kennebec

Representatives:

ARDELL of Monticello
MCINTYRE of Lowell
NUTTING of Oakland
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

READ.

On motion of Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill, the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-634)** was **READ** by the Clerk.

On motion of Representative HASENFUS of Readfield, **TABLED** pending **ADOPTION** of **Committee Amendment "A" (H-634)** and later today assigned.

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-635)** on Bill "An Act Regarding the State Forensic Service"

(H.P. 282) (L.D. 428)

Signed:

Senators:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox
CURRY of Waldo

Representatives:

HASENFUS of Readfield
ABDI of Lewiston
BUNKER of Farmington
LAJOIE of Lewiston
LOOKNER of Portland
MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

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

Signed:

Senator:

CYRWAY of Kennebec

Representatives:

ARDELL of Monticello
MCINTYRE of Lowell
NUTTING of Oakland
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

READ.

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-635)** 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-635)** and sent for concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-630)** on Bill "An Act to Combat Organized Criminal Enterprises in Maine" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1259) (L.D. 1888)

Signed:

Senators:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox
CURRY of Waldo

Representatives:

HASENFUS of Readfield
ABDI of Lewiston
BUNKER of Farmington
LAJOIE of Lewiston
LOOKNER of Portland
MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-631)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

CYRWAY of Kennebec

Representatives:

ARDELL of Monticello
MCINTYRE of Lowell
NUTTING of Oakland
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

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-630)** 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-630)** and sent for concurrence.

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

ENACTORS Acts

An Act to Strengthen the Teaching of Wabanaki Studies in Maine Schools

(H.P. 966) (L.D. 1474)
(C. "A" H-577)

An Act to Require the Attorney General to Create and Update Biennially a Model Residential Lease

(H.P. 1168) (L.D. 1750)
(C. "A" H-601)

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

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

CONSENT CALENDAR First Day

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

(H.P. 113) (L.D. 180) Bill "An Act Regarding the Interactions of Pharmacy Benefits Managers and So-called 340B Entities and Reimbursements by Pharmacy Benefits Managers to Pharmacies" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-643)**

(H.P. 1122) (L.D. 1687) Bill "An Act to Clarify and Increase Access to HIV Prevention Medications" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-642)**

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

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

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

ENACTORS Acts

An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Licensing of Certain Types of Establishments and Professions by the Department of Health and Human Services

(S.P. 325) (L.D. 767)
(C. "A" S-332)

An Act to Establish Equal Tax Treatment for the Mi'kmaq Nation

(S.P. 412) (L.D. 982)
(C. "A" S-330)

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

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-284)** on **RESOLUTION**, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Require Constitutional Officers to Be Elected by Popular Election

(S.P. 226) (L.D. 508)

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

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

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. I am moving the Majority Report of this bill, but I will not be supporting that. I am supporting the Minority Report, which is Ought Not to Pass.

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

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Briefly, I appreciate the Good Representative from Westbrook moving the Majority Report. Just note that this is a very simple bill. It would put this out to the voters. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 431

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

NAY - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bunker, Campbell, Cloutier, Copeland, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, 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 - Bridgeo, Crafts, Lanigan, Mingo, Underwood, Walker.

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 Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The RESOLUTION was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-284)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Representative LEE of Auburn **PRESENTED House Amendment "A" (H-640)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

Representative GREENWOOD of Wales moved that **House Amendment "A" (H-640)** be **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

Representative MOONEN of Portland **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE House Amendment "A" (H-640)**.

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 Auburn, Representative Lee.

Representative **LEE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I genuinely believe that the people should have an opportunity to vote on their Constitutional Officers. I also believe that they should use the system that they have twice confirmed is the proper system to do elections in the State of Maine. The Amendment simply amends the Resolution to have those Constitutional Officers elected by the people and it be done by ranked-choice voting.

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, if I may first ask a question through the Chair?

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **FREDETTE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my understanding is, is that the underlying motion to pass, passed. There is a proposed Amendment. The proposed Amendment essentially adds a piece to it which essentially says that we would do elections of Constitutional Officers; however, they would be done by ranked-choice voting. Is that correct?

The SPEAKER: That is the Chair's understanding.

Representative **FREDETTE**: And my understanding is we have a motion to Indefinitely Postpone, which we're going to Roll Call, which if is in the affirmative would defeat the motion and the bill. Is that correct?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would answer that the Amendment would be defeated if Indefinitely Postponed. The motion would be back to Passage to be Engrossed. The Member may proceed.

Representative **FREDETTE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, my understanding, then, is the posture of the bill is essentially the underlying is in place, and this is essentially on the Amendment. Is that correct?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would answer in the affirmative.

Representative **FREDETTE**: So, if I may continue, then, Mr. Speaker?

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **FREDETTE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of the Amendment and therefore in opposition to the motion to Indefinitely Postpone.

You know, folks on our side of the aisle have talked about trying to get elected Constitutional Officers for a long time, and at least my understanding of the posture of this bill is, is that this would move that forward to the degree where there would be an election of Constitutional Officers; however, it would be done by ranked-choice voting. So, I don't understand, if we're getting half a loaf of bread, isn't that better than getting nothing?

And so, I'm in favor of this, because I think it's something that's important for the people of the State of Maine to be able to do. I think it's the right thing to do. And so, I'll be voting in opposition to the motion to Indefinitely Postpone.

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

Representative **GREENWOOD**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll be voting in the affirmative on the motion to Indefinitely Postpone.

Mr. Speaker, we have worked this bill hard and tirelessly to get it to a point where it was palatable for both sides. This proposed House Amendment makes it very intolerable and I can't support this in any shape or form for the Amendment. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **SMITH**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If there's one thing I know, it's that the people of Maine despise ranked-choice voting. So, I would vote to Indefinitely Postpone this, so that the people of Maine don't continue to be confused and angry on Election Day. Thank you.

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

Representative **LOOKNER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In response to those last comments, the people of Maine have twice supported at the ballot ranked-choice voting, and opponents of ranked-choice voting have failed to secure enough signatures to get on the ballot to repeal it in certain instances. So, I think it is a very popular idea and notion.

Sometimes in this Body, we have to compromise, and I view ranked-choice voting as a compromise system. I've lost elections in ranked-choice methods; that might win over some people. So, the goal here, I think, is to get to a position where we can all support something and move forward.

How we ended up with majority; I'm not going to stand up and give a history lesson, but how we ended up with a majority system, or excuse me, a plurality system, is there was an election in which no candidate for Chief Executive Officer won a majority and the Legislature appointed the person who had the least amount of votes by popular vote.

So, if we're going to allow for popular elections, why not trust the people to elect those folks by a majority? That's what ranked-choice voting allows for and mandates, is a majority, and I think it's a sensible way to ensure that candidates that the most people support, that everybody can live with, get elected. So, I'm very much in support of this motion. Thank you.

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

Representative **TUELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will definitely not be supporting any expansion of ranked choice here today. And in saying that, I would harken us back a few weeks when the Committee heard this and a number of other related bills, and there was, in fact, a bill to make Constitutional Officers, elect them by ranked choice, and I would, while I can't speak to the merits of that, necessarily, I can say that it was a 12-0 Report against. So, there was, even amongst the Committee, there was no appetite of those who voted for moving forward with what we are now proposing to do here on the floor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'll make this short, Mr. Speaker. *Portland Press Herald*, May 2017: "Maine's highest court rules ranked-choice voting is unconstitutional." So, are we here to uphold the Constitution, or are we here to not abide by the Constitution? We are a society of rules. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. If we could harken back to 2018 and if I could pose a question through the Chair?

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. "Do you want to reject the parts of a new law that would delay the use of ranked-choice voting in the election of candidates for any State or federal office until 2022, and then retain the method only if the Constitution is amended by December 1, 2021, to allow

ranked-choice voting for candidates in State elections?" Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **SUPICA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. We're going to have a lot of discussion about ranked-choice voting today, I can feel it. And I am rising in response to the ballot question that was raised in this discussion, because I worked in the Secretary of State's office when that was proposed to the people. And I took so many phone calls, and I would hear from people saying, you know, 'I have smart friends that have gone to college, and even they can't understand it.' And that was distressing to me. One, that people felt that they had to, you know, kind of prove that they're not ignorant, because I didn't think that they were ignorant for not understanding it, and two, it showed how much misinformation was swirling around about the ballot question. Because at first, I would try really hard to explain to them what I understood and what I knew and it would just become more confusing, and then I started to do this thing where I would read them the ballot question but slowly, and I would pause. And after I would do that, every single one of them would say to me, 'thank you, nobody has explained it to me that way.' And that shows how much we in this Body, but also in our news and with each other, can get wrapped up in a hysteria and spread misinformation. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **CIMINO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want reconfirmation. So, the vote on to Indefinitely Postpone is only covering the Amendment that was just introduced on ranked-choice voting. Other than that, LD 508 still stands as we voted.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will reiterate, if the motion to Indefinitely Postpone succeeds, the House Amendment presented by the Representative from Auburn will be defeated, and the underlying motion of Passage to be Engrossed would be the next action the Body would take up. If the motion fails, the House Amendment will be added to LD 508, and it will be Passage to be Engrossed as Amended.

The Chair recognizes the Representative from Newport, Representative Fredette.

Representative **FREDETTE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, may I pose a question through the Chair?

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **FREDETTE**: So, I'm looking at the Amendment, and as I read the Amendment, I'll; because I don't want to drag this on; but the summary says, "this Amendment requires ranked-choice voting to be used for the election of the Secretary of State, the Treasurer of the State and the Attorney General." That's the Amendment we're voting on, that's Amendment 640. Is that correct?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would answer in the affirmative.

Representative **FREDETTE**: And so, in response to earlier questions in regards to the previous court rulings in regards to the unconstitutionality of ranked-choice voting is that it may apply to some elections, certainly my recollection would be as it applies to the State Constitution that because we choose these current officers by the Legislature, there would be no language in the Constitution as it would relate to 'plurality,' 'majority vote' or whatnot. I mean, this would sort of be new cloth. And so, my interpretation of that would be, then, that the applicability of the unconstitutionality decision as it applied to the earlier decisions would not apply to this particular Amendment. And so, again, I

guess my thought process and argument would be, from this side of the aisle, I would rather see a bill pass that allows the voters to have the right to vote. It may be by ranked-choice voting if this Amendment passes, but at the same time, the people would have the right to vote. That's certainly a big step forward from where we are today.

So, I understand the arguments on both sides of the aisle, but this is certainly, to me, it seems like an opportunity to move the ball forward, and I appreciate the efforts of trying to come to a compromise, which is sometimes difficult to do and people can find reasons not to support, but it certainly seems to move this forward by allowing the voters to have the right to vote. Maybe someday there's another bill to strip ranked-choice voting, I don't know, but to me, this moves the ball forward, and why wouldn't we do that? Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Auburn, Representative Lee.

Representative **LEE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I think everybody in this Body should be reminded that the bar to amend the Constitution is extraordinarily high, and even getting that to the voters requires two-thirds vote. This isn't going to get two-thirds of a vote without some changes to it, and I would, you know, commend to everybody that we look for opportunities to compromise every once in a while. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Indefinite Postponement of House Amendment "A" (H-640). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 432

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

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

ABSENT - Bridgeo, Crafts, Lanigan, Mingo, Underwood, Walker.

Yes, 66; No, 77; Absent, 6; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

66 having voted in the affirmative and 77 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE House Amendment "A" (H-640) FAILED.**

Subsequently, **House Amendment "A" (H-640) was ADOPTED.**

Representative GREENWOOD of Wales **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-284) and House Amendment "A" (H-640).**

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 can't take what I thought was a good bill, have it ruined with ranked-choice cheating, Mr. Speaker. So, I won't be supporting this bill from this point on.

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-284) and House Amendment "A" (H-640). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 433

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bunker, Carlow, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collamore, Copeland, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, 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, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Daigle, Dill, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmursal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Bridgeo, Crafts, Fredette, Javner, Lanigan, Mingo, Underwood, Walker.

Yes, 76; No, 65; Absent, 8; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

76 having voted in the affirmative and 65 voted in the negative, with 8 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the **RESOLUTION** was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-284) and House Amendment "A" (H-640) in NON-CONCURRENCE** and sent for concurrence.

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

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm wild with delight, so, I can hardly wait much longer to make an announcement. So, earlier this year, if you'll remember that I spoke about how I was heartbroken; oh, yes, permission to speak on the record? Am I on the record?

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

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you. I just want to make sure that this young lady gets to hear me speak. But earlier in the Session, I spoke about a young lady in my district who ended up placing second last year to a biological male, and this year, the race that occurred yesterday, it was all biological females, and Natalie Johnson; I have permission from both her mother and her family; this year, did take first place, and instead of it being a certificate that I had to make up myself for her

acknowledging that first place win, this year it's my great pleasure to be able to give her a House Sentiment on behalf of the State of Maine. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and congratulations to Natalie Johnson.

Majority Report of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-334)** on Bill "An Act to Include in the Ranked-choice Election Method for General and Special Elections the Offices of Governor, State Senator and State Representative and to Make Other Related Changes" (S.P. 660) (L.D. 1666)

Signed:

Senators:

HICKMAN of Kennebec
DUSON of Cumberland

Representatives:

SUPICA of Bangor
FAIRCLOTH of Bangor
FROST of Belgrade
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth
MALON of Biddeford
TERRY of Gorham

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

Signed:

Senator:

TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin

Representatives:

BOYER of Poland
CHAPMAN of Auburn
FREDERICKS of Sanford
HYMES of Waldo

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-334)**.

READ.

Representative SUPICA of Bangor 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 Bangor, Representative Supica.

Representative **SUPICA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This bill provides for ranked-choice voting for general elections and special elections for the offices of the Chief Executive and State Representative, and it clarifies the definition of ranked-choice voting.

And in our Committee, we heard so much testimony for this bill. There was a lot of support and very little testimony against. In fact, I only counted one, but there might be more than one. And I wanted to stand here today and kind of address some of the issues that some folks found with this bill and found with ranked-choice voting in general. And one thing that was brought up is that this would seek to expand ranked-choice voting, and that is a bad thing, to which I would argue that this gets at the original intent of what we the people in Maine always wanted to do with ranked-choice voting.

It was also brought up that it would be 'deeply irresponsible' and 'legally dubious,' and it would 'erode trust' in our electoral system. And I've spoken many times and I will speak again that trust in our local system starts with us. It starts with trust and faith with the people who work in the buildings, in our municipal buildings, in our State buildings, who count our ballots, who help us run our elections, who run the polls. We have an incredibly safe and secure election system, and we also have an incredibly; I apologize, sometimes with all the stress of the day, my mind gets a little off track; we also have a very safe system of counting our ranked-choice voting.

So, we have a computer system or an algorithm that counts it and that computer is never connected to the internet, so, there's no way that there can ever be any hacking or interference with the system. And this is true with all of our election computers, because we do a lot of things on paper ballot. One thing that I've realized is that a lot of people have said that 'it's too complicated, I don't understand it, therefore I don't trust it.' And I don't know how to begin to address that issue other than to say that it's really not too complicated. You have a first choice, and if not more than 50% of the vote goes to that first choice that you place, it goes to your second choice, and so on and so forth. And at the end of the day, whoever wins the election has 50% plus one, a majority of the people. And I think that it brings us together behind a leader. Because I often, too many times, see so much division behind our elections for the Chief Executive and President. And I hope that we all can try to come together on this and pass what the will of the people wanted so long ago, but sometimes faith is waning, but we'll see how the discussion goes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for indulging me.

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

Representative **BOYER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Maine Constitution is clear. You'll find the word 'plurality,' and our elections are required to be determined by a plurality. Couldn't be any more clear.

Years ago, the Maine Supreme Court gave an advisory opinion saying that it is against the Maine Constitution, and instead of going back to them today in 2025, we are instead going to redefine what the word 'plurality' means, so that we can pretend like it's constitutional. I guess that's just par for the course for this Body, whether it comes to one party majority, extraconstitutional budgets or changing laws to extend the session by a majority vote or attempting to withhold public hearings that are required by State law. And that is all perfectly germane, because we're talking about the Constitution, and it's clear how ranked-choice voting falls in the Maine Constitution.

So, I know it's a prickly issue, and facts are a stubborn thing. But I think if we did pass this, it would be unconstitutional, and we should reach out to the Maine Supreme Court rather than trying to do this end run around. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Auburn, Representative Lee.

Representative **LEE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You're hearing from me far too many times today and all on the subject of ranked-choice voting. So, I rise today to speak in strong support of LD 1666, a bill that does more than enact the people's will for ranked-choice voting. It restores coherence to our electoral system and affirms the will of the voters.

Eight years ago, our Supreme Court issued a nonbinding advisory opinion questioning the constitutionality of ranked-choice voting for state-level general elections based on an interpretation of the word 'plurality.' That opinion, rendered by seven justices; only one of whom is still on the Court; has never

been tested in a full judicial proceeding. It rested on the idea that a candidate must win in the first round of ranking to satisfy constitutional requirements, an idea that has since been thoroughly examined and rejected by the State of Alaska. In *Kohlhaas v. State*, 2022, the Alaska Supreme Court upheld ranked-choice voting under a remarkably similar to our own provision of the Constitution. In fact, the constitutional provision is so similar that those who were arguing against the constitutionality of ranked-choice voting in Alaska almost relied entirely on the Maine Supreme Court's opinion. The Alaska Supreme Court compellingly took apart the law court's opinion and demonstrated the flaw of its reasoning. The Court, talking about how the vote in ranked-choice voting is not complete until the final round; the Court in Alaska said the Maine Supreme Judicial Court treated the result obtained after the first round of counting as if it were final, without pointing to any text in its Constitution that requires votes to be counted in that way or that limits the way a vote can be cast or expressed. The Court discussed at length the history of Maine's Constitution's plurality provision and the State's history of failed elections, but did not explain how ranked-choice voting is any more likely to result in a failed election than single-choice voting. The Court's failure to pinpoint constitutional text, structure or policies inconsistent with ranked-choice voting leaves us unconvinced by its analysis. I remain unconvinced by the law court's analysis in that 2017 case. The idea that a plurality must be determined from the first-round count misreads both the purpose and function of ranked-choice voting. The Appellant in the case, as I said before, relied heavily on the law court's opinion. Alaska has answered that question for us.

LD 1666 directly addresses this concern. It refines the statutory language to clarify that each ranking is not a separate vote, but rather a single expressive vote counted through successive rounds until one candidate clearly earns a plurality in the final tabulation. This legislative change would align us with how the Federal Elections Commission and other courts; other federal courts and the Alaska Supreme Court; have come to understand ranked-choice voting, not as multiple votes but as a single iterative process. This bill does not conflict with our Constitution; on the contrary, it harmonizes our election Statutes with the plurality requirement, giving effect to the true intent of the voters who enacted ranked-choice voting in 2016 and reaffirmed it in 2018. Let's follow the reasoned path laid out by the Alaska Court and the will of our constituents and move forward with a voting system that reflects both legal soundness and democratic values.

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

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I won't be as long. I'll keep mine to clear facts.

Anytime something happens like this, the first thing I go is to the definition. The first thing I wanted to know is not somebody's interpretation, but what's the definition of the word 'majority.' The word majority is defined, three words: the greater number. That's what majority is. Majority is the greater number. So, if we say we elect by majority, we're looking at the greater number. It doesn't get into over 50% of the people voting, you have to have 50% plus; it doesn't say anything about, it just says majority, the greater number.

So, the next thing I did was I looked up the word 'plurality.' What does 'plurality' mean? A couple different definitions, and if you'll allow me, I'll share them with you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. "(A) A number greater than another;" which goes back to the majority, right? A greater number than another. "(B) An excess of votes over those cast for an opposing candidate." An

excess number of votes other than those cast for an opposing candidate. And the last one says: "a number of votes cast for a candidate in a contest of more than two candidates that is greater than the number cast for any other candidate, but not more than half the total numbers of votes cast." Nowhere in there does it say anything about ranked-choice voting or having to determine a 50-plus-one percent.

Ranked-choice voting is an ill-conceived idea, Mr. Speaker. It takes away one-person-one-vote type mentality of voting, whoever gets the most votes wins. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Auburn, Representative Lee.

Representative **LEE**: All right, I'll be even briefer. I just wanted to thank the Representative from Carmel for reading three definitions of 'plurality' that support this bill.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Auburn, Representative Chapman.

Representative **CHAPMAN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Something's going on with my button. I've pushed it a couple of times.

I just wanted to say that ranked-choice voting confuses voters, discards ballots, delays results and costs millions. In 2018, eight percent of Maine's ballots were exhausted. It doesn't reduce polarization or ensure fairness.

Also, I'd like to say every time I learn about ranked-choice voting, I learn something new, and I'm going off memory, so, by all means, if somebody wants to correct me, have at it. I learned that if you skip your number two slot and check your number three, it's okay, because they'll just shift your number three to number two, whether you wanted it to happen or not. What else do I not know?

It leaves a lot open to interpretation, it leaves a lot out there to skepticism, it leaves a lot out there to conspiracy. Because nobody really knows. And yes, it's been explained, and every time, I learn something new. For that, that as an example, they will move your vote. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **SUPICA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just wanted to address some issues.

Everything with our elections laws is transparent, and our elections staff does a really good job of trying to craft law and in a way that; or tried to craft policy in a way that fulfills the law and the intention of the people. So, you know, if somebody skips a vote, it is natural to say, okay, like, if they didn't fill anything in, 'who is their third, let's count their third.' There's nothing unnatural about that. And I do agree that conspiracies are eroding the trust of our elections and lots of things in our country right now, and I've racked my brain around this, you know, you can twist yourself up all you want, but to not enact something that is, you know, to not enact the will of the people because you're afraid of a few folks that are going to twist something up into a conspiracy is just wrong. Thank you.

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

Representative **THORNE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to make sure everybody in the House is clear. Nowhere in my definitions did it say you had to vote for more than one candidate to get the majority or the plurality. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **CIMINO**: Point of Order.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would inquire as to why the Representative from Bridgton rises.

Representative **CIMINO**: I have a Point of Order. So, you said that there were two people in their seats that had not yet voted; one of them was Mike Lemelin, I was the other. We both proceeded to vote. Why are we still waiting on votes?

The SPEAKER: The vote is still open. The Member will defer.

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. 434

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, DeBrito, Dhalac, 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, Cray, Crockett, Daigle, Dill, 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, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmursal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Archer, Bridgeo, Crafts, Lanigan, Mingo, Underwood, Walker.

Yes, 72; No, 70; Absent, 7; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

72 having voted in the affirmative and 70 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-334)** 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-334)** in concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-632)** on Bill "An Act to Require Certain Mental Health Data to Be Included in Uniform Crime Reports"

(H.P. 792) (L.D. 1187)

Signed:

Senators:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox
CURRY of Waldo

Representatives:

HASENFUS of Readfield
ABDI of Lewiston
LAJOIE of Lewiston
LOOKNER of Portland
MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

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

Signed:

Senator:

CYRWAY of Kennebec

Representatives:

ARDELL of Monticello
BUNKER of Farmington
MCINTYRE of Lowell
NUTTING of Oakland
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

READ.

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

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

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Dover-Foxcroft, Representative Perkins.

Representative **PERKINS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, the name of this bill, "An Act to Require Certain Mental Health Data to be Included in Uniform Crime Reports," is a little bit misleading.

Just a little background, back when I was a detective with one department, it was my job to handle our department's UCR reporting, or uniform crime reporting. And UCR reporting is when they take certain crimes, they collect that data and they send it up to the Department of Justice, so that they can get a good tally on what crimes are occurring in this State and how, so that we can help prevent crime, and it's useful. For example, we know right now that most convenience stores, if they get robbed, get robbed around closing. We know that most robberies occur around noon, and most crime actually occurs in the beginning of the month.

So, I don't have any problem with collecting data that is used well. But unfortunately, we don't get to set what data is sent up in the UCR report, that's all set by the feds, because a variety of reasons. There's different crimes in different states and because what the feds are looking at to get that kind of; to get the right statistics for their studies so that we can learn from that. And what we've done in the State is required more reporting from our departments that is actually not being included in the UCR reports. In fact, in this bill, it was amended to take the authority out of Title 25, which handles UCR reporting, and send it to Title 22 and create a completely

different report. And the problem with that, Mr. Speaker, is we're now asking our departments; which are already small, they're overtaxed, they're overworked; and I'm hearing from them all the time that, 'hey, the Legislature keeps creating more reporting requirements that isn't actually doing any good, it's not being studied up at the federal level so we can help prevent crime, and yet it's using a whole lot of resources.'

Now, incident systems that police departments use, they have tools built in, so that when we are required to submit our UCR reports to the Department of Public Safety, who then sends it up to the feds, we just run a few scripts, hit a few buttons and boom, we've got this nice, exported data set that we can use. By all these additional reporting requirements, we are now requiring departments to do all of this by hand. And it may not sound like a lot, but it is a huge lift in our departments, they cannot effectively do it and like I say, if there's one complaint I hear more often than not from my former law enforcement friends, people I used to work with, is the reporting requirements are getting ridiculous. We're collecting data, it's not getting used properly, it's not going where it needs to go, and we just can't handle that lift. It's an extreme expense.

We're asking in this Amendment for almost two million dollars, Mr. Speaker. Two million dollars to gather data that isn't even going to go to the UCR reporting, it's not going to help us prevent any crime, it's not going to help us predict any trends in crime, but we're asking the taxpayers to now spend two million dollars to create a completely separate system to track data to do this.

So, I would ask everybody to vote against the motion, because we don't need to spend this money for data collection that is almost next to useless. And if we want to enhance how we do UCR reporting, I'm not opposed to that, but we need to do it within the framework of what UCR reporting is intended for. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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 in support of the pending motion.

LD 1187 is a very straightforward bill, but I want to provide a little bit of context for you. Currently, the Department of Health and Human Services provides an annual report to the Legislature with both public health data concerning firearm fatalities and injuries in the State of Maine, including notably deaths by suicide. In fact, this report, which we now have three of, Mr. Speaker, reports that last year, nearly 90% of firearm fatalities were suicides, with nearly 50% of those deaths being men over the age of 45. This was from a bill that I put in, Mr. Speaker, in the 130th that was passed out of Committee and signed into law, and I'm going to read to you what that says, Mr. Speaker. "Public Law 2021, Chapter 369, requires Maine's Department of Public Safety to assist in data collection for the purpose of reporting public health data concerning firearm fatalities in the State. As of January 2022, Department of Public Safety implemented a revised data collection form to require law enforcement agencies to submit additional data elements for firearm related incidents occurring January 1, 2021," and thereafter.

This Report comprises a great deal of important information. However, Mr. Speaker, at the moment, it does not include data regarding mental health referrals under Maine's so-called 'yellow flag law.' As you know, Mr. Speaker, the Department of Health and Human Services has entered into a contract to provide services for mental health referrals as required under the yellow flag law. Presently, however, we are

not receiving data on the number of referrals realized through this relationship.

As lawmakers, we all know that one of the most important aspects of policymaking and evaluation is having relevant, reliable data available to us all. LD 1187 aims to provide that by including this important mental health data into the existing annual report. The goal is simply to add this data to the existing report, which again, is already being gathered and published by the Maine CDC in collaboration with the Department of Public Safety, as it is currently required by Statute. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **HASENFUS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The Good Representative from Old Orchard Beach did cover a lot of this, but I'd like to point out that, yes, that the title of the original bill was certainly changed, as we're no longer dealing with Title 25. We're dealing with Title 22, and as the Good Representative from Old Orchard Beach spoke, what we're doing is we're just asking that in addition to the requirements already required to be reported to the Maine CDC, that police officers also include the times that they have made a mental health referral based on one of the risk protection orders, the 'yellow flag law,' so to speak. This will be helpful information for us to know how well our laws are working and how well they're being used.

And with this vote, as with many, you know, this is the first time we're voting on this bill and there's a long process to go through here. You heard the Good Representative from Dover-Foxcroft mention the price. I think it would behoove this Body to move this bill forward, as I think that that Fiscal Note could be further amended and should be further amended, as there are some discrepancies as far as the programs needed and things like that, but at this time in the game, I think the appropriate thing to do is to move this forward, because the policy is good that we should have data on how many referrals are being made from police officers when there is a crisis situation that involves use of the yellow flag Statute that we've implemented. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Farmington, Representative Bunker.

Representative **BUNKER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Just to clarify my position in the Committee vote, I shared my concerns with the Good Representative from Dover-Foxcroft. The original title as presented, making reference to the Uniform Crime Reporting program; I managed that program for a dozen years out of State Police headquarters, and the type of data being looked at, at this point as it relates to mental health hospitalization and firearms, was not a good fit for that program.

And so, I had concerns over how that would burden local law enforcement in their reporting. I understand there have been some changes made in that, and I do not want to vote against this, because I do have a concern about mental health, firearms and hospitalization that result from those issues. I think it will deserve a good look after it gets started to see if changes need to be made, but at this point in time, I would support it as Amended.

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. 435

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, 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, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

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

ABSENT - Archer, Crafts, Jackson, Lanigan, Mingo, Underwood, Walker.

Yes, 75; No, 67; Absent, 7; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 67 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-632)** 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-632)** and sent for concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Clarify That a Business's License or Subscription to Use Software Is Not Considered a Lease for the Purposes of Sales and Use Tax"

(H.P. 865) (L.D. 1330)

Signed:

Senators:

GROHOSKI of Hancock

TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:

CLOUTIER of Lewiston

FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor

MATLACK of St. George

SAYRE of Kennebunk

SWALLOW of Houlton

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-638)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

BICKFORD of Androscoggin

Representatives:

CROCKETT of Portland

LAVIGNE of Berwick

QUINT of Hodgdon

RUDNICKI of Fairfield

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 Madison, Representative Ducharme.

Representative **DUCHARME**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in opposition to the pending motion of Ought Not to Pass on LD 1330, "An Act to Clarify That a Business's License or Subscription to Use Software Is Not Considered a Lease for Purposes of Sales and Use Tax."

It's important to understand the history of this tax to be able to understand why this bill was introduced. In the 131st Legislature, this Body passed a bill to normalize taxation among different things. There were some things being taxed, some items not being taxed and some taxed at various different rates. It seemed to make sense to bring all these together to create some sort of consistency in this type of taxation. This was accomplished by an Amendment to the supplemental budget bill, LD 2214, by applying the Sales and Use Tax of 5.5% to any canned software that companies lease, license or subscribe to. This tax increase took effect on January 1, 2025.

However, in doing so, some important items were included that historically have been carved out for businesses for various economic reasons. Those items are things like golf carts, skis, ski boots, golf clubs and also things like software, like downloadable data management tools and downloadable office products like Microsoft Office, 360, Adobe and QuickBooks. These items in the business world had historically been tax-exempt as a business material necessary to generate an economic benefit for the business, which these have been tax-exempt. In this consolidation of this law, these exemptions were lost when software, in particular, was listed as tangible personal property in the tax law. Because of this, any purchases of downloadable software by a business became taxable.

When a business uses software that is resident in the cloud, known as 'software as a service,' or SaaS, that transaction is still not taxable. When a business goes online, it purchases software that used to come in a box, but now they just download to their computer, that transaction became taxable. Since most software is now downloaded from online, this is hitting businesses very hard. Consider this: Microsoft Office 365 is a downloadable software. Many businesses use this software for their word processing, for data management, for PowerPoints, Excel, *et cetera*. As the law is currently constructed, whenever a business purchases a software license such as this, they now have to pay 5.5% on that purchase. Now, one might think this is really no big deal. After all, a software

license from Microsoft 360 is about a hundred bucks a year. So, that means 5.5% sales tax on a \$100 purchase. It doesn't seem like a whole lot. However, when you think about large organizations like BIW, L.L. Bean, our own University of Maine and small businesses like Skowhegan Savings, Waterville Law, One River CPAs and others that have to purchase these licenses for each individual that uses them in order to be legally compliant with the rules for the purchase of the software, it can become a lot of money. If BIW has to purchase software licenses for its employees, you can multiply that \$5.50 cost by thousands, annually.

I hope you can see how this would be a problem. This issue was brought to the Administration last summer, and we've been working on it since then in hopes to avert the law change on January 1, 2025. Since that effort failed, I submitted this bill. During the work session, Dr. Allen from MRS testified that this change would likely cost about five million dollars annually in lost revenue. Since that time, the Amendment was drafted to clarify the intent of the legislation, which is part of the Ought to Pass motion.

As presented, this bill has a Fiscal Note of over \$20 million in lost revenue annually. Mr. Speaker, lost revenue means that someone doesn't pay the taxes that the State wanted them to pay. In this case, lost revenue is a new tax on Maine businesses. Let me be clear: This is a new tax on Maine businesses that was passed through a majority budget document without public hearing on this specific portion. The unintended consequences of this are great. Twenty-million-dollars great. Annually. This increase went into effect January 1, 2025, so, I will tell you I don't believe it's too late to fix it. We have to act today.

Please join me in opposing the pending motion and supporting the Ought to Pass as Amended to spare Maine businesses from this huge tax increase. Thank you.

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

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

LD 1330 exempts; sorry. LD 1330 proposes to exempt leases, licenses, subscriptions or similar rights to use or access software by businesses from the definition of 'lease' or 'rental' under Maine's sales and use tax laws. It creates a new tax exemption for business software subscriptions, shifting more of the tax burden away from businesses and onto everyday Mainers.

The average working family in Maine pays sales tax on everything from winter boots to children's school supplies to diapers. Yet under this bill, a corporation that licenses software to manage its payroll, customer data or even automate jobs out of existence will get a free pass from paying its fair share in sales tax. In addition, this bill would make Maine one of the only states to explicitly shield business software leases from taxation, opening a loophole that could cost our State millions in future revenue. It does nothing to help consumers and nothing to help working families. It's a corporate tax break disguised as economic development.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for your support of the pending motion. Let's protect our tax base, stand for fairness and put the interests of everyday Mainers first. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Madison, Representative Ducharme.

Representative **DUCHARME**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just would ask a question through the Chair.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **DUCHARME**: This change in tax law; and make no mistake, it is a change in tax law. If we fail to pass this; do the Ought to Pass today, this is really, we are in fact; we are in fact putting a new tax on businesses, we're allowing it to happen because it's already happened.

In the interest; if I understand the Representative from Lewiston correctly, this is to kind of balance things out, because businesses have money and we've got to do this to keep it balanced with consumers? That's my question. Are we just trying to do this because this taxation is new. Thank you.

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 436

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, 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 - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Cray, Crockett, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Farrin, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Frost, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Hall, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Morris, Nutting, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Roberts, Rudnicki, Schmursal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Woodsome.

ABSENT - Crafts, Lanigan, Mingo, Underwood, Walker.

Yes, 71; No, 73; Absent, 5; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

71 having voted in the affirmative and 73 voted in the negative, with 5 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **NOT ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, on motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, the Minority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-638)** 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-638)** and sent for concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-340)** on Bill "An Act to Prohibit the Sale of Items Intended to Be Used to Inhale Nitrous Oxide for Recreational Purposes"

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

Signed:

Senators:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox
CURRY of Waldo
CYRWAY of Kennebec

Representatives:

HASENFUS of Readfield
ABDI of Lewiston
ARDELL of Monticello
BUNKER of Farmington
LAJOIE of Lewiston
MCINTYRE of Lowell
NUTTING of Oakland
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

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

Signed:

Representative:

MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

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-340)**.

READ.

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

Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill **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 Blue Hill, Representative Milliken.

Representative **MILLIKEN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I am going to do my very best to speak about this bill without making any jokes, but I make no promises about how successful I'll be in that endeavor.

This bill would establish a new civil offense in Maine law whereby if I went to a grocery store to purchase whipped cream for the purpose of huffing the gas that is in the whipped cream can, and the store clerk knew I intended to huff that gas and they still sold it to me, they could be charged with a civil penalty of \$250.

I have looked at all our civil and criminal Statutes, and this; not all of them, there's a great deal of them; but there are 14,000 civil Statutes and criminal Statutes in this State, half of which have never been used. I expect that if this bill were to pass, this would add to that list, because, though maybe I have never done a whippit myself, I cannot expect that most people who would go into buy whipped cream containers for the purpose of huffing the gas are telling the cashier that that is what they intend to do with the whipped cream.

I think that this bill, frankly, is kind of a waste of time; it's not going to be used. I ask you to follow my light, because when a bad bill comes along, "you must whip it." Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 437

YEA - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bishop, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Cimino, Collamore, Cooper, Cray, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Graham, Greenwood, Guerrette, Hall, Henderson, Hymes, Jackson, Javner, Kessler, Kuhn, Lance, McCabe, McIntyre, Mitchell, Morris, Nutting, Parry, Perkins, Pomerleau, Rudnicki, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Tuell, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Bagshaw, Beck, Bell, Blier, Boyer D, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Chapman, Cloutier, Cluchey, Collins, Copeland, Crockett, Daigle, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Eder, Faircloth, Farrin, Faulkingham, Flynn, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Gramlich, Haggan, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Lajoie, Lavigne, Lee, Lemelin, Libby, Lookner, Lyman, Macias, Malon, Mason, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, Meyer, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Olsen, Osher, Paul, Pluecker, Poirier, Pugh, Quint, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Schmursal-Burgess, Shagoury, Simmons, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Swallow, Terry, Thorne, Wadsworth, Warren, Webb, Woodsome, Yusuf.

ABSENT - Bunker, Crafts, Lanigan, Mingo, Underwood, Walker.

Yes, 50; No, 93; Absent, 6; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

50 having voted in the affirmative and 93 voted in the negative, with 6 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **NOT ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, on motion of Representative HASENFUS of Readfield, the Minority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE** and sent for concurrence.

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

Seven Members of the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** report in Report "A" **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Increase the Influence of the Maine State Ferry Advisory Board on the Funding and Operations of the Maine State Ferry Service"

(S.P. 677) (L.D. 1731)

Signed:

Senator:

FARRIN of Somerset

Representatives:

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

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

Signed:

Representatives:

ANKELES of Brunswick

EATON of Deer Isle

MONTELL of Gardiner

RAY of Lincolnville

Two Members of the same Committee report in Report "C" **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-339)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senators:

NANGLE of Cumberland

PIERCE of Cumberland

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

READ.

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Lincolnville, Representative Ray.

Representative **RAY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise, I believe, I want to say, in opposition to the bill and request a Roll Call, please.

Representative RAY of Lincolnville **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 Member may proceed.

Representative **RAY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm rising in opposition to the pending motion, and here's why. First, I think it's safe to say that this bill came out of the islanders' frustration with the Maine State Ferry Service, how they make decisions. These are decisions that affect their daily lives, their way of life and, more specifically, their desire to maintain that way of life in the face of changes brought on by gentrification, if we can still use that word.

Now, if you live on an island, odds are pretty good you're going to have some deeply baked-in concerns about your ferry, how and when and even if you can get off the island and how much that's going to cost. These things are always top of mind. Now, the same goes for someone living on the mainland but who needs to do business on the island, or to the tourist with some tired and cranky kids in the back seat, who simply wants to visit one.

Now, the Maine State Ferry Service and the Maine Department of Transportation overall, I think, work hard to provide consistent and affordable ferries. And the Ferry Advisory Board, the focus of this bill, they're a big part of the toolbox here. They're presently made up of locally appointed representatives of each island that is served by ferry. The Ferry Advisory Board is the main way to express islanders' concerns, how they get back those concerns to the Department of Transportation and the Maine State Ferry Service.

So, as a result, the system overall has become more responsive and more robust. In theory, it's a very sensible approach, I think. But in practice, it falls down some, and this is what this bill tries to fix. By increasing the Advisory Board's role in decision making, particularly in funding and operational planning, the bill recognizes the deep local knowledge and lived experience of island residents. Specifically, and as amended in Amendment "A", it aims to improve communication in four ways.

First, it adds municipal officers from each island and each mainland ferry port to the locally appointed representatives. It requires that the Ferry Advisory Board report its findings on funding, operations and significant challenges to both the DOT and the Transportation Committee of this Body. Thirdly, it makes sure that the DOT, Maine State Ferry Service, in turn takes input and report its findings in the same areas back to the Ferry Advisory Board and to the island residents. And finally, it requires that all meetings of the Ferry Advisory Board are open to the public according to statute.

And thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I hope everyone follows my light.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from North Yarmouth, Representative Graham.

Representative **GRAHAM**: Mr. Speaker, may I ask is it appropriate for me to read the testimony from the Representative from Deer Isle who's in support of this bill, or can I just say I support this bill in her name?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would advise Members that; I think this has come up a few times now. The Chair has shared his concerns around, you know, we could get to a point where someone; I'm not saying that anyone's going to do this; but someone could look to see who's absent today and then stand up and say, 'so-and-so, Mr. Speaker, said that they support this bill, they can't be here today, but I'm saying that they do and I hope that that changes your mind.' I really don't want to get us into a position where there's not been affirmation in some way that that person has given permission.

So, we're going to continue to proceed as the Chair directed last week, which is if that is the case, the Member should provide a note to the Clerk's Office that they have given permission. In this case, the Chair would ask the Representative from North Yarmouth to, in her own words, share perhaps her stance on this issue. The Member may proceed.

Representative **GRAHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank you, and I fully understand. I stand in opposition to the pending motion. Seatmates talk a lot about pending bills and the bills that they put forward. My seatmate, the Representative from Deer Isle, and I share a lot about the work that we care about. So, I knew this bill was coming, and I also know how much she appreciates; the Representative from Deer Isle appreciates being on the Transportation Committee, so she can have a voice around the issues around ferries.

So, I don't know the intricacies of this bill, but I will tell you that I think it's very important that the people, particularly people in island communities, have a stronger voice in the State ferry operations, and I would ask that the Body vote against the current motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Belfast, Representative Dodge.

Representative **DODGE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I rise in opposition to the pending motion. I live in a community that is nearby a community that houses a ferry terminal, and I know that residents in my community, as well as the island residents throughout the State of Maine, depend on us to protect their interests. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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. 438

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

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

ABSENT - Crafts, Lanigan, Mingo, Underwood, Walker.

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

68 having voted in the affirmative and 76 voted in the negative, with 5 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly Report "A" **Ought Not to Pass** was **NOT ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, on motion of Representative ANKELES of Brunswick, Report "B" **Ought to Pass** was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** in concurrence.

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(S.P. 366) (L.D. 834) Bill "An Act to Update the State Supplement to Supplemental Security Income" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"** (S-336)

(S.P. 696) (L.D. 1794) Bill "An Act to Provide Protection from Unfair Parking Tickets on Lots Accessible to the Public" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"** (S-335)

(H.P. 1305) (L.D. 1946) Bill "An Act to Clarify the Eligibility of Certified Recovery Residences for Bridging Rental Assistance Program Housing Vouchers" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A"** (H-644)

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

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

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

HOUSE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (12) **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-541)** - Minority (1) **Ought Not to Pass** - Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** 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)

TABLED - June 9, 2025 (Till Later Today) by Representative MATHIESON of Kittery.

PENDING - **ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT**.

On motion of Representative MOONEN of Portland, the Bill and all accompanying papers were **COMMITTED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** and sent for concurrence.

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

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

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was hoping to get a chance to speak today.

We all know I have no problem busting your chops when I'm, you know, not happy with you. So, in this case, I wanted to just stand up and thank you for giving us a plan yesterday and actually beating that plan by leaving early the way we did. And I do appreciate that, and I thank you for taking our security into consideration, or our safety into consideration for that. And I want to thank you for starting on time both yesterday and today, because to me, that's where I get frustrated in this Body, is I hate it when somebody says it's 'legislative time.' Time is time, as far as I'm concerned. Time is money. We need to be here.

So, I wanted to take this time and say thank you very much for that, and if we do have a plan for today, I would love to hear it. So, thank you.

The SPEAKER: So, we have a few Supplements in our possession that are new bills that were not part of, I think, discussions for morning caucuses. Those bills are in our possession now. We expect a number of additional bills. When we started our work this morning, there were 128 Divided Reports left in Committee, not including unanimous Reports that were still left in Committee. There were 45 bills that were due

for language review at noon today. We expect, during the course of today, a number of those bills that that language review was due at noon to percolate up to the Chambers; not all of them, but a number of them. In addition, we expect some more work from the Other Body, they got a little bit of a later start than us this morning, and so, there's a lot of work that I think can come up to us, but it will take a little bit of time for that to occur.

So, the plan would be to go at ease until 7:00 p.m.; the Chair should also mention, Members are probably aware that the Judiciary Committee has a public hearing that starts in an hour, so, for their sake, having the opportunity to sit in Committee and be able to be attentive to that public hearing. In addition, the Appropriations Committee, our colleagues on that Committee have been working diligently, they also are trying to get a good block of time to go do some work down there. The Chair would plan, similarly to last night, working until 10:30 if the Body is amenable to that. However, there may be an opportunity, similarly to yesterday, where we are able to adjourn earlier than that, but that is the plan for today.

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(S.P. 472) (L.D. 1141) Bill "An Act to Increase the Procurement of Maine Foods by State-funded Institutions" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-352)**

(H.P. 89) (L.D. 156) Bill "An Act to Improve Notifications Related to Substance-exposed Infants" Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-650)**

(H.P. 1218) (L.D. 1820) Bill "An Act to Simplify Regulation of the Adult Use Cannabis Industry" Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-651)**

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

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

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

ENACTORS

Acts

An Act to Improve the Coordination of Health Care for Minors in State Care

(H.P. 48) (L.D. 84)
(C. "A" H-614)

An Act to Amend and Simplify Certain Wildlife Laws

(H.P. 60) (L.D. 95)
(C. "A" H-609)

An Act to Expand Municipal Volunteer Program Eligibility Requirements in the Municipal Property Tax Assistance Laws
(H.P. 194) (L.D. 294)
(C. "A" H-621)

An Act to Increase the Transparency and Accountability of the Maine Information and Analysis Center
(H.P. 273) (L.D. 419)
(C. "A" H-572)

An Act to Clarify Residency Requirements for and Provide Funding to the Maine School of Science and Mathematics
(S.P. 347) (L.D. 787)
(C. "A" S-160)

An Act to Update the State Supplement to Supplemental Security Income
(S.P. 366) (L.D. 834)
(C. "A" S-336)

An Act to Reduce the Property Tax Burden by Adequately Funding County Jail Operations
(H.P. 538) (L.D. 852)
(C. "A" H-636)

An Act to Require MaineCare to Reimburse for Lactation Services in the Homes of Eligible Persons
(H.P. 551) (L.D. 865)
(C. "A" H-627)

An Act to Amend the Law Allowing Individuals Subject to Pretrial or Presentence Incarceration to Be Credited Time for Participation in Work Projects Within a Jail
(H.P. 596) (L.D. 931)
(C. "A" H-637)

An Act to Establish the Manufactured Housing Community and Mobile Home Park Preservation and Assistance Fund
(S.P. 433) (L.D. 1016)
(H. "A" H-639 to C. "A" S-247)

An Act to Exempt Diapers from Sales Tax
(H.P. 721) (L.D. 1099)
(C. "A" H-623)

An Act to Create Clarity in the Laws Regarding Property Tax Abatement Appeals
(H.P. 860) (L.D. 1325)
(C. "A" H-608)

An Act to Protect the Drinking Water for Consumers of Certain Water Systems by Establishing Maximum Contaminant Levels for Certain Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances
(H.P. 861) (L.D. 1326)
(C. "A" H-628)

An Act to Create Culturally Appropriate and Trauma-informed Housing and Recovery Services
(H.P. 863) (L.D. 1328)
(C. "A" H-626)

An Act to Allow a Grace Period for the Payment of Excise Tax for Adult Use Cannabis Cultivation Facilities
(H.P. 1095) (L.D. 1654)
(C. "A" H-620)

An Act to Increase the Influence of the Maine State Ferry Advisory Board on the Funding and Operations of the Maine State Ferry Service
(S.P. 677) (L.D. 1731)

An Act to Provide Protection from Unfair Parking Tickets on Lots Accessible to the Public
(S.P. 696) (L.D. 1794)
(C. "A" S-335)

An Act to Require the Removal from a Property Tax Lien the Name of a Previous Owner Who Paid Prorated Property Taxes

(H.P. 1266) (L.D. 1895)
(C. "A" H-619)

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 Maine Education Policy Research Institute and the Department of Education to Recommend Changes to the Essential Programs and Services Funding Formula

(H.P. 218) (L.D. 318)
(C. "A" H-610)

Resolve, to Study Authorization for Municipal Fire Departments with Trained Personnel to Conduct Fire Sprinkler System Plan Reviews

(H.P. 652) (L.D. 1005)
(C. "A" H-633)

Resolve, to Establish the Community Navigator Pilot Program to Support At-risk Families

(H.P. 836) (L.D. 1261)
(C. "A" H-613)

Resolve, to Require the Governor's Energy Office to Study Taxation of Renewable Energy Infrastructure

(H.P. 878) (L.D. 1355)
(C. "A" H-624)

Resolve, to Design a Maine Home Energy Navigator and Coaching Pilot Program

(H.P. 1311) (L.D. 1967)
(C. "A" H-618)

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** with the exception of matters being held.

Emergency Measure

An Act to Clarify the Release of Information by the Department of Health and Human Services in the Law Regarding Automatic Referrals

(H.P. 575) (L.D. 889)
(C. "A" H-615)

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 4 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 Election Polling Place Candidate Restrictions

(H.P. 1137) (L.D. 1702)
(C. "A" H-612)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 102 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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

Emergency Measure

An Act Regarding Adult Education Funding and Oversight

(H.P. 1140) (L.D. 1705)
(C. "A" H-611)

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

Representative MOONEN of Portland **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.

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

Emergency Measure

Resolve, Establishing the Commission to Update Maine's Public Policy on Higher Education

(H.P. 1016) (L.D. 1558)
(C. "A" H-629)

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. 108 voted in favor of the same and 12 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 Evaluate the Scope of Regulatory Review and Oversight over Health Care Transactions That Impact the Delivery of Health Care Services in the State

(H.P. 1036) (L.D. 1578)
(C. "A" H-625)

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 2 against, and accordingly the Resolve was **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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

An Act Regarding Adult Education Funding and Oversight
(H.P. 1140) (L.D. 1705)
(C. "A" H-611)

Which was **TABLED** 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.

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. 439

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

NAY - Bagshaw, Bishop, Boyer D, Chapman, Cimino, Collins, Cooper, Drinkwater, Flynn, Foster, Fredericks, Gifford, Greenwood, Haggan, Hymes, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Libby, Morris, Olsen, Paul, Perkins, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmiersal-Burgess, Smith, Soboleski, Swallow, Thorne, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R.

ABSENT - Adams, Cray, Doudera, Hall, Jackson, Kuhn, Lanigan, Mingo, Stover, Underwood.

Yes, 105; No, 34; Absent, 10; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

105 having voted in the affirmative and 34 voted in the negative, with 10 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.

ENACTORS

Emergency Measure

An Act Regarding the Management of Wastewater Treatment Plant Sludge at the State-owned Landfill

(H.P. 197) (L.D. 297)
(C. "A" H-537)

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

Representative ANKELES of Brunswick **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Brunswick, Representative Ankeles.

Representative **ANKELES**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm a little nervous because I prefer consensus to conflict, but I'm pretty fired up about this bill tonight.

If you'll recall; and I appreciate the Body's patience; if you'll recall on the Committee Report, I was on the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" Report, and I voted that way because I felt we truly had no choice as a Legislature. I feared, as many in the Chamber fear, that if we didn't pass this, we would be headed into an immediate crisis. And then, I reflected further, between the Committee vote and the bill coming onto the floor, and it just didn't sit right with me that Casella was getting such a lucrative deal to continue doing what it's doing with respect to bringing in the bulky waste. And additionally, there was another side effect, which was that if we passed this bill with this language, a bunch of our wastewater sewer districts are going to likely be locked into long-term contract extensions with Casella, and that's an extra thing.

And so, I felt that I couldn't in good conscience provide the 101st vote to get this bill in a position where it could pass as an Emergency Enactor. I felt the terms were just not in favor of our taxpayers and all of us Mainers, who are ultimately the stewards of our own environment here in this State. And then, after we took the vote, and this is what really got me, I learned some new information, which was that I found out that the powers that be involved in this deal didn't actually need 90-plus days shaved off the effective date of this bill in order to do what they were going to do. And what that told me as a legislator was; well, it told me a couple things. One was that I had been duped, and two, was that this, as others warned us and as has happened in the past, is a manufactured crisis by Casella, for Casella. And I can't in good conscience let that go.

I strongly feel that we should not provide 101 votes to this bill. I don't feel that we owe them anything. I don't feel that this is a true crisis, and I am convinced that the relationship that we have with them is not a relationship of business partners, Mr. Speaker, but a relationship of parasitism. And I don't appreciate that we're being put over a barrel --

Representative **SOBOLESKI**: Point of Order.

The SPEAKER: The Member will defer. The Chair would inquire as to why the Representative from Phillips rises.

Representative **SOBOLESKI**: This bill is not about Casella's business practices; it's about oversized bulky waste and fines. What he's saying is not pertinent to the bill.

On **POINT OF ORDER**, Representative SOBOLESKI of Phillips asked the Chair if the remarks of Representative ANKELES of Brunswick were germane to the pending question.

The SPEAKER: The Chair understands the Representative's comments have been related to the business Casella, which is pertinent to the bill, they are related to the bill.

The Chair advised that the remarks of Representative ANKELES of Brunswick were germane to the pending question.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **ANKELES**: Well, we sure are in business with them, so, business practices seem awfully relevant, Mr. Speaker. And what I would say is that we shouldn't move forward with this, we shouldn't be bullied around this issue. We should vote red; we should deny them 101 votes. We should force them back to the table and provide terms for us, the Maine people, that are much more favorable and don't get us caught in these long-term, messy contracts where we get the short end of the stick every single time. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **BRIDGEO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I deeply appreciate the passion of my friend and colleague from Brunswick. I see it differently.

We're at the tail end of our legislative session, we're all determined to be out of here next week. Should this bill fail, we will not have had an opportunity to address what eventually will be a crisis until sometime next year, at which time I firmly believe it's going to be too late. This bill --

The **SPEAKER**: The Member will defer. There are a lot of side conversations. If folks want to talk to each other, I would ask you to go in the hallway. The Chair has a responsibility of trying to listen to Members, and it makes it very difficult for me if there are too many side conversations to hear everything coming out of someone's mouth, so that when a Member rises to make a Point of Order, that I can try to regulate the course of our debate.

The Member may proceed.

Representative **BRIDGEO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize for my cold and the interference with my articulation. But my primary motivation for continuing to support this measure is that we have been advised by our own Department of Environmental Protection, the group of professionals that I've come to gain a lot of respect for in the last three years, that this is, indeed, a very serious concern for us. A couple years ago when we faced it the first time, there was no doubt in anybody's mind that an unanticipated and very serious problem had arisen for us.

So, if we had an Amendment available, as was a possibility, I guess, as recently as yesterday, until it didn't pass in the Other Body; if we had an Amendment available and an alternative, to me, that would be one thing, but we don't, and as a consequence, I fear if enough people vote no on this, then the bill dies and we're really in a fix.

So, for that reason, I would encourage folks to vote yes.

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

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I know I mentioned this on another bill prior, but the only Monopoly that I really like is made by Parker Brothers. And we know that one of the arguments made about this bill was that Casella was the only company that would take this on. Well, it's easy to be the only company that would take something on when you've driven everybody else out. I want to also remind us all that we have a duty to protect our land and our environment, and not to be a profit engine for a for-profit company.

I'd like to read something from somebody whose voice hasn't necessarily been at the table yet. This is from Maulian Bryant, she's a Penobscot Nation tribal citizen and Executive Director of the Wabanaki Alliance. "The Juniper Ridge Landfill sits just upriver from the Penobscot Nation. For most people, that's a location. For us, it's home. It's history. It's identity. It's our future. We are a riverine people. The Penobscot River has sustained our Nation for more than 10,000 years, feeding our families, shaping our culture, giving us our name. The river's our relative. And she is suffering. Every rainfall at the landfill sends a cascade of chemicals and waste seeping down through the landfill, becoming leachate; a poisonous brew that includes toxic PFAS, that is then sent to be treated at the now-closed Nine Dragons Paper Mill just downriver from our community in Old Town. Sixteen million gallons of this leachate are pumped into the Penobscot River every year. Our people are caught between a landfill and a discharge pipe; literally and unjustly. We are seeing the impacts of this toxic leachate on the fish we

consume. Fish in the Penobscot River are testing high for PFAS, which can have detrimental impacts on the health of our community. Since time immemorial, we have relied on the Penobscot River for sustenance and can no longer.

"This is environmental injustice in real time. And it's being fueled by waste that shouldn't be here in the first place. Maine bought the landfill in 2003 with the explicit intent of being able to prevent it from being filled with out-of-state waste without being in violation of the federal Commerce Clause. In 2022, Maine took a major step forward with the passage of LD 1639, finally closing that loophole that had allowed over 200,000 tons of out-of-state waste to flood into the Juniper Ridge Landfill each year. Construction and demolition waste was being brought into the State and making a pit stop at a waste processing facility in Lewiston, where it was then deemed 'waste generated within the State' and was legally allowed to go into Juniper Ridge. Closing that loophole was a hard-fought win for environmental health and for the stewardship over our homelands. But the celebration was short-lived. Just one year later, the loophole was cracked open again under pressure from Casella Waste Systems, the for-profit operator of Juniper Ridge. Casella said it faced a sludge disposal crisis and essentially used municipalities as leverage to convince lawmakers to allow 25,000 tons of out-of-state waste back in for two years." Now, this bill "threatens to blow that loophole wide open, expanding it to up to 100,000 tons a year.

"Maine faces a landfill capacity crisis, but could now continue to fill up its foremost landfill with the rest of New England's waste. There's no technical reason that waste from out of State is needed to stabilize the sludge landfilled at Juniper Ridge; landfills in other states use other types of waste for this purpose. What's driving this, it seems, it is profit, pressure and politics, not public health or environmental science. Casella has repeatedly pushed lawmakers to bend."

And I'll take a sidebar here and say that that is definitely true in my case --

Representative **CIMINO**: Point of Order.

The **SPEAKER**: The Member will defer. The Chair would inquire as to the Representative from Bridgton's Point of Order.

Representative **CIMINO**: My understanding is that we have already voted on this bill and we have passed it, and we're only looking at the emergency. So, I would think that the comments would be limited to why or why not we should be supporting the emergency Enactment.

On **POINT OF ORDER**, Representative CIMINO of Bridgton asked the Chair if the remarks of Representative ROEDER of Bangor were germane to the pending question.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair would answer in the negative. This is final Enactment of the bill. Members are at liberty to speak to the merits and demerits of the bill based on the fact that this vote is not just a matter of whether or not it's emergency, this vote is on whether or not it becomes law.

The Chair advised that the remarks of Representative ROEDER of Bangor were germane to the pending question.

The **SPEAKER**: The Member may proceed.

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. "Each time the Legislature caves, it becomes harder to ever close this loophole again. LD 297 is not just a policy tweak. We see it as a step backward that will keep poisoning our river. This is more than a waste management issue. It is a public health issue, an environmental justice issue and, yes, a racial justice issue. Time and time again, toxic sites are placed near communities like ours; Indigenous, marginalized; and justified as necessary sacrifices for the convenience of others. But we are not a sacrifice zone. We are the original people of this land,

and we hold treaty rights to fish in the Penobscot River. We cannot sustainably fish when the river is poisoned. We cannot safely breathe when the air is filled with toxic emissions. And we cannot accept more out-of-state waste when we're already paying the price for decades of environmental harm. Casella must be held accountable. And we believe Maine must draw a hard line: No more out-of-state waste can go into Juniper Ridge landfill, for good. I'm writing for the river because she does not have a seat at the table, but she speaks clearly if you choose to listen."

And I would like to thank Maulian Bryant for that op-ed. Thank you.

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

Representative **SOBOLESKI**: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen. With the support of the Chief Executive Officer and the Department of Environmental Protection, "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 strains on landfill capacity and reinforcing Maine's commitment to a more sustainable waste management system." That was part of my testimony from the other day, Mr. Speaker.

What I've been listening to in this Chamber, I try to wrap my head around where some of these statements come from. I've been on this issue since day one, and I don't understand where some of this is coming from. Leachate does not get dumped into the river. It gets processed, either at EC2 in Madison where it's taken out, the PFAS is taken out and disposed of. They don't let it spill out of the landfill itself; it's all collected. Leachate does come from the land; it's rain that comes down on and water that's inside that soaks down through, and it gets collected.

The 100,000 tons of material that's being requested, 25,000 tons is what's continually being used. The 75,000 tons is of fines. Fines are used as daily cover for the landfill. We've heard people complain over and over again that the smell and the seagulls on the landfill, but those fines go over the landfill at the end of every day to keep the odor down and to keep the seagulls away.

Now, the situation that's going on up there wasn't created by Casella. When sludge; and I stated this the other day; when sludge was stopped being placed on farms and on the ground; the DEP had given permits to do that; when we realized that was a bad idea, it had to go someplace. It had to go to the landfill. They needed to have something to mix with it, so that it maintained its stability inside the landfill. We needed construction debris to do it. It was the most effective way to do it. We don't produce enough in our State, so, 30% of it was coming from out of state, Waste Management takes in 21%, we take in 30% at Juniper Ridge. That mixes with it and that gives us the stability in the landfill. That's why that material is needed. When that sludge started overwhelming; now, we're talking about 250,000 to 300,000 tons of sludge a day, of sewage a day going up there. That is a lot to be taken in. There was no place for it to go, it had to go to the State landfill. And I explained why that was a problem the other day. We had ended taking some up to Canada, it was a real situation, a real problem.

The first thing that we had to do was; the first question I was asked by the DEP, 'can you get us trucks? We need to truck this stuff out of State, we can't process it immediately, we

can't.' So, we came up with 25 tractor-trailers ready to go. In the meantime, we're looking for something to bulk it with, anything to bulk it with. Can we use sawdust? Can we use trees? What can we use? Nothing would be able to absorb it as well. So, we had to continue to use construction debris while we came up with a plan to reduce the amount that we take in. That was last Session with LD 718, was the bill that I ran to stop, not bringing it in until July 1st of this year. Now, we're facing a critical deadline. Because we've gone through, we've done the engineering studies. We've got Fiberite up and going. We're looking at PERC, and that'll be up and going soon. We've got a drier coming into Norridgewock, into Waste Management there to take care of it; they're looking at other places down in the southern part of the Maine. The DEP is handling all of this and would come up with a plan as to how to handle our waste in this State, as well as our municipal solid waste. But we need time to implement that plan. That's what this bill is all about. This wasn't constructed by anybody; it wasn't crafted by anybody. This was the DEP doing its job and coming up with a constructive plan moving forward. This plan has the approval and the support from the Chief Executive Officer, whose office has looked at it, said, 'yes, this is the right thing for us to do.'

And I don't know why Casella is continually made out to be a villain. Waste Management is so much larger. Casella is a fraction of the size of Waste Management. And it is true; they were the only one willing to bid on this project. Why? Because of what's happening right here, right now; not allowing professionals to do their job. And that's what they are. If you've never been up there, go up there and take a look. It's an amazing facility, they do a phenomenal job. They've just built a plant up there to take the methane gas, convert it into natural gas and pump it into Bangor to help Bangor. And a lot of it's going to be going to the university up there as well. They're a responsible corporate citizen, they're our business, they've been 20 years into a 30-year contract, not one complaint filed with the Bureau of General Services on Casella, their business practices, how they treat everyone. They treat everyone that's around there with respect. They pay the taxes on any property that's abutting there. They provide them with water if they need it, bottled water, cases of it, and they don't even have to pay for it, they just give it to them. They even distribute it when they don't even ask for them, to make sure they have plenty. They're a good corporate citizen. They don't infringe on anybody. So, attacking them is; I just don't understand why these comments are being made, because they don't make any sense to me.

This is an important piece of legislation. We need 101 votes on this, so that we can put this in place. At the end of two years, this situation will be over. We'll have been able to install; the drier will be installed; it's not even here from China yet; the drier will be installed, that will dry the sludge down to get the water out of it, so, we won't have to worry about additional bulking materials in the landfill. But this bill needs to get passed, and we need the time to implement the policy or the plan that's in place, that's in this bill. So, I ask all of my colleagues, especially anybody who represents a town anywhere near Juniper Ridge, that material that's in there is what's going to reduce the smell, keep the smell down, keep the birds away. You take that away, your communities are going to start complaining to you that, you know, you've created a mess here. There's nothing wrong with this bill, it does exactly what it's intended to do and I implore my colleagues to vote for this and pass this on the emergency. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Waterboro, Representative Woodsome.

Representative **WOODSOME**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Many wastewater treatment directors have spoken to me, I got to know them several years ago at a conference. On this bill, they are desperate. They do not know where they're going to put the sludge if this bill does not pass. And I ask those who are critical of the bill, where is it going? There is no safe solution. And it's unfortunate that there's last-minute allegations or thoughts are coming up. So, I urge you to vote for LD 297. 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.

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. 440

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

NAY - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Boyer M, Brennan, Bunker, Cluchey, Copeland, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Faircloth, Faulkingham, Friedmann, Frost, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Gramlich, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, O'Halloran, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Roeder, Sachs, Salisbury, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager.

ABSENT - Cray, Doudera, Hall, Jackson, Lanigan, Mingo, Underwood.

Yes, 85; No, 57; Absent, 7; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

85 having voted in the affirmative and 57 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Bill **FAILED PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor moved that the House **RECONSIDER** its action whereby the Bill **FAILED PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

On further motion of the same Representative, **TABLED** pending the motion of Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor to **RECONSIDER** whereby the Bill **FAILED PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED** and later today assigned.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-646)** on Bill "An Act Allowing the Department of Corrections to Offset Some of the Costs of Technology Provided to Residents of Correctional Facilities"

(H.P. 9) (L.D. 45)

Signed:

Senator:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representatives:

HASENFUS of Readfield

ABDI of Lewiston

BUNKER of Farmington

LAJOIE of Lewiston

LOOKNER of Portland

MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-647)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

CYRWAY of Kennebec

Representatives:

ARDELL of Monticello

MCINTYRE of Lowell

NUTTING of Oakland

PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

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-646)** 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-646)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-649)** on Bill "An Act to Bring Fairness in Income Taxes to Maine Families by Adjusting the Tax Brackets and Tax Rates"

(H.P. 152) (L.D. 229)

Signed:

Senators:

GROHOSKI of Hancock

TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:

CLOUTIER of Lewiston

CROCKETT of Portland

FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor

MATLACK of St. George

SAYRE of Kennebunk

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

Signed:

Representatives:

LAVIGNE of Berwick
QUINT of Hodgdon
RUDNICKI of Fairfield
SWALLOW of Houlton
WHITE of Ellsworth

READ.

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

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

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from St. George, Representative Matlack.

Representative **MATLACK**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Maine relies too heavily on those in the middle class for income tax revenues. We have, at different times, had more tax brackets and tax rates and fewer tax brackets and tax rates, but always the tax brackets are very flat and the top rates very low.

Currently, Maine has three tax brackets. The lowest tax bracket for single individuals is about \$26,000; the highest bracket for single individuals is about \$62,000. This means if you're single and have a Maine adjusted gross income of \$62,000, you pay the same tax rate of 7.15% as someone whose AGI is \$150,000 or \$250,000 or more. The same is true for heads of households, where the highest tax bracket is about \$93,000, and for those filing joint returns, the top tax bracket is \$124,000.

Working class Mainers shouldn't pay the same tax rates as those at the top, but that's how our tax brackets are structured. As a result, our tax code is upside down, with those at the top actually paying a lower share of their income tax in taxes than the middle class. It shouldn't be this way. Many Maine people are struggling, and yet we keep asking for more from those who have the least. Instead, we should ask for more from those who have the most.

LD 229 was crafted to provide income tax relief to those in the middle class. Here in Maine, middle-class income is adjusted gross income anywhere from \$30,000 to \$300,000. On average, LD 229 would provide a tax cut of between \$45 and \$130 for Mainers in this income range. Seventy percent of Maine filers would see a tax cut. This bill also asks more from the wealthiest Mainers, those with incomes at the very top. On average, this increase would be less than one percent of earned income for those in the top one percent. To make Maine's individual income tax more equitable, two tax brackets have been added to the top. Single individuals would pay 7.55% on adjusted gross incomes of more than \$145,000, while those earning above \$500,000 would pay a rate of 8.95%. Heads of households and those filing married joint returns would also see two additional tax brackets and tax rates.

Tax structures that favor the wealthy and shift costs onto workers and small businesses are making life harder in our communities. We must make our tax code more progressive to help support working people in our State and create an economy where everyone can thrive, not just those at the top.

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. 441

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, 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, Henderson, Hymes, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, 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 - Cray, Hall, Jackson, Lanigan, Mastraccio, Mingo, Underwood.

Yes, 75; No, 67; Absent, 7; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

75 having voted in the affirmative and 67 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. Committee Amendment "A" (H-649) 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-649)** and sent for concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Clarify the Qualifying Use of Tax Increment Financing for Extension of a Development District"

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

Signed:

Senators:

GROHOSKI of Hancock
BICKFORD of Androscoggin
TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:

CLOUTIER of Lewiston
CROCKETT of Portland
FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor
MATLACK of St. George
SAYRE of Kennebunk

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

Signed:

Representatives:

LAVIGNE of Berwick
QUINT of Hodgdon
RUDNICKI of Fairfield
SWALLOW of Houlton
WHITE of Ellsworth

READ.

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

Representative RUDNICKI of Fairfield **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report.

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 442

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Bridgeo, Bunker, Carlow, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, 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, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Salisbury, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Supica, Terry, Warren, Webb, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Adams, Albert, Arata, Ardell, Babin, Bagshaw, Bishop, Blier, Boyer D, Campbell, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Faulkingham, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Henderson, Hymes, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, 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 - Brennan, Cray, Dhalac, Gattine, Hall, Jackson, Lanigan, Mingo, Rana, Stover, Underwood.

Yes, 73; No, 65; Absent, 11; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

73 having voted in the affirmative and 65 voted in the negative, with 11 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**.

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

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-648)** on Bill "An Act to Permanently Fund 55 Percent of the State's Share of Education by Establishing a Tax on Incomes of More than \$1,000,000"

(H.P. 711) (L.D. 1089)

Signed:

Senators:

GROHOSKI of Hancock
TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:

CLOUTIER of Lewiston
CROCKETT of Portland
FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor
MATLACK of St. George
SAYRE of Kennebunk

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

Signed:

Representatives:

LAVIGNE of Berwick
QUINT of Hodgdon
RUDNICKI of Fairfield
SWALLOW of Houlton
WHITE of Ellsworth

READ.

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

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

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

The **SPEAKER**: 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. 443

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, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roeder, Rollins, Sachs, Salisbury, 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, Henderson, Hepler, Hymes, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Mitchell, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Roberts, Rudnicki, Runte, Sargent, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S.

ABSENT - Cray, Hall, Jackson, Lanigan, Mingo, Underwood, Woodsome.

Yes, 70; No, 72; Absent, 7; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

70 having voted in the affirmative and 72 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **NOT ACCEPTED**.

Representative SARGENT of York moved that the House **RECONSIDER** its action whereby the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **NOT ACCEPTED**.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would just inform the Body the Representative from Harpswell, Representative Golek, was seeking to speak on this bill before I opened the vote. The Representative from Harpswell has a device that provides her with the captioning, so she can understand what's going on. That captioning is delayed, so she came into queue just as I opened the vote. And the Representative from York, Representative Sargent, voted on the prevailing side and has given a courtesy to the Representative from Harpswell to speak on this issue.

The Chair would inform the Member this vote will be your opportunity to speak on the issue, unless, of course, the Reconsideration prevails and there's another opportunity. But I would ask the Member from Harpswell to speak on the Reconsideration, not knowing if Reconsideration will be successful.

Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor **REQUESTED** a division on the motion to **RECONSIDER** whereby the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **NOT ACCEPTED**.

The Chair ordered a division on the motion to **RECONSIDER** its action whereby the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **NOT ACCEPTED**.

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

Representative **GOLEK**: Well, I'll be honest, I don't know a hundred percent what all that means, but thank you for giving me a chance to speak, and thank you for explaining that. Yes, if I'm not looking straight up, and then I look at my captioning service, it's got a two- to three-second delay. So, I almost got it, but it's not the first time it happened, it happened last Session, too. It's technology.

So, I just would like to take a moment to speak about this bill. Because why this bill's important is, Mr. Speaker, is we do not need to entertain policies that ask more from our hardworking, everyday Mainers and we should support policies that benefit our most vulnerable, not policies that increase the struggles of those already in need. It's time to work towards a fair tax system that benefits us all.

Middle-class Mainers are currently paying higher effective tax rates than millionaires in our State. This is not right and it's past time we ask those who benefit the most to pay their fair share. We must remember that those who benefit the most only do so because of the hardworking needs of those who benefit the least. The bill before us today simply asks our richest to share a slice of bread with those who turned the dough and made the loaf for them to eat. Our economy shouldn't be balanced on the backs of the working class, yet it is. Hardworking Mainers are struggling to pay their bills. As a person who comes from generational poverty, I know personally how an unjust tax code affects working class people trying hard to climb that ladder to achieve their own American dream. As a business founder, I understand the need to make revenue and the costs of running a business. I also see the massive injustice in our current tax code system. The cost of living has continued to outpace wages, and many people are now working two and three jobs and still paying more than 50% towards rent. Teachers, firefighters, nurses and older care workers shouldn't

have to pay the same tax rate as millionaires. Yet today, they are.

Income inequality has continued to worsen, but it does not have to. We can create better, fairer taxes that benefit our entire State by establishing a tax on incomes of more than a million dollars will help us to start building a much-needed road towards tax fairness. It will let us keep our 55% share commitment to the people of Maine, who asked us to do this back in 2004, yet we have never made a permanent commitment to do that, and we didn't do it up until recently.

We already know the people of Maine support a fair tax system. In 2016, voters overwhelmingly approved a ballot Referendum with a three percent surcharge on incomes over \$200,000; sadly, only to see their wishes overturned by the Legislature then. The bill before you today is modest compared to those wishes, proposing a two percent surcharge only on incomes above a million dollars. A recent poll shows that 81%; I have to say that again; 81% of Mainers support increasing taxes on income above a million dollars.

There is more than enough proof that millionaire taxes work. The private sector, economic growth rate and six of the eight states, including the District of Columbia, that enacted millionaire taxes since 2000 has met or exceeded their neighboring states after implementing these tax increases. Seven of the eight states have per capita growth and personal incomes at least as strong as nearby states, and five of the eight added jobs at least as quickly as their neighbors. In 2023, Massachusetts placed a four percent surtax on taxable income over a million dollars, increased annually for inflation. Millionaire taxes are enabling other states to make crucial investments.

Targeted income tax increases on high income households can generate substantial revenues, allowing lawmakers to minimize harmful cuts when budgets are tight, as well as to undertake ambitious initiatives such as expanding early education, boosting college access, improving infrastructure and strengthening the Rainy Day funds. We all know there is a lot of uncertainty in Washington right now, and LD 1089 can bring at least some predictability and stability that the people of Maine and their communities across the State have asked for and deserve.

Creating a two percent surcharge on those who make over a million dollars would raise around \$75 million a year. This surcharge will be directed towards our promised 55% share of public education. Creating a permanent funding source would give towns and school boards predictability in their budgets. It will allow us to keep our commitments and more. As our economy grows, this fund will grow and continue to be used for public education. And one of the reasons that's important, just to add into this, is while we all know how vital our educational system is for education of our children, what is not often mentioned is it is also by far the State's largest public child care service. Many of our families totally depend on public education so that they may work. This investment is also an investment in our small and large businesses by ensuring our public education system is funded well and able to meet their valuable employees' needs.

This bill will create a fair tax code and pave the road to a permanent investment for a State that will benefit everyone. Today, we have an opportunity before us to stand strong with working families and small businesses and take a step towards a fairer tax system that our hardworking Maine families have asked for and deserve to have. I hope that you will follow my light. Thank you.

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

Representative **FAULKINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Having already voted on this 10 minutes ago and Reconsidering so that the Representative could speak, the reason why I asked for a Division was so that we don't have to bring up all the Appropriations Members and all the people that are out. So, I'm asking everybody to vote no on this Division, so that we don't have to go through the act of another Roll Call on this Reconsideration motion.

A vote of the House was taken. 61 voted in favor of the same and 66 against, and accordingly the House **DID NOT RECONSIDER** whereby the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **NOT ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Minority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

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

Representative **LOOKNER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I want to rise today, I'm not going to ask for a Roll Call, but I do think it's important to point out a couple things.

We are moving rapidly as a country in the direction of oligarchy. Three men in this country now have as much wealth as the bottom 50% of Americans, and they are using that wealth to buy influence within the government. And Maine is a hardworking State, we are a working-class State, we have a lot of families here that are struggling to get by, but we also have a great deal of wealth and income inequality and looking at the whole, if we had just kept our pre-2011 tax code in place, there would be no need to implement a millionaires' tax, because we would be collecting hundreds of millions of dollars that we could put towards the services that we all require, so that we can have a State where we can take care of our neighbors, take care of our seniors, make sure everybody has good housing and education and all the priorities that we worked so hard to provide.

So, since 2017, when the federal tax cuts went into place, the wealthiest one percent of Mainers have seen their average income grow by \$316,000 a year to over \$700,000 a year. I don't make \$360,000 a year; I don't make \$700,000 a year. That's a lot of dough. The bottom 20% of Mainers just saw their wealth increase by \$6,000, which represents a net loss when looking at the cost of living.

So, Mr. Speaker, I know we all believe in fairness, we all believe in a tax system that rewards hard work, that doesn't reward passive wealth and I don't see why we are here giving the millionaires and billionaires more help. I had a constituent who came to testify on one of these bills who is, you know, a member of the lucky gene club, who was born to the right family, and who said to the Committee when there were questions, she said, 'why are you working so hard to protect my wealth? I pay CPAs 600 bucks an hour to do that.' We don't need to protect these folks' wealth. These people have enough and there's enough to go around and here we are looking at big cuts. Let's have a State that works for everybody.

I'm not going to be roll-calling this, but that's what I wanted to say. Thank you.

Subsequently, 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** with the exception of matters being held.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Report

Majority Report of the Committee on **TAXATION** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Expand Property Tax Relief for Veterans and Their Survivors and to Modify Certain Corporate Tax Expenditures"

(S.P. 727) (L.D. 1857)

Signed:

Senators:

GROHOSKI of Hancock

BICKFORD of Androscoggin

Representatives:

CLOUTIER of Lewiston

CROCKETT of Portland

MATLACK of St. George

QUINT of Hodgdon

RUDNICKI of Fairfield

SAYRE of Kennebunk

SWALLOW of Houlton

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-341)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

TIPPING of Penobscot

Representative:

FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor

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** with the exception of matters being held.

SENATE PAPERS

Non-Concurrent Matter

An Act to Change the Laws Regarding Real Estate Appraisers

(H.P. 998) (L.D. 1514)

(C. "A" H-355)

- In House, **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** on June 3, 2025.

- In Senate, **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** on June 3, 2025, in concurrence.

- **RECALLED** from the Governor's Desk pursuant to Joint Order, S.P. 792.

Came from the Senate **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-355) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-343)** thereto in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Promote Responsible Outdoor Lighting"

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

Minority (6) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT READ** and **ACCEPTED** in the House on June 10, 2025.

Came from the Senate with the Majority (7) **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-561) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-349)** thereto in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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

Representative GREENWOOD of Wales **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 East Machias, Representative Tuell.

Representative **TUELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I object to the pending motion for many of the same reasons I did yesterday and the day before.

I believe this bill in its current form, in its past form, in any form, is a dangerous thing to be doing. As we get after dark, the irony is not lost that we're voting on dark sky as we get later in the evening. The truth of this bill is that there's a grander design here, that we truly are trying to make rural Maine, all of Maine, in a way, have a dark sky, whether there's a mandate *per se*, or an encouragement or whatever the case may be. The motives, which I won't question, have been stated publicly here, is to encourage that all of the State is dark. And I think this is a very dangerous bill, a very dangerous bill, and I would encourage you to reject the pending motion, so that we can move onto another. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **SALISBURY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And I just have to disagree with my colleague from East Machias and just say of all the bills that we've discussed today and this week, this is the least dangerous.

This bill is not a mandate. This bill is simply offering for the Maine Office of Community Affairs to share with municipalities model ordinances. A lot of the communities in our State have already chosen to support lighting standards that are beneficial to our community. We keep hearing about dark skies; we already voted on that bill. This is simply about best practices being offered to communities when they get ready to look at changing their lighting standards. There is no mandate, they don't need to do this, this is if they are willing to be accepting of model ordinances that will help them look to the future of their lighting standards.

What this Amendment does is that, again, the Maine Office of Community Affairs, when they have the sufficient resources, that they are able to share those model ordinances with communities. This Amendment does exempt roadway lighting on the Maine Turnpike and provides the Maine Turnpike Authority the authority to adopt major substantive rules to exempt temporary lighting to ensure safety and efficiency in completion of road construction and repair, as long as the lighting deviates from the standards to a minimum extent necessary.

This bill, of almost all of the bills that we've worked on in State and Local Government, this was the bill that was the most collaborative that I've seen in a long time. Groups that met to talk about how can we offer communities the ability to come up with lighting standards that will be helpful for their community, this Amendment addresses a lot of the concerns that were raised during the Committee conversation, both inside the Committee, we've heard outside in the hallways, any concerns that were raised have been worked on by the stakeholders, by the Sponsor of this bill, and I encourage people to vote to Recede and Concur.

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

Representative **OSHER**: Yes, Mr. Speaker, it's true the goal of this is not to have the whole State be dark, the goal of this is so that it is in Statute that what would be responsible lighting and it only requires that funds that are used by the State to put in lighting would follow these guidelines. And it requests that MOCA would put model ordinances for municipalities. There's no requirement municipalities follow this. Thank you very much.

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

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I once again rise in opposition to this bill. I thought we had defeated this, and yet it's back again.

Rural areas are consistently being spoken to by non-rural areas, and bills are being passed in the Chambers here affecting the rural areas. Mr. Speaker, anyone who wants can already do this. They can put ordinances in on the local level. Municipalities do know about this. And I just have huge concerns when many of the people that are speaking in favor of this bill, they can reduce the lights in their communities. I don't see them doing that, Mr. Speaker. What I see is them asking for us not to put any up in ours and I just think that's extremely wrong. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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. 444

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, 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, Yusuf, Zager, Mr. Speaker.

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

ABSENT - Brennan, Cray, Hall, Jackson, Lanigan, Mingo, Underwood, Woodsome.

Yes, 74; No, 67; Absent, 8; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

74 having voted in the affirmative and 67 voted in the negative, with 8 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.

By unanimous consent, House Rule 501 was suspended so that the House may extend session until 10:30 p.m.

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Expand the Use of Tax Increment Revenue for Affordable Housing by Adding Authorized Project Costs" (H.P. 1098) (L.D. 1657)

Minority (6) **OUGHT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **TAXATION READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** in the House on June 10, 2025.

Came from the Senate with the Majority (7) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **TAXATION READ** and **ACCEPTED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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

Representative RUDNICKI of Fairfield moved that the House **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

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

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 445

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

NAY - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Bridgeo, Bunker, Carlow, 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.

ABSENT - Brennan, Cray, Hall, Jackson, Lanigan, Mingo, Perkins, Underwood, Woodsome.

Yes, 63; No, 77; Absent, 9; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

63 having voted in the affirmative and 77 voted in the negative, with 9 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the motion to **RECEDE AND CONCUR FAILED**.

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

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Reports

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-344)** on Bill "An Act to Include Certain Mental Health Workers Under the 1998 Special Plan for Retirement"

(S.P. 260) (L.D. 579)

Signed:

Senators:

TIPPING of Penobscot
BRADSTREET of Kennebec
RAFFERTY of York

Representatives:

ROEDER of Bangor
ARCHER of Saco
BECK of South Portland
DRINKWATER of Milford
GEIGER of Rockland
MACIAS of Topsham
SKOLD of Portland
SOBOLESKI of Phillips

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

Signed:

Representative:

COLLINS of Sidney

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-344)**.

READ.

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

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

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

This is the third time I've seen this bill in front of me, and I believe that this bill had a life before I got to the Legislature. We heard testimony, absolutely crushing testimony for three years straight on the Labor Committee. And I noticed that over the years, the number of people from Riverside and Dorothea Dix were diminishing. They just stopped coming to testify. And I realized why in testimony this year, when Riverside employees said, 'my friend was going to come here, but just in writing her testimony, her PTSD was so bad that she could not come.'

I want to recount a story I heard a couple of years ago when I first saw this bill. There was a worker at Riverside who was assaulted by one of the patients. It was such a bad injury that she went home, took a while to recover but then later died by suicide, because it was that traumatic.

We are simply asking that the folks at Riverside and the folks at Dorothea Dix have the opportunity to join the 1998 Special Plan, which we've already extended to folks who face similar traumas in their work. I really hope that we can not only pass this bill, but fund it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **DRINKWATER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I absolutely agree with my colleague on the other side. We have heard this three sessions in a row, but this is a Band-Aid approach, Mr. Speaker. We would really want them to get into the special retirement plan, but something needs to be done to investigate and fix why there is so much abuse to the employees over there. Yes, they take care of the criminally insane, it's a tough job, but there's a reason why they are getting physically abused over there. We need to get to the bottom line and fix it, and we should also let them retire at an earlier age. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Subsequently, the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. Committee Amendment "A" (S-344) 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-344)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-652)** on Bill "An Act to Expand the Supervised Community Confinement Program" (H.P. 416) (L.D. 648)

Signed:

Senators:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox
CURRY of Waldo

Representatives:

HASENFUS of Readfield
ABDI of Lewiston
LAJOIE of Lewiston
LOOKNER of Portland
MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

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

Signed:

Senator:

CYRWAY of Kennebec

Representatives:

ARDELL of Monticello
BUNKER of Farmington
MCINTYRE of Lowell
NUTTING of Oakland
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

READ.

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

Representative NUTTING of Oakland **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the **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 Blue Hill, Representative Milliken.

Representative **MILLIKEN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This speech will be a little more serious than my last one, so. I rise today in support of this bill and in support of the pending motion.

I rise as a survivor of several acts of sexual violence, as a survivor of child rape and as a survivor of domestic violence and a various list of other criminal offenses that all had a profound impact on shaping my life. I rise to advocate for a very small step forward and a common-sense adjustment to how we do incarceration in Maine.

If prisons made us safer, the United States would be the safest place in the entire world, and we're not even close. This legislation does not offer any easy path to release from incarceration. It's extremely narrow, extremely rigorous and it is grounded in science and public safety. It applies only to individuals who committed their offenses before the age of 26, an age that science tells us is significant, because the human brain, especially the parts of brain for impulse control, empathy and long-term thinking, are still developing up until that point. These individuals would have to serve at least two-thirds of their sentence, or 20 years, whichever came first. They would have to meet very strict criteria for consideration, including maintaining minimum or community custody level behavior, securing housing and employment or education and proving that they have engaged in meaningful rehabilitation while incarcerated. The Department of Corrections would retain the ultimate authority. They could deny any application for any reason, no one would be released automatically and no one would be released if they posed a risk to public safety.

Many victims of violence came out in full support of this bill. We did not hear from a single victim who opposed it, nor did we hear from the Maine Coalition Against Sexual Assault or the Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence. And that silence spoke volumes. This bill offers a pragmatic benefit. It creates a powerful incentive for people in prison to engage in programming, pursue education and take accountability for their actions. It gives them a reason to change. That's what real justice looks like; not just punishment, but the possibility for repair.

I know what it means to be harmed. I've lived with it every day. I did not report the crimes that were committed against me, because of the harm that this bill seeks to chip away at fixing. I did not want the men who harmed me to experience prolonged incarceration, what I wanted was for them to understand the harm that they caused me, the harm that they caused my family and I wanted to know myself that they would never do again what they did to me. Sending people to prison does not ensure that that process will happen, but engaging in programming and rehabilitation helps to ensure it happens. I believe in redemption, I believe in second chances, not for everyone and not indiscriminately, but for those who have earned it. This bill doesn't offer mercy without merit; it offers earned hope.

I will close by saying that I was recently at the Maine State Prison, and I spent some time with a group called the long-timers group at Maine State Prison. And while I was there, I was very happy to see the Representatives from Carmel, the Representative from Albion and the Representative from Sidney going on a tour of the facility. And they came into the group and they talked with some of the gentlemen at Maine State Prison in that group with me. And one of them, who just in the hallway earlier this evening, the Representative from Sidney asked me if I remembered who he was, and I do. I didn't at that moment, but I do now, his name is Pedro Santiago. He stood in front of a group of convicted felons, a group of men who have committed

horrible acts, and he wept to us. He cried. That man learned to read while in prison. That man signed a sworn statement in police headquarters confessing to his crime, and he couldn't read the statement. And he confessed to a crime that he in part didn't commit.

There is enormous harm that is coming to people who are experiencing incarceration in this State, and this bill would provide a very modest mechanism for mercy and for forgiveness in our Department of Corrections. I would appreciate it, and I would love it if you would follow my light, Mr. Speaker, and I ask that my colleagues on the floor do the same. Thank you.

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

Representative **WARREN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand in strong support of LD 648, "An Act to Expand the Supervised Community Confinement Program."

Starting at age 18, individuals in Maine who are charged with a crime are typically tried in criminal court, where the penalties tend to be more severe than in juvenile court. This distinction between adult and juvenile court is rooted in the understanding that adults and minors have different levels of maturity and decision-making abilities. Criminal court, with its harsher penalties, is designed for individuals who are legally considered adults, as it reflects the idea that adults should be held fully accountable for their actions. However, this legal distinction also assumes that adults have fully developed cognitive and emotional abilities, a premise that is not entirely accurate, particularly when there is growing recognition that young adults and children are more alike than different in capacity for long-term planning, emotional regulation, impulse control, assessing risks and rewards. While adults are generally better equipped to make informed decisions based on these factors, it is well established that the adolescent brain isn't fully developed until around the mid-20s. 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 these findings from neurodevelopmental brain science about the capacity of the brain within these years to make sound decisions. As a result, young people, including children and emerging adults, are less capable than adults.

Coupled with this understanding that their brains are still maturing, there is a reality that young people also possess a unique capacity for positive change into adulthood. That means when they cause harm, and sometimes significant and irreparable harm, they should be held accountable, but in ways that allow for recognition of their significant potential for rehabilitation. Understanding these differences can lead to a more nuanced approach to justice, especially when it comes to rehabilitation and second chances for young adults who may not yet fully meet the maturity expectations as set out for them in criminal court.

What this bill offers is to suggest that criminal justice must balance both sides to achieve public safety through a combination of punishment, rehabilitation and restorative justice. Age-appropriate sentencing does not contradict a commitment to victims or public safety. Rather, restoratively minded sentencing and a second chance demands we consider full consideration as to what the role of incarceration is, how some perpetrators are themselves victims contributing to a larger cycle of violence and evidence to suggest tremendous success by those who have been afforded a second chance.

As it stands today, nearly two in every five people sentenced to life without parole were 25 or younger at the time of their crime across this country. Here in Maine, our prisons and jails are housed within the Department of Corrections. Either we see criminal justice and this system as a site for rehabilitation or we don't, and if we do, we must consider legislative interventions like this very bill around correction, in line with the best available evidence, rooted in the successful efforts begun in many other states and supported by legal frameworks and successful, restorative models already initiated and only seeking to be expanded by this bill. I hope that you'll follow my light in strong support.

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

Representative **CIMINO**: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for anybody who can answer it. I'd like to know, why it is that when a person commits a crime and is 26 years old or younger, that the argument is made that that person's brain is not fully developed, and yet, when an adolescent is asking to transition and wants gender-affirming care, that that's adolescent's brain is fully formed.

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 York, Representative Sargent.

Representative **SARGENT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I come from a law enforcement family. Many of you have heard me tell the story of the fact that I grew up on the grounds of what is now the Maine Correctional Center, because my father was the Deputy Warden.

I stand in strong support of LD 648. I will say only a few words. This is a safe, incremental enhancement of a program that works. I happen to be against the fact that Maine doesn't have parole, but the Department of Corrections often says that the SCCP program is what we have as an alternative --

Representative **CHAPMAN**: Point of Order, Mr. Speaker.

The **SPEAKER**: The Member will defer. The Chair will inquire as to why the Representative from Auburn, Representative Chapman, rises.

Representative **CHAPMAN**: Did the speaker rise to answer the question or to make another point?

The **SPEAKER**: The Member is making another point, which she is entitled to do. No Member is required to answer a question. The Member may proceed.

Representative **SARGENT**: This basically really invests in rehabilitation, it invests in aspiration and I believe that we should expand on a program that has worked successfully and give a larger number of those incarcerated an opportunity for a future. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Auburn, Representative Chapman.

Representative **CHAPMAN**: I pushed my button a dozen times; once, waited; once, waited. It doesn't seem to work.

Much like the Representative from; Representative Cimino, again, if a person's mind is developed enough to make the decision to take on college debt, to make a vote; and I'm not against this, I just don't understand where the divide is. When do we decide when somebody's an adult and they're old enough to make a decision? Is it 18? Is it 26?

And I apologize, I'm a little wound up about the button, but I think my point is clear. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 446

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Friedmann, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Lookner, Macias, Malon, Mastraccio, Mathieson, Matlack, McCabe, Meyer, Milliken, Mitchell, Montell, Moonen, Murphy, Osher, Pluecker, Pugh, Rana, Ray, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Rollins, Runte, Sachs, Sargent, Sato, Sayre, Shagoury, Sinclair, Skold, Stover, Supica, 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, Henderson, Hymes, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Perkins, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Salisbury, Schmearsal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Terry, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S.

ABSENT - Cray, Hall, Jackson, Lanigan, Mingo, Underwood, Woodsome.

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

73 having voted in the affirmative and 69 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-652)** 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-652)** and sent for concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-653)** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Law Governing Items Identified as Prison Contraband"

(H.P. 595) (L.D. 930)

Signed:

Senators:

CURRY of Waldo

CYRWAY of Kennebec

Representatives:

HASENFUS of Readfield

ARDELL of Monticello

BUNKER of Farmington

LAJOIE of Lewiston

MCINTYRE of Lowell

NUTTING of Oakland

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

Signed:

Senator:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representatives:

LOOKNER of Portland

MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-653)** 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-653)** and sent for concurrence.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Report

Majority Report of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-645)** on Bill "An Act to Establish a Program to Assist Residents of Large Recovery Residences"

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

Signed:

Senator:

INGWERSEN of York

Representatives:

MEYER of Eliot

DEBRITO of Waterville

GRAHAM of North Yarmouth

MCCABE of Lewiston

SHAGOURY of Hallowell

ZAGER of Portland

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

Signed:

Senator:

MOORE of Washington

Representatives:

DAIGLE of Fort Kent

GRIFFIN of Levant

JAVNER of Chester

LEMELIN of Chelsea

READ.

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 Readfield, Representative Hasenfus.

Representative **HASENFUS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, this bill came to me based off a situation that is happening in Winthrop, which is the town that I represent, the town that I grew up in, and there used to be a nursing home downtown. It was a rather large nursing home, and as we all are aware, nursing homes in rural areas of the State are having a hard time and that, you know, that issue was no stranger to this nursing home. And so, it closed and was vacant for a while and then, you know, a few years later, it was purchased by an LLC and rehabbed. And the new purpose of that nursing home is that it is a recovery residence for individuals who are seeking treatment for their opioid dependency. And as we all know, recovery residences are of great importance in this State.

The difference with this recovery residence, however, is it is one of the largest recovery residences in the State, and I think it has somewhere near 53 beds. And when it opened in the town, you know, thankfully, there was not a lot of pushback based off of, you know, the clientele that were being served in this, and I think that's a testament to the town that I represent. But what did become apparent quite early on is that in 2022, the town of Winthrop had a budget allocation for General Assistance of about \$4,000. For the Fiscal Year of 2025, the budget allocation is \$103,000. That is a 25-times increase. Not 25%, 25 times. And this bill is specifically designed to address what rural communities can be dealing with if a large-scale recovery residence moves into that community.

As many of us in this room know, the way that recovery residences are currently funded is through General Assistance, and I don't feel that General Assistance is the appropriate way to fund recovery residences, but I do feel that they should be funded, but I think a direct subsidy from MARR or some other agency is far better than funding through General Assistance. And part of this bill is designed to get away from funding recovery residences through General Assistance.

So, the idea, essentially, behind this is; and what the bill language says; is it takes those recovery residences that are over 26 beds. So, if you're over 26 beds, the State is going to, for the time being, continue to pay the current amount that the State pays, which is 70% of the allocated bed rate, which is approximately \$700 a month for every individual in there. But what this bill makes different about large-scale recovery residences is it doesn't require the municipality to match that 30%. So, in Winthrop, you know, a portion of that General Assistance money, that \$100,000 that has been reallocated will

be reimbursed from the State, 70% of that, which will leave Winthrop paying \$30,000 in addition to hiring the new GA administrator. But what this bill would do is it would essentially take that and say, 'municipalities, rural towns in Maine, you don't have to pay that 30% anymore if it's a large recovery residence over 26 beds.' Now, think about that, that could be \$700 per bed. And that adds up quick, as it did in Winthrop. So, what this bill is doing is saying take that State subsidy of 70% of that, use that, and in these larger recovery residences that have an economy of scale, that can deal with that cost decrease in the bed rate, they can absorb that within their business model, whereas the towns have a hard time paying with that, so, that's what it's going to do there.

In addition, that's the stopgap measure for any of these rural towns in Maine that, you know, that this could come to. The study measure is to say that the DHHS is going to review, you know, the best way to fund these recovery residences, and perhaps change that, so, it is no longer General Assistance money, maybe it is a direct fund administered through MARR. I'm really hopeful that they can come back with that report in the next Session and this Legislature will have another chance to offer how we can best address recovery residences in general. I think this is the first step to get to a long-term path to recovery for all Mainers in a sustainable way that is budgeted correctly and we can have continued funding for it.

And in closing, I would just like to read the words from Courtney Allen, in her testimony in support from the Recovery Action Project, and that is "when our community first advocated for General Assistance eligibility for recovery residences, our focus was on a few small houses that serve some of the most vulnerable and financially unstable individuals seeking recovery. These residences typically housed between six and 12 individuals. At the time, Maine had no recovery residence with more than 30 residents, and recovery housing options were particularly scarce in rural areas. While I continue to believe that individuals living in recovery residences should be eligible for General Assistance;" or some, I'm paraphrasing here in my; or some form of State assistance; "I have also observed an unintended consequence of this law; particularly in small communities that host large recovery residences that rely on General Assistance as a primary funding source for the residents. In these specific cases, certain municipalities are being asked to shoulder a disproportionate share of the tax burden to support recovery housing subsidies, resulting in a significant proposed increases to property taxes in those locations. I believe that Representative Hasenfus is proposing a very targeted and specific solution to that issue, while also balancing the desire to ensure that people who are in recovery have access to supportive housing."

Mr. Speaker, we need a sustainable way to fund recovery residences. The current program does not do that and leaves rural Maine extremely vulnerable to this type of large recovery residence, and this bill is designed to address that. So, I hope that everybody can support this motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Chelsea, Representative Lemelin.

Representative **LEMELIN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today in opposition to the proposed Amendment to LD 215.

While I share the goal of supporting Mainers on the road to recovery, I have serious concerns about the direction this Amendment takes. At its core, the Amendment expands State responsibility into areas better managed at the community level. It proposes yet another grant-funded program without a clear plan for sustainability, oversight and long-term impact.

Furthermore, by targeting large recovery residences, the Amendment picks winners and losers, potentially leaving smaller, more community-rooted homes behind. That's not equity; that's bureaucracy.

Recovery is personal and the most effective support often comes from grassroot efforts, local partnerships and personal accountability, not from one-size-fits-all programs administered from Augusta. I urge a no vote on LD 215. Thank you.

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

Representative **HASENFUS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I would just like to point out to the Good Representative from Chelsea that this not a new grant program; that in fact, there is zero cost to the State and municipalities will reduce their cost. The Fiscal Note costs nothing; it's just removing that portion that the towns need to pay for that. And additionally, the smaller recovery residences will get that additional boost from the municipality. So, it is no way disadvantaging smaller, more intimate recovery residences that the system was designed to protect.

So, I'd just like to make that clear that this is going to cost the State nothing and is going to relieve the burden of paying for large recovery residences that is currently placed on municipalities.

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. 447

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 - 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, Henderson, Hymes, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, Morris, Nutting, O'Halloran, Olsen, Parry, Paul, Poirier, Pomerleau, Quint, Rudnicki, Schmursal-Burgess, Simmons, Smith, Soboleski, Strout, Swallow, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, Walker, White J, White R, Wood P, Wood S.

ABSENT - Cray, Hall, Jackson, Lanigan, Mingo, Perkins, Underwood, Woodsome.

Yes, 76; No, 65; Absent, 8; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

76 having voted in the affirmative and 65 voted in the negative, with 8 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-645)** 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-645)** and sent for concurrence.

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

Six Members of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** report in Report "A" **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act to Reform the Process by Which a Person May Petition an Agency to Adopt or Modify Rules Under the Maine Administrative Procedure Act"

(H.P. 750) (L.D. 1131)

Signed:

Senators:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox
MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

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 Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

BALDACCI of Penobscot

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** Report "B" **Ought Not to Pass**.

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 I wish to call for a Roll Call.

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

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

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

ROLL CALL NO. 448

YEA - Abdi, Ankeles, Archer, Arford, Beck, Bell, Boyer D, Boyer M, Brennan, Bridgeo, Bunker, Cloutier, Cluchey, Copeland, Crafts, Crockett, DeBrito, Dhalac, Dill, Dodge, Doudera, Faircloth, Farrin, Faulkingham, Friedmann, Frost, Gattine, Geiger, Gere, Golek, Graham, Gramlich, Hasenfus, Hepler, Julia, Kessler, Kuhn, Lajoie, Lee, Libby, 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, Campbell, Carlow, Caruso, Chapman, Cimino, Collamore, Collins, Cooper, Daigle, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Eder, Flynn, Foley, Foster, Fredericks, Fredette, Gifford, Greenwood, Guerrette, Haggan, Henderson, Hymes, Javner, Lance, Lavigne, Lemelin, Lyman, Mason, McIntyre, 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, Wood S.

ABSENT - Cray, Hall, Jackson, Lanigan, Mingo, Underwood, Woodsome.

Yes, 80; No, 62; Absent, 7; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

80 having voted in the affirmative and 62 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly Report "B" **Ought Not to Pass** was **ACCEPTED** and sent for concurrence.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-331)** on Bill "An Act to Reduce Pollution Associated with Transportation in Alignment with the State's Climate Action Plan"

(S.P. 469) (L.D. 1138)

Signed:

Senators:

NANGLE of Cumberland
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

CRAFTS of Newcastle
ANGELES of Brunswick
EATON of Deer Isle
MONTELL of Gardiner
RAY of Lincolnville

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

Signed:

Senator:

FARRIN of Somerset

Representatives:

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

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-331)**.

READ.

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

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

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

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

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

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Thank you. What is the Fiscal Note for this bill, and how much is the anticipated money in the Highway Fund?

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

Representative **CRAFTS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will rise to speak on this and to answer the question the Good Representative asked about the Fiscal Note. In year one; in '25/'26, \$1.1 million, and year two, \$362,000.

Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight in support of the pending motion. The Maine Department of Transportation and the Turnpike Authority have long existed to help Mainers get where they're going. This understandably means that their work focuses on roads and highway infrastructure. Simultaneously, our State's climate goals aim to reduce our carbon impact across sectors, and transportation accounts currently for approximately 49% of our carbon emissions. Considering the challenge of integrating both goals, LD 1138 is an important attempt to help shift our Department and Authority's focus to include the potential impact of expansion projects on carbon emissions, and it will require adequate mitigation as appropriate.

Mr. Speaker, this policy before us requires that the DOT and MTA develop an impact assessment process to determine whether a capacity expansion project results in either a neutral or net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and per capita vehicle miles traveled. A capacity expansion project includes any road project that expands roadway capacity and includes a new roadway, a widening project or a project that establishes grade separation. The assessment will determine the projected greenhouse gas for 20 years of a proposed project and the net change in overall vehicle miles traveled based on induced demand modeling. If a proposed project increases greenhouse

gas emissions, the DOT or MTA would be required to change the scope or design of the project or include a mitigation project in conjunction with the proposal. Mitigation options are varied, but include increasing transit service and infrastructure, expanding active transportation initiatives, improving parking and vanpooling and improving driving infrastructure to reduce crashes. Finally, LD 1138 includes the publication of impact assessments on the Department and Turnpike's websites, biennial reporting and two public meetings as part of the reporting process.

The recent John T. Gorman report on Maine transportation indicates that only 11% of Mainers' transportation needs are met. Given the need for infrastructure planning that simultaneously addresses the unmet needs with our current climate goals, LD 1138 gives the Maine DOT and Turnpike Authority directives to do just that. I encourage the Body to support 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 to Pass as Amended Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 449

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

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

ABSENT - Cray, Hall, Jackson, Lanigan, Lee, Mingo, Underwood, Woodsome.

Yes, 68; No, 73; Absent, 8; Vacant, 0; Excused, 2.

68 having voted in the affirmative and 73 voted in the negative, with 8 being absent and 2 excused, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **NOT ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, on motion of Representative CRAFTS of Newcastle, the Minority **Ought Not to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE** and sent for concurrence.

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

SENATE PAPERS

Non-Concurrent Matter

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Require Constitutional Officers to Be Elected by Popular Election

(S.P. 226) (L.D. 508)

Majority (7) **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the RESOLUTION **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-284) AND HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-640)** in the House on June 11, 2025.

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

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(S.P. 648) (L.D. 1640) Bill "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission and to Reestablish the Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-347)**

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

There being no objection, the Senate Paper was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended** in concurrence.

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

ENACTORS

Acts

An Act Regarding Reimbursements by Health Insurance Carriers or Pharmacy Benefits Managers to Pharmacies

(H.P. 113) (L.D. 180)

(C. "A" H-643)

An Act to Clarify and Increase Access to HIV Prevention Medications

(H.P. 1122) (L.D. 1687)

(C. "A" H-642)

An Act to Clarify the Eligibility of Certified Recovery Residences for Bridging Rental Assistance Program Housing Vouchers

(H.P. 1305) (L.D. 1946)

(C. "A" H-644)

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

Resolve

Resolve, to Study the Establishment of a New Crime of
Racketeering for Drug Offenses and Sex Trafficking

(H.P. 1259) (L.D. 1888)

(C. "A" H-630)

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

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

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

HOUSE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (8) **Ought to Pass
as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-634)** -
Minority (5) **Ought Not to Pass** - Committee on **CRIMINAL
JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** on Bill "An Act to Require the
Maine State Police to Create a Statewide List of Missing
Persons"

(H.P. 105) (L.D. 172)

Which was **TABLED** by Representative HASENFUS of
Readfield pending **ADOPTION** of **Committee Amendment "A"
(H-634)**.

Representative MILLIKEN of Blue Hill **PRESENTED
House Amendment "A" (H-654)** to **Committee Amendment
"A" (H-634)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-634) as Amended by
House Amendment "A" (H-654)** 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-634) as Amended by House Amendment
"A" (H-654)** thereto and sent for concurrence.

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

On motion of Representative SAYRE of Kennebunk, the
House adjourned at 10:07 p.m., until 10:00 a.m., Thursday, June
12, 2025, in honor and lasting tribute to Shiloh Schulte of
Kennebunk.