

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
4th Legislative Day  
Wednesday, February 16, 2022

Representative TEPLER of Topsham assumed the Chair.  
The House met according to adjournment and was called to order by the Speaker Pro Tem.  
Prayer by Honorable Victoria W. Doudera, Camden.  
National Anthem by Michelle Gonya, Winslow.  
Pledge of Allegiance.  
The Journal of Thursday, February 10, 2022 was read and approved.

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**SENATE PAPERS**

The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 695)  
**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JUNE 2, 2022 AS  
SUDDEN UNEXPECTED DEATH IN EPILEPSY  
AWARENESS DAY**

WHEREAS, people who suffer from epilepsy and continue to have seizures are at a greater risk of a number of complications, the most serious of which are injuries and dying from seizures; and

WHEREAS, Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy affects approximately 1 in 1,000 people with epilepsy each year; and

WHEREAS, the greatest risk factors for Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy are uncontrolled generalized tonic-clonic seizures and seizures that happen at night; and

WHEREAS, because of these serious complications, preventing seizures and other problems related to epilepsy is extremely important; and

WHEREAS, Maine resident Carson Hooper was diagnosed with epilepsy at 10 years of age and passed away from Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy on June 30th, 2017 at 25 years of age; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirtieth Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to designate June 2, 2022 as Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy Awareness Day in honor of Carson Hooper and others in Maine who have died from this tragic complication of epilepsy.

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

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The following Joint Resolution: (S.P. 696)  
**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 2022 AS  
211 MONTH**

WHEREAS, in order to promote 211 Maine, a Maine-based health and human services and emergency preparedness and response helpline that provides Maine people free and confidential referrals to needed resources, we recognize February 2022 as 211 Month; and

WHEREAS, 211 Maine provides around-the-clock service statewide, offering efficient and effective responses from people employed in Maine to questions arising from the growing complexities in health, financial and human services and the needs of Maine people; and

WHEREAS, since 2006, 211 Maine call specialists have assisted with more than 800,000 requests for information regarding topics ranging from housing support to substance use and recovery services to transportation, in 2021 fielding

more than 93,000 calls, text messages and e-mails from people looking for help; and

WHEREAS, 211 Maine has supported the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the people of Maine by fielding general questions about COVID-19 since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, including questions regarding how people can best protect themselves, the common symptoms of the coronavirus, travel advisories and the latest information on testing, and, since launching the support role, has fielded over 90,000 contacts; and

WHEREAS, during this past year, 211 Maine directed over 11,000 Maine people to heating and electric utility assistance services, which may have prevented their contacting the wrong agency for heating assistance, prevented utility shutoffs and saved people from spending winter nights without fuel; and

WHEREAS, 211 Maine handles a number of specialized services and partnerships, including the opiate helpline and the gambling helpline, and is also a resource for finding information about needs such as tax preparation, mental health services and browntail moth caterpillar prevention, mitigation and treatment; and

WHEREAS, 211 Maine, a collaborative effort of the United Ways of Maine, the Department of Health and Human Services and The Opportunity Alliance, provides a powerful example of how the government and nonprofit and private sectors can work together to improve the quality of life of the people of Maine; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirtieth Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize February 2022 as 211 Month.

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

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**COMMUNICATIONS**

The Following Communication: (H.C. 359)

**STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND HOUSING**

February 9, 2022

The Honorable Troy D. Jackson  
President of the Senate  
The Honorable Ryan M. Fecteau  
Speaker of the House  
130th Legislature  
State House  
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Fecteau:

Please accept this letter as the report from the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing regarding its review and evaluation of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System under the State Government Evaluation Act, Title 3, Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35.

The Committee wrote to MainePERS on June 30, 2021 to notify MainePERS of the Committee's intent to review the agency as part of the Government Evaluation Act. In a subsequent letter on September 29, 2021, the Committee wrote to request more information related to the MainePERS disability program, specifically MainePERS' disability team's policies and procedures.

The Committee received the report from MainePERS on November 1, 2021, as required by statute. MainePERS

presented the report to the Committee on January 12, 2022. At this presentation, as well as through a variety of testimony presented to the Committee on bills effecting MainePERS' disability law, the Committee heard concerns about the manner in which MainePERS' disability division operates and processes claims.

The Committee was pleased to hear from the newly hired Chief Executive Officer Dr. Rebecca M. Wyke that one of her priorities is spearheading and implementing a culture change within MainePERS, including in its disability division, and that Dr. Wyke intends to incorporate this in a strategic planning process.

The Committee requests that MainePERS documents the changes made within MainePERS and actions taken to effectuate this culture change. The Committee requests updates on the progress made toward this goal at the Committee's biennial agency orientation and as further requested by the Committee. Specifically, the Committee is interested in employee feedback on culture change initiatives and the systems and processes in place to measure real experiences of MainePERS' members.

At this time, the Committee finds that MainePERS is operating within its statutory authority.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Matthea Daughtry  
Senate Chair  
S/Rep. Michael A. Sylvester  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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The Following Communication: (H.C. 360)

**STATE OF MAINE  
130TH MAINE LEGISLATURE**

February 14, 2022

Chief Justice Valerie Stanfill  
Maine Supreme Judicial Court  
Capital Judicial Center  
163 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Chief Justice Stanfill:

On behalf of the 130th Maine Legislature, we would like to invite you to deliver your State of the Judiciary Address. Whereas the coronavirus has led the Legislature to continue to take necessary safety precautions, we would ask you to deliver your Address in writing accompanied by a video stream to be shared with the Legislature and the public.

We look forward to coordinating any details necessary to see that your Address is received by the Legislature. Thank you.

Sincerely,

S/Troy D. Jackson  
President of the Senate  
S/Ryan M. Fecteau  
Speaker of the House

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The Following Communication: (H.C. 361)

**STATE OF MAINE  
130TH MAINE LEGISLATURE**

February 14, 2022

Major General Douglas A. Farnham  
Adjutant General, Maine National Guard  
33 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Major General Farnham:

On behalf of the 130<sup>th</sup> Maine Legislature, we would like to invite you to deliver your State of the National Guard Address. Whereas the coronavirus has led the Legislature to continue to take necessary safety precautions, we would ask you to deliver your Address in writing accompanied by a video stream to be shared with the Legislature and the public.

We look forward to coordinating any details necessary to see that your Address is received by the Legislature. Thank you.

Sincerely,

S/Troy D. Jackson  
President of the Senate  
S/Ryan M. Fecteau  
Speaker of the House

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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The Following Communication: (H.C. 363)

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

February 16, 2022

Honorable Robert B. Hunt  
Clerk of the House  
2 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (H), I appoint Representative Denise A. Tepler of Topsham to serve as Speaker Pro Tem to convene the House on Wednesday, February 16, 2022.

Sincerely,

S/Ryan M. Fecteau  
Speaker of the House

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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The Following Communication: (H.C. 362)

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

February 16, 2022

Honorable Ryan M. Fecteau  
Speaker of the House  
2 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Fecteau:

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

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

L.D. 476

An Act To Provide Licensed Assisted Living and Nursing Facilities Levels of Care for Incarcerated Persons

Labor and Housing  
L.D. 1753 An Act Regarding the Retirement of Law Enforcement Officers under the Participating Local District Retirement Program

Taxation  
L.D. 1067 An Act To Institute a State Tax Amnesty Program To Increase General Revenue Collections

L.D. 1289 An Act To Cut Property Taxes for Maine Residential Homeowners

Veterans and Legal Affairs  
L.D. 1726 An Act To Increase Transparency in Political Communications

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

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

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The Following Communication: (H.C. 364)

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

February 16, 2022  
Honorable Robert B. Hunt  
Clerk of the House  
2 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Please be advised that pursuant to her authority, Governor Janet T. Mills has nominated the following:  
on February 14, 2022

The Honorable Alan Casavant of Biddeford and Alison Harris of Brunswick for appointment to the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority.

Pursuant to Title 23, MRSA §8112, these appointments are contingent on the Maine State Senate's confirmation after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation.

Peter J. DeIGreco of North Yarmouth, Michael A. Duguay of Waterville and Adrian P. Kendall, Esquire of Cumberland for reappointment and Elizabeth Reinholt of Rangeley and Steven H. Levesque of Greenville for appointment to the Maine Rural Development Authority, Board of Trustees.

Pursuant to Title 5, MRSA §13120-D, these reappointments and these appointments are contingent on the Maine State Senate's confirmation after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business.

The Honorable Donald G. Marean of Hollis, Patricia A. Varnum of Greene and Harry B. Center, II for appointment to the Maine State Harness Racing Commission.

Pursuant to Title 8, MRSA §261-A, these appointments are contingent on the Maine State Senate's confirmation after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

The Honorable William Schneider, Esquire of Durham for reappointment to the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices.

Pursuant to Title 1 MRSA §1002, this reappointment is contingent on the Maine State Senate's confirmation after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs.

Michael Cianchette of Cumberland for reappointment and The Honorable Andrew McLean of Gorham for appointment to the Maine Turnpike Authority Board of Directors.

Pursuant to Title 23, MRSA §1964-A, this reappointment and this appointment is contingent on the Maine State Senate's confirmation after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation.

Rita Armstrong of Freeport and Herman A. Nichols of Bath for reappointment and David W. Lenna of Portland and Barry Lee Valentine of Brunswick for appointment to the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority.

Pursuant to Title 5, MRSA §13083-I, these reappointments and these appointments are contingent on the Maine State Senate's confirmation after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business.

Thomas Earl Keller of Newcastle, Kristin K. Bishop of Madison and Mark Balfantz of Portland for appointment to the State Board of Education.

Pursuant to Title 20-A, MRSA §401, these appointments are contingent on the Maine State Senate's confirmation after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

Gigi Guyton-Thompson of Peaks Island, Rebecca M. Wyke, Ph.D. of Augusta, Tina Wilcoxson of Cumberland Center, Jessica D. Linzer (a/k/a Jessica D. Simpson) of Cape Elizabeth, Kevin Carley of Portland, Deborah Adams Neuman of Hampden, Daniel Piltch of Freeport and Elizabeth Bordowitz, Esquire of Portland for appointment to the Maine Retirement Savings Board.

Pursuant to 5 MRSA §172, these appointments are contingent on the Maine State Senate's confirmation after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services.

Glenn S. Poole of Orrington and Joan Welsh of Rockport for reappointment and Christopher Rauscher, JD of Cape Elizabeth for appointment to the Efficiency Maine Trust Board of Directors.

Pursuant to Title 35-A MRSA §10103, these reappointments and this appointment are contingent on the Maine State Senate's confirmation after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology.

Thomas W. Minch of Lewiston and Elizabeth A. Seal of Lisbon Falls for reappointment and Jason A. Bubier of Ellsworth for appointment to the School Board of the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf.

Pursuant to Title 20-A §7406, these reappointments and this appointment are contingent on the Maine State Senate's confirmation after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

Dr. Richard A. Cook, of Hermon for reappointment and Timothy D. Drake of China for appointment to the Maine Milk Commission.

Pursuant to Title 7, MRSA §2952, this reappointment and this appointment is contingent on the Maine State Senate's confirmation after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

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

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

The Following Communication: (S.P. 694)

**MAINE SENATE  
130TH LEGISLATURE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

The Following Communication: (S.P. 701)

**MAINE SENATE  
130TH LEGISLATURE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

February 1, 2022

Hon. Troy D. Jackson  
President of the Senate  
130th Legislature  
Hon. Ryan M. Fecteau  
Speaker of the House  
130th Legislature

Dear Mr. President and Mr. Speaker:

On February 1, 2022, 4 bills were received by the Secretary of the Senate.

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, these bills were referred to the Joint Standing Committees on February 1, 2022, as follows:

**Criminal Justice and Public Safety**

Bill "An Act To Fix Inconsistencies within the Sex Offender Registration and Notification Act of 2013" (EMERGENCY) (S.P. 689) (L.D. 1953) (Submitted by the Sex Offender Management and Risk Assessment Advisory Commission pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 34-A, section 11403, subsection 3.)

**Energy, Utilities and Technology**

Bill "An Act To Facilitate Net Energy Billing" (S.P. 693) (L.D. 1955) (Sponsored by Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc) (Cosponsored by Senator LAWRENCE of York) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

**Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services**

Bill "An Act To Ensure Access to Prescription Contraceptives" (S.P. 691) (L.D. 1954) (Sponsored by President JACKSON of Aroostook) (Cosponsored by Representative TALBOT ROSS of Portland and Senators DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, VITELLI of Sagadahoc, CARNEY of Cumberland, BRENNER of Cumberland, Representatives MORIARTY of Cumberland, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, DUNPHY of Old Town) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

**Labor and Housing**

Resolve, To Extend the Commission To Develop a Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program (EMERGENCY) (S.P. 688) (L.D. 1952) (Sponsored by Senator DAUGHTRY of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.)

Sincerely,

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

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

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

February 3, 2022

Hon. Troy D. Jackson  
President of the Senate  
130th Legislature  
Hon. Ryan M. Fecteau  
Speaker of the House  
130th Legislature

Dear Mr. President and Mr. Speaker:

On February 3, 2022, 4 bills were received by the Secretary of the Senate.

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, these bills were referred to the Joint Standing Committees on February 3, 2022, as follows:

**Education and Cultural Affairs**

Bill "An Act To Increase Learning Potential by Providing High-impact Tutoring Grants" (S.P. 700) (L.D. 1962) (Sponsored by Senator RAFFERTY of York) (Cosponsored by Senators: President JACKSON of Aroostook, DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, VITELLI of Sagadahoc, Representatives: MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth, McCREA of Fort Fairfield, CROCKETT of Portland, DODGE of Belfast, ROCHE of Wells) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

**Energy, Utilities and Technology**

Bill "An Act To Ensure Transmission and Distribution Utility Accountability" (S.P. 697) (L.D. 1959) (Sponsored by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland) (GOVERNOR'S BILL) (Cosponsored by Senators: VITELLI of Sagadahoc, STEWART of Aroostook, LAWRENCE of York, Representatives: Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, WADSWORTH of Hiram)

**Health and Human Services**

Bill "An Act To Make Changes to the Laws Governing the Child Welfare Services Ombudsman Program" (S.P. 698) (L.D. 1960) (Sponsored by Senator CLAXTON of Androscoggin) (GOVERNOR'S BILL) (Cosponsored by Representative MEYER of Eliot and Senator MOORE of Washington, Representative JAVNER of Chester)

**Labor and Housing**

Bill "An Act To Help Alleviate Maine's Housing Shortage and Change the Membership of the Maine State Housing Authority" (EMERGENCY) (S.P. 699) (L.D. 1961) (Sponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec) (Cosponsored by Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford and Senators: President JACKSON of Aroostook, DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, VITELLI of Sagadahoc, MIRAMANT of Knox, Representatives: SYLVESTER of Portland, TALBOT ROSS of Portland, MORALES of South Portland, GERE of Kennebunkport) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Sincerely,

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

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

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

The Following Communication: (S.C. 992)

**STATE OF MAINE  
130<sup>TH</sup> LEGISLATURE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

February 10, 2022  
Honorable Ryan Fecteau  
Speaker of the House  
2 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0002

Dear Speaker Fecteau:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A. §158 and Joint Rule 506 of the 130th Maine Legislature, please be advised that the Senate today confirmed the following nominations:

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry:

To the Board of Pesticides Control:

- Curtis C. Bohlen of Pownal for reappointment
- Robert S. Carlton of Freeman TWP for appointment
- Patricia M. Ianni of Falmouth for appointment
- Dominic J. LaJoie of Van Buren for appointment

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Taxation:

To the Maine Board of Tax Appeals:

- Andrew Wells of Durham for reappointment

Best Regards,  
S/Darek M. Grant  
Secretary of the Senate

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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The Following Communication: (S.C. 1002)

**MAINE SENATE  
130TH LEGISLATURE**

February 10, 2022  
Honorable Ryan Fecteau  
Speaker of the House  
2 State House Station  
Augusta, ME 04333-0002

Dear Speaker Fecteau:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A. §158 and Joint Rule 506 of the 130th Maine Legislature, please be advised that the Senate today confirmed the following nomination put forth by the President of the Senate:

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services:

To the Advisory Council on Affordable Health Care:

- Christy Daggett of Presque Isle for appointment

Best Regards,  
S/Darek M. Grant  
Secretary of the Senate

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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The Speaker resumed the Chair.  
The House was called to order by the Speaker.

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The SPEAKER: The Chair wishes to thank the Representative from Topsham, Representative Tepler for her service as Speaker Pro Tem and her 4 terms of service to the People of the State of Maine and the People of Topsham.

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

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Representative KINNEY of Knox assumed the Chair.  
The House was called to order by the Speaker Pro Tem.

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**PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE**

Resolve, Authorizing the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands To Renew a Lease of Certain Land in Aroostook State Park to the Federal Aviation Administration

(H.P. 1470) (L.D. 1984)

Sponsored by Representative McCREA of Fort Fairfield.  
Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act To Establish That the Provision of Emergency Medical Services by an Ambulance Service Is an Essential Service and To Establish the Blue Ribbon Commission To Study Emergency Medical Services in the State" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1474) (L.D. 1988)

Sponsored by Representative TALBOT ROSS of Portland.  
Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington and Representatives: CARDONE of Bangor, MARTIN of Greene, NEWELL of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, PLUECKER of Warren, SALISBURY of Westbrook, Senators: BAILEY of York, DESCHAMBAULT of York, POULIOT of Kennebec.  
Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act To Authorize School Administrative District No. 6 To Lease a Former Administrative Building for a Term of Not More than 20 Years"

(H.P. 1475) (L.D. 1989)

Sponsored by Representative CARLOW of Buxton.  
Cosponsored by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland and Representatives: AUSTIN of Gray, BLIER of Buxton, ORDWAY of Standish, Senators: BAILEY of York, DIAMOND of Cumberland.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Exempt Permanently Disabled Veterans from Payment of Property Tax"

(H.P. 1472) (L.D. 1986)

Sponsored by Representative ROCHE of Wells.  
Cosponsored by President JACKSON of Aroostook and Representatives: BERRY of Bowdoinham, BROOKS of Lewiston, DILLINGHAM of Oxford, FAY of Raymond, HARNETT of Gardiner, STOVER of Boothbay, Senators: KEIM of Oxford, RAFFERTY of York.  
Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act Allowing Electric-powered School Buses To Have Distinctively Colored Bumpers, Wheels and Rub Rails"

(H.P. 1476) (L.D. 1990)

Sponsored by Representative PERKINS of Oakland.  
Submitted by the Department of Public Safety and approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

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Bill "An Act To Improve Testing Requirements for Adult Use Marijuana" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1471) (L.D. 1985)

Sponsored by Representative CAIAZZO of Scarborough.  
Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

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**Pursuant to Public Law**

**Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife**

Representative LANDRY for the **Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife** pursuant to Public Law 2021, chapter 121, section 7 asks leave to report that the accompanying Bill "An Act Related to the Electronic Registration and Tagging of Turkey"

(H.P. 1478) (L.D. 1992)

Be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** and printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

The Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Sent for concurrence.

**Pursuant to Resolve**

**Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife**

Representative LANDRY for the **Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife** pursuant to Resolve 2021, chapter 49, section 1 asks leave to report that the accompanying Bill "An Act Related to the Electronic Registration and Tagging of Big Game"

(H.P. 1477) (L.D. 1991)

Be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** and printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

The Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Sent for concurrence.

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**Pursuant to Statute**

**Administrator of the unorganized territory**

Representative TERRY for the **Administrator of the unorganized territory** pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 36, section 1604 asks leave to report that the accompanying Bill "An Act To Establish Municipal Cost Components for Unorganized Territory Services To Be Rendered in Fiscal Year 2022-23" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1473) (L.D. 1987)

Be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TAXATION** and printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

The Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TAXATION** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Sent for concurrence.

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

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**SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR**

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

**In Memory of:**

Richard Litwin, of Old Orchard Beach. Mr. Litwin was a veteran of the United States Army who served with the 519th Military Intelligence Battalion during the Vietnam War. He had retired after working as an insurance auditor and was active in veterans' groups, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was a longtime member of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7997 in Old Orchard Beach, serving as post chaplain and as a service officer. He supported the Maine Military Museum and Learning Center in South Portland, was an active member of Vietnam Veterans of America and was a strong advocate for veterans' causes. Mr. Litwin will be long remembered and sadly missed by his family and friends and all those whose lives he touched;

(HLS 529)

Presented by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach.

Cosponsored by Senator BAILEY of York.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

**READ.**

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

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**In Memory of:**

Barbara Dyer, of Camden. From 1942 to 1986, Ms. Dyer worked as an office manager and accountant at Camden Shipbuilding, which later became Wayfarer Marine and Lyman Morse. She served her community as a member of the Camden Select Board, as well as on various municipal and nonprofit committees, and she wrote 10 books on Camden history and numerous articles and columns. She earned many distinctions, including being named a Paul Harris Fellow by Rotary International in 1995 and Townsperson of Year by the Camden, Lincolnville, Rockport Chamber of Commerce in 1996 and receiving in 1993 the Distinguished Personal Enrichment Award from the Maine Adult Education Association and the First Place/Weekly Award from the Maine Press Association. Ms. Dyer will be long remembered and sadly missed by her family and friends and all those whose lives she touched;

(HLS 530)

Presented by Representative DOUDERA of Camden.

Cosponsored by Senator MIRAMANT of Knox.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative DOUDERA of Camden, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

**READ.**

The **SPEAKER PRO TEM**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Camden, Representative Doudera.

Representative **DOUDERA**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I think we all have somebody in our communities that when they pass on, even though they've lived a good long life, they leave such a void in our lives and for us in Camden, Barbara Dyer is that person. You heard our Clerk read through her numerous accomplishments. She was our town historian and if you've ever gone to the Bagel Café in Camden, that building is dedicated to her there, which was at one time a mill powered by the Megunticook River. But I think what a lot of people don't know about Barbara Dyer is that her mother came to Maine from Syria at age 10. So, Barbara was raised in Camden by a mother who was not a native English speaker. Her mother came for a better life and I think as we are in this point right now where we're welcoming so many new Mainers here, I just would like us to keep in mind that, you know, we never know what's going to happen and Barbara Dyer's mom, who had the courage to come here from so far away and undoubtedly struggled, gave birth to a wonderful person who is the heart and soul of Camden. So, thank you.

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

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**In Memory of:**

Amanda Wogaman-Hunt, of Richmond, a beloved counselor working for social change and the redress of inequities. Ms. Wogaman-Hunt was a counselor, educator and Civil Rights Team advisor for students in grades 5 through 9 at Harpswell Coastal Academy's middle and high schools since 2016 and also spent the last 15 years at The Summer Camp for Girls mentoring both campers and staff. Ms. Wogaman-Hunt will be long remembered and sadly missed by her family and friends and all those whose lives she touched;

(HLS 531)

Presented by Representative McCREIGHT of Harpswell.

Cosponsored by Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc, Senator DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, Representative BERRY of Bowdoinham, Representative HEPLER of Woolwich.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative McCREIGHT of Harpswell, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

**READ.**

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

---

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

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

**PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE**

**Pursuant to Resolve**

**Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services**

Representative MEYER for the **Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services** pursuant to Resolve 2021, chapter 60, section 3 asks leave to report that the accompanying Bill "An Act To Establish a Progressive Treatment Program Monitor"

(H.P. 1479) (L.D. 1993)

Be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** and printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

The Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Sent for concurrence.

---

**Pursuant to Resolve**

**Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services**

Representative MEYER for the **Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services** pursuant to Resolve 2021, chapter 60, section 3 asks leave to report that the accompanying Bill "An Act To Establish the Progressive Treatment Program Fund"

(H.P. 1480) (L.D. 1994)

Be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** and printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

The Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Subsequently, the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Sent for concurrence.

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**COMMUNICATIONS**

The Following Communication: (H.C. 365)

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

February 16, 2022

Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

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

on February 15, 2022

Kristine Logan of Topsham, Grace O'Neal of Limestone and Joseph M. Sleeper of Caribou for appointment to the Loring Development Authority.

Pursuant to Title 5, MRSA §13080-B, these appointments are contingent on the Maine State Senate's confirmation after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business.

Sincerely,

S/Ryan M. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

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

---

The Speaker resumed the Chair.

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

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The **SPEAKER**: The Chair wishes to thank the Representative from Knox, Representative Kinney for her service as Speaker Pro Tem and her 4 terms of service to the People of the State of Maine and the People of Knox and her surrounding communities.

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**Divided Reports**

Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Bill "An Act Regarding the Terms of Office of the Director of the Maine State Museum Commission, the State Librarian and the Director of the Maine Arts Commission"

(S.P. 392) (L.D. 1206)

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York

DAUGHTRY of Cumberland

Representatives:

BRENNAN of Portland

CROCKETT of Portland

DODGE of Belfast

McCREA of Fort Fairfield

MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth

SALISBURY of Westbrook

STEARNS of Guilford

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

Signed:

Senator:

WOODSOME of York

Representatives:

LYMAN of Livermore Falls

ROCHE of Wells

SAMPSON of Alfred

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

**READ.**

On motion of Representative BRENNAN of Portland, the Majority **Ought to Pass** Report was **ACCEPTED.**

The Bill was **READ ONCE.**

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

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

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Majority Report of the Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-408)** on Bill "An Act To Provide for the 2022 and 2023 Allocations of the State Ceiling on Private Activity Bonds" (EMERGENCY)

(S.P. 638) (L.D. 1811)

Signed:

Senators:

CURRY of Waldo

CYRWAY of Kennebec

RAFFERTY of York

Representatives:

ROBERTS of South Berwick

AUSTIN of Gray

BERNARD of Caribou

COLLAMORE of Pittsfield

DUCHARME of Madison

GEIGER of Rockland

HASENFUS of Readfield

LaROCHELLE of Augusta

PEBORTH of Blue Hill

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

Signed:

Representative:

ANDREWS of Paris

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-408).**

**READ.**

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE.** **Committee Amendment "A" (S-408)** 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-408)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-412)** on Resolve, To Rename Bridges in the Town of Milo for Veterans Who Died during the Vietnam War

(S.P. 626) (L.D. 1788)

Signed:

Senators:

DIAMOND of Cumberland  
CHIPMAN of Cumberland  
FARRIN of Somerset

Representatives:

MARTIN of Sinclair  
BRYANT of Windham  
MARTIN of Greene  
O'CONNELL of Brewer  
PARRY of Arundel  
PERKINS of Oakland  
WHITE of Mars Hill  
WHITE of Waterville  
WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor

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

Signed:

Representative:

CEBRA of Naples

Came from the Senate with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-412)**.

**READ.**

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

The Resolve was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-412)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Resolve was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-412)** in concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Resolve, To Name a Bridge in the Town of Unity the Alton "Mac" McCormick Memorial Bridge

(S.P. 657) (L.D. 1839)

Signed:

Senators:

DIAMOND of Cumberland  
CHIPMAN of Cumberland  
FARRIN of Somerset

Representatives:

MARTIN of Sinclair  
BRYANT of Windham  
MARTIN of Greene  
O'CONNELL of Brewer  
PARRY of Arundel  
PERKINS of Oakland  
WHITE of Mars Hill  
WHITE of Waterville  
WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor

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

Signed:

Representative:

CEBRA of Naples

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

**READ.**

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

The Resolve was **READ ONCE**.

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

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass** on Resolve, To Rename 3 Bridges in Brownville and Brownville Junction

(S.P. 672) (L.D. 1912)

Signed:

Senators:

DIAMOND of Cumberland  
CHIPMAN of Cumberland  
FARRIN of Somerset

Representatives:

MARTIN of Sinclair  
BRYANT of Windham  
MARTIN of Greene  
O'CONNELL of Brewer  
PARRY of Arundel  
PERKINS of Oakland  
WHITE of Mars Hill  
WHITE of Waterville  
WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor

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

Signed:  
Representative:  
CEBRA of Naples

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

**READ.**

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

The Resolve was **READ ONCE**.

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

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

---

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

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Majority Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-763)** on Bill "An Act To Promote Labor Education through the University of Maine System"

(H.P. 1349) (L.D. 1816)

Signed:  
Senators:  
RAFFERTY of York  
DAUGHTRY of Cumberland

Representatives:  
BRENNAN of Portland  
CROCKETT of Portland  
DODGE of Belfast  
McCREA of Fort Fairfield  
MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth  
SALISBURY of Westbrook

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

Signed:  
Senator:  
WOODSOME of York

Representatives:  
LYMAN of Livermore Falls  
ROCHE of Wells  
SAMPSON of Alfred  
STEARNS of Guilford

**READ.**

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

Representative STEARNS of Guilford **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. 450**

YEA - Alley, Arford, Babbidge, Bell, Berry, Blume, Boyle, Brennan, Bryant, Caiazzo, Cardone, Cloutier, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Cuddy, Dodge, Doudera, Dunphy, Evangelos, Evans, Fay, Geiger, Gere, Gramlich, Grohoski, Harnett, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hymanson, Kessler, LaRochelle, Lookner, Madigan, Martin J, Martin R, Mathieson, Matlack, McCrea, McCreight, McDonald, Melaragno, Meyer, Millett, Morales, Moriarty, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Paulhus, Pebworth, Perry A, Perry J, Pierce, Pluecker, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Roeder, Sachs, Salisbury, Sheehan, Stover, Supica, Sylvester, Talbot Ross, Tepler, Terry, Tucker, Warren C, Warren S, White, Williams, Wood, Zager, Zeigler, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Andrews, Arata, Austin, Bernard, Bickford, Blier, Bradstreet, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Connor, Corey, Dolloff, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Foster, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Hanley, Harrington, Hutchins, Javner, Kinney, Lemelin, Libby, Lyford, Lyman, Martin, Mason, Millett, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, O'Connor, Ordway, Parry, Perkins, Pickett, Poirier, Prescott, Quint, Roche, Rudnicki, Sampson, Stanley, Stearns, Stetkis, Theriault, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, White.

ABSENT - Brooks, Ceбра, Collings, Costain, Dillingham, Gifford, Grignon, Head, Kryzak, Landry, Sharpe, Skolfeld, Wadsworth.

Yes, 79; No, 56; Absent, 13; Vacant, 3; Excused, 0.

79 having voted in the affirmative and 56 voted in the negative, 3 vacancies with 13 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-763)** was **READ** by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Guilford, Representative Stearns.

Representative **STEARNS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Speaking on Committee Amendment "A", I will not be supporting the amendment and based on the initial bill. What we're looking at here is a \$700,000 annual expenditure that I think if we were to put this in context with the statewide budget and the needs of the people of the State of Maine, it would not rise to the level to the point where we would want to expend those funds. I also think that if we were to put this just within the University of Maine System's needs and requirements, which are lengthy, with their physical plant as well as programming, it also has not gone through that internal process. And, lastly, Mr. Speaker, this item will increase tuition as ultimately those costs get passed on to students and at the same time while we're considering every manner that we can to keep tuition down and to keep student loan repayments as low as possible. So, for those reasons, I would encourage you to follow my light. Thank you.

Subsequently, **Committee Amendment "A" (H-763)** 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-763)** and sent for concurrence.

---

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-764)** on RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Explicitly Prohibit Discrimination Based on the Sex of an Individual

(H.P. 242) (L.D. 344)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland  
SANBORN of Cumberland

Representatives:

HARNETT of Gardiner  
BABBIDGE of Kennebunk  
EVANGELOS of Friendship  
MORIARTY of Cumberland  
RECKITT of South Portland  
SHEEHAN of Biddeford

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

Signed:

Senator:

KEIM of Oxford

Representatives:

HAGGAN of Hampden  
LIBBY of Auburn  
POIRIER of Skowhegan  
THORNE of Carmel

Representative NEWELL of the Passamaquoddy Tribe - of the House - supports the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-764)** Report.

**READ.**

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

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Knox, Representative Kinney.

Representative **KINNEY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I rise in opposition to the pending motion and would like to specifically address the status of wages and opportunities for women in Maine. We don't need this bill. Of all the states in the country, Maine has one of the smallest wage gaps. In fact, Maine law requires pay equity and if an employee in Maine questions a pay equity situation to the Maine Department of Labor, by law, Department of Labor will do an investigation. Also, in 2019, a law was passed banning employers from asking about wages in job interviews. When addressing this issue, it is important to look beyond the raw numbers. What needs to be considered in this debate is the professions that are chosen, the number of hours that are worked and the jobs that families choose to ensure that they have the right balance in their lives to care for children and earn for their household. Women often choose less-demanding jobs. It is a choice families make and has nothing to do with employers or laws. I, myself, have made choices to do jobs that are traditionally held by men. Many of you in this chamber are aware that I was a long-haul truck

driver. I was able to earn money for my household that we were able to put aside to eventually build and start our own business. Women are thriving in Maine. In terms of job opportunity in Maine, the share of jobs is split evenly between men and women. The rate of women who choose to be in the workforce is growing. When it comes to managerial and professional occupations, 43% of these jobs are held by women, 30.1% of Maine businesses are owned by women. There isn't inequity in opportunity and pay for women in Maine. Our current Maine Constitution already has an equal rights amendment within it. We don't need to add another one that grants special rights to a specific group.

There is one very important job that women do have that they have an opportunity above men; it's the job of motherhood. Without our mothers, this chamber would be completely empty. This ERA resolution diminishes and devalues the role of motherhood, in Maine, especially. We are the oldest State in the nation, median age of 45. I'm above that age. We have more deaths per year than births and Maine aborts five and a half babies a day, granted, there's no half abortions, it's the average. So, please follow my light and vote no. Thank you.

Representative STETKIS of Canaan **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 Gray, Representative Austin.

Representative **AUSTIN**: Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Thank you and thank you to our Body, to all being here today, too. Men and Women of the House, can we just take a moment and look around this chamber? Our life and our ability to serve here is made possible by one unique fact; our mothers who gave us birth. Women have true power within their especially-created bodies. If we didn't have women, I think it's fair to say none of us would be here. Each of us was solely born, unique and with great purpose. How fascinating that we have come together with our gifts and our talents to serve our people of Maine in this chamber. A chamber which, I might remind you, has seen so much making of Maine history. Look across all these desks and if my math serves me, I count 61 young, medium and yes some very mature women in this august Body. Just saying. Not only do we have 61 women here in the chamber, we have the first woman Chief Executive, the first woman Secretary of State, we have multiple, multiple, I think it's nine or 10 women commissioners, as well as many, many talented women in this very State capitol and across in the Cross building and all the different varying departments that are scattered across Augusta. Very talented, able, capable women. Women are and can continue to thrive in Maine. Let me say it just one more time because I think we need to hear this; women are thriving through the giving of life and the giving to life. Women do not require this legislation to do that. Actually, in terms of financials, I don't think Maine can afford this bill. It does more harm in some sectors than good proposed on many levels. It doesn't protect our young girls, it doesn't protect women. As a matter of fact, in some cases, I believe it can hurt. It pays absolutely no respect to the wonderful life choice of motherhood and the importance of giving birth to our new generation of Mainers. Case in point, which I don't think we can drive home hard enough, we have heard it over and over for many years; Maine is the oldest State in the nation. We know that and we have made hopefully great strides to address it. But Maine is also nearly one of four

states in the country that has more deaths per year than births. Ladies and gentlemen, in my estimation, Maine is on the fringe of dying. Sadly, our State does abort 5.5 children each day. And I share that because what it suggests is we're not helping to sustain our own lives in our population. How does that impact our dreams of a robust, flourishing Maine where families grow, where they work, where they thrive to pass on our Maine heritage to the very next generation for the continuation of our way of life; Maine, the way life should be.

Could we not come together to promote a culture of life and living by supporting women who wake up and find themselves unexpectedly carrying a new life? To promote the true worth of our women and motherhood and bring this beautiful and beloved State back to strength and vitality? This bill does not do that nor support it. Rather, it empowers the courts to define sex and equality of rights. That's giving legal rights to people on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, stripping biological women of their uniqueness and legal protections under the law. Women have an unprecedented identity, they are biologically different from men. They are the bearers of life, they are the first nurturers from within. Motherhood is an incredibly valuable and fulfilling position in the building blocks of life that needs to be promoted and supported, not disguised and diminished. The ERA bill of 2022 isn't really about equal rights for women. Women have equal rights protection under the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendment of the Maine, excuse me, U.S. Constitution. And contrary to what supporters suggest, this ERA bill is not your mother's ERA bill of the '70s. The proponents of that ERA bill were pro-lifers. This bill has a lot to do with abortion. The marketing arm of the abortion industry has been quite clever in their use of language to position this bill. By calling abortion women's reproductive health care and, Mr. Speaker, I ask you, there is nothing reproductive when a woman has an abortion and health care by calling this health care, the abortion industry has positioned itself squarely behind this bill; can then call this health care discrimination against women, that's justifying taxpayer funding of abortion. Men and Women of the House, there's a reason that abortion isn't written into the Constitution. Our framers, the early fathers of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence were jeopardizing their lives in fighting for the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness for all. Not some; all. Abortion along with this bill does not help to accomplish this. I ask you just to think of the words I've shared. I hope you can find something which you can wrap your arms around and give consideration as we prepare to vote for this bill. Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from York, Representative Hymanson.

Representative **HYMANSON**: Mr. Speaker and Colleagues in the House, I stand in support. When I was on the York school committee and reviewing/updating policy, we sought to reflect current practice in our updates and let discussions go from there. In this arena about equal rights for women, we need to reflect current practice that expects women to be treated equally to men. However, that is not explicitly stated in law. Our most elevated set of laws, our Maine Constitution, needs to say that so there is no doubt. Despite being in a large public school in Yonkers, New York, in the early '70s, young women like me had no sports teams like my male classmates. I went to Yale, then only coeducational. I could not have a credit card unless my father signed for it, not true for my male classmates. Ruth Bader Ginsburg changed that. My medical school class had 30% women, now women

make up 50% or more of medical school classes. In the early '80s, the wife of a prominent Boston cardiologist told me that women in medicine would lower the pay of physicians. Women's work was not as valued as the same work men did. When I took a year off from training to be an emergency medicine doctor at York Hospital here in Maine, then travel around the world by myself with a backpack in 1985, the program director of my residency in New York City refused to write me a recommendation, insinuating that as a woman I would not return to medicine. My fellow residents wrote a stellar recommendation for me and convinced him to sign it. My residency class in Boston Neurology was mostly men and although I was on a career path in an academic hospital, I could see no career path that would have given me, as a woman, the flexibility to balance my life. I could see what an uphill battle women physicians had. Here in Maine, with my husband, a cardiologist, I opened my own private practice on the seacoast, recruited other neurologists, raised three kids in York and took care of my neighbors on the seacoast for 26 years. This does not mean that because we moved to Maine all issues moved out. I had figured out what many Maine women have figured out; open a small business and be your own boss.

My point in telling you all this is that yes, women can carve out a path for themselves that seems to be easier over time. In my case, the story I just told takes place over 50 years. But the fight remains. At the public hearing for this bill, Chief Executive Janet Mills and past Chief Justice Leigh Saufley, now dean of the University of Maine School of Law, testified that here in Maine we are nowhere near done. In 2019, we passed the Equal Pay Act, already exposing unequal pay for women doing the same work as men. It is a law and it is ephemeral. Our most elevated set of laws, our Maine Constitution, needs to explicitly say so there is no doubt that, quote, equality of rights under the law may not be denied or abridged by the State or any political subdivision of the State based on the sex of an individual, end-quote. Please join me in voting yes so that our fellow Mainers can decide the issue at the ballot box. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Alfred, Representative Sampson.

Representative **SAMPSON**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. After multiple readings of the Constitution, I have never received the message that I was not equal. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Woolwich, Representative Hepler.

Representative **HEPLER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I speak as a historian and a teacher in support of LD 344. First, as you may know, an ERA in the Maine Constitution failed to get voter approval in Maine in 1984. So, as a historian, I worked on women in workplace health, I wrote extensively about protective labor legislation for women which limited hours and conditions for female wage earners. Supporters of this legislation opposed the ERA, fearing that this amendment, if passed, would eliminate those protections. By 1954, Alice Hamilton, a workplace reformer who opposed the ERA in the 1920s, changed her mind about it, noting that women had made sufficient gains in the workplace and that many of these protections were now extended to male workers. Hamilton was 85 years old at the time and she changed her mind. Surely, Maine residents should be afforded the opportunity to change their minds. Second, in my U.S. History classes at the University of Maine at Farmington, we recently spoke about the

ERA in the context of the 19th Amendment on female suffrage. They seemed puzzled that a national ERA had never been ratified. I asked them to guess why it failed. They couldn't imagine. Women in the military, I said and unisex bathrooms. My students were dumbfounded. They have grown up with these two realities and their world has not collapsed. They need a chance to weigh in on this issue as voters and as citizens. Please vote Ought to Pass and give this new generation a chance to vote on a State ERA. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Levant, Representative Griffin.

Representative **GRIFFIN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Today, we are dusting off an old idea whose time has come and gone.

The Equal Rights Amendment is an idea from 1923 that gained support in 1971 and came up short, then receded as the barriers to female accomplishments fell as the world changed around it. The world has changed in the 50 years since this was a major topic of national discussion. Since its high-water mark, five states have withdrawn the ratification of the amendment. We've had several female world leaders. Maine has led the way with three U.S. Senators; Margaret Chase Smith, Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins. Sandra Day O'Connor became the first woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, leading the way for other women to follow in her footsteps. Today, we have the first woman to serve as Vice President of the United States. We've had the first woman to serve as Chief Executive of Maine. The women present today in this house are a testament to the fact that this amendment is no longer needed to ensure equal opportunity for women. How can women have achieved so much and then signal that we need an equal rights amendment? Why nearly a century later after the idea was introduced is it still before us? The answer is simple; the ERA is being used to enshrine taxpayer-funded abortion in law for the day when the public realizes that their tax money is paying for abortion. It's not about women's rights any longer. It's only to create illegal talking point for the day when public policy catches up with the desire for eternal life to triumph over darkness. As a woman, I have rights. I have inalienable rights, absolute rights and natural rights. Thank you very much.

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

Representative **GERE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution. In considering why we need to prohibit discrimination based on sex, I looked at the data. And when we look at things that persist for the majority of women in our State, when we look at the data around that, things like the wage gap cannot be explained by the choices that women make. The wage gap specifically exists within industries. The wage gap persists within occupations. The wage gap exists at all education levels, no matter what education level you attain. These are the things that persist that this resolution will help us to address by giving Maine voters a voice and it's a key step in eliminating the things that stand in the way of women's right to equality. Thank you.

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

Representative **DOLLOFF**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. This bill is not needed and I repeat; this bill is not needed. Nobody with a complete understanding of history and current law is arguing that women are not equal under the law. Since the federal Equal Rights Amendment of 1923, we have passed countless State and

federal laws to ensure that women are not discriminated against. In 1940, 4% of women completed college. Today, that number is 35%. The number of college degrees completed for women has been higher than the number completed for men in the last five years. Workforce participation for women has increased from 33% in 1948 to 87% today. At the same time, participation rates for men have fallen. Look in this chamber, for example; lots of women. We probably outnumber the men, I'm not sure. But see how things have changed today? We should celebrate the success of women and not portray them as weak and in need of help. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **BABBIDGE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I stand in support.

Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I came of age during the Civil Rights years and equality before the law became for me a crusading cause for justice. When I was younger, teaching a troubling history to the girls in my classes and seeing the gender line in my wife's professional life and then having three daughters born into our family made personal to me the quest for equal treatment. Existing law has proven not to be adequate to protect women from discrimination, including protection from sex discrimination. In our fundamental document, the Maine Constitution will protect both sexes from unfair discrimination as a fundamental right. That means the Maine Supreme Judicial Court would regard this protection at a higher standard, with, quote, strict scrutiny, unquote. Strict scrutiny to the facts so that disregard for this right to be legal must be justified by a compelling State interest. The higher standard would promote justice in cases of gender pay gap, sexual harassment and domestic violence. Women's legal equality is a human rights issue. Today, we in this chamber can advance equality of the sexes. When Linda and I had our first child, a precious little girl, the federal Equal Rights Amendment was being debated in the states. Three years earlier, Maine - this Body - had passed the federal amendment but passage by three-quarters of the states was necessary for ratification. That daughter I referenced is 44 years old today and in Maine she is still not constitutionally protected as equal in rights to her male colleagues.

In the absence of federal leadership, a majority of the states, a slim majority so far, have adopted equal rights language to their own constitutions; Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, California, Oregon, Washington and Hawaii have the ERA. So, do Pennsylvania, Illinois, Virginia, Nebraska, Colorado and Montana. But also, Alaska, Louisiana and Florida, Indiana, Utah and Idaho, New Hampshire, Texas, Wyoming; they guarantee sex equality in their State constitutions. This vote need not be partisan or ideological but instead a question of fair treatment. Our Maine Constitution has just had its bicentennial and we have amended it 173 times, actually, it might be 174 since we passed the right to food. The women and girls of Maine deserve our highest protection from discrimination. The men and boys of Maine need this State recognition that our highest document recognizes their wives and sisters as equal. What message will we in this Body send today? I thank Representative Reckitt for her life's work and for bringing this opportunity before us. I urge support of the motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **LIBBY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. The language included in LD 344 is unnecessary in today's world. No one is arguing that women should not be equal under the law. In the last 100 years, we've seen countless State and federal laws passed that now ensure that women may not be discriminated against such as the Equal Pay Act of 1963 and the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Even in this building, there has been a female Speaker of the House, I serve with multiple women on my committee, which is chaired by a female Member of the other Body. And while serving on that committee, I listened to testimony from women representing organizations across the State and country. Bills passed in this chamber are sent to our female Chief Executive, a lawyer and two-time Attorney General of our State, to be signed into law. Given the equal rights protections that we all enjoy under both the Constitution of the United States and the Maine State Constitution, unless there is some other subtext motivating this bill, it is redundant and unnecessary.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Friendship, Representative Evangelos.

Representative **EVANGELOS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of this important constitutional amendment. And, Mr. Speaker, this is allegory that speaks to the issue.

I've just arrived home from Philadelphia at 1789 and we just finished up work on the Constitutional Convention, the birth of the United States. My family is gathered at the dining room table. My wife and four daughters, ages 14 to 21, have prepared a celebration feast and my two sons, 19 and 12, were all together. My 12-year-old son is the librarian of the family. My 19-year-old son, Adam, excited, says father, you've done it. I have the Philadelphia Inquirer. Benjamin Franklin says we have a constitutional democratic republic. Yes, Adam, he said it, he said if we could keep it. And Adam says, and John Adams put in 10 amendments, a Bill of Rights, all kinds of rights for us; freedoms, protection, suffrage, life, liberty and property. That's right, son, he did. He insisted on it. My 21-year-old daughter, Charlotte, rises from the table, clasps her hands and says oh, my God, father, I'm going to be able to vote for George Washington for President. And I said Charlotte, not exactly. There's some things we still need to get worked out. You mean I can't vote? And I said Charlotte, I'm sorry, they decided to try it out on the men first. We put in a Tenth Amendment. It says each State has the powers reserved to them to govern their affairs and redress grievances. And then she asked well, when exactly am I going to get the right to vote, father? I don't know, Charlotte, we've still got work to do, we need some time, but I promise the Tenth Amendment will help. And my librarian son says I don't know, dad, it says right here it's going to take another 130 years. As Charlotte slumps back down to the table, my 19-year-old son, Adam, says am I going to be able to vote, father? Well, not exactly, not yet, they made the rule 21, not 18. Well, I took a bullet in the shoulder for George Washington's armies, dad. I know, son, I know. Just two more years. And my wife says well, at least it sounds like Mr. Adams included property in those rights. Well, it's not clear, Martha. But when I die, you'll own the farm, all 400 acres and the forest, lock, stock and barrel and that's rock-solid, not a thing anybody can do about it. And my wife says let me get this straight, when you die, I can own property and when I die, I can't vote. Yeah, I know, honey, I know, it's not fair. My 17-year-old daughter asks what did you do with the slave women and the men who

toil the fields down south? Rebecca, we tried, but I'm sorry, there's still slavery. The south wouldn't give it up. We think the states are going to start abolishing it. You know, the Tenth Amendment. And my wife says the Tenth Amendment, that might work in Massachusetts, but what about South Carolina? And I said well, the freedmen can vote, the freed African-American slaves. That's good, but it's just the men. And my young son says it says right here, dad, you're going to have a big war over it, 600,000 died up here and 400,000 down south. And it says in this constitution, dad, that black slaves only count as three-fifths of a human being. I know, son, I know. We have a lot of unfinished business. My 17-year-old daughter asks what did you do with the Native American women and men, the Indian nations? We didn't do much, Rebecca, we recognize them as tribal nations but the whole thing is very unclear. There's even one colony up north that won't even recognize that. Did the Indian women receive citizenship? No, honey, Congress excluded them from representation. The country's bursting at the seams, honey. Some of the delegates want to push west, we need the land. A quiet descends over the dining room. I say to the boys, mother has an apple pie in the oven, let's go out and bring the cows in. And mother says girls, the pie's almost ready. I need eggs for the morning and please lock the chickens up. And as they rise, my 17-year-old daughter says well, father, thanks, thanks a lot. You came home from Philadelphia and I've secured the rights to gather eggs and chase chickens. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **RUDNICKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. Two years ago, I stood here, on a bill very similar to this one and talked about my daughter. She's 26 now, she works in the corporate world. Two years ago, or she started at her company four years ago and two years ago was complaining that she didn't feel like she was making the money she should be making. So, I said go ask for more money. She took that advice, she went and asked for more money. She got more money. She then turned around and has worked her way up, it's now four years at a corporation and is now the creative marketing director. So, at 26 years old, a female, we have equal rights. She has equal rights to go ask for what she wanted and she got it. We don't need this bill. We have equal rights. Thank you.

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

Representative **ROEDER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. When I was young, my mom told me a story about why she held on to a particular store credit card. It was because when I was first born, that was the only company that would extend her credit without my dad signing on or without her father signing on. When I was going through her things after she passed, she still had that credit card even though that store is no more. Mom raised me to believe that I was never to see myself as less than because of my gender. Unfortunately, the world didn't get the memo when it came to her career as she left the classroom to have me and worked for decades, first as an aide, then as a special education instructor, to finally get back to the classroom where she wanted to be. I commend my colleagues in this Body who have pointed out just how far we have come as women in power, as women in equality, but I will remind everyone that those changes are not irreversible. The only right of equality afforded to women in the U.S. Constitution is the right to vote. So, I encourage you to think about the generations coming forward and whether or not we

would like to fight this battle over and over again or if we can settle it once and for all that women deserve equal treatment. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Caribou, Representative Bernard.

Representative **BERNARD**: Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I appreciate hearing the stories and experiences from 40 and 50 years ago. I actually have some of my own and I tell them today because they seem so out of place and a little bit funny and I can make them sound funny, too, by the way. But I'm wondering what problems we're attempting to fix today. What problems are we creating at the same time by this move? We already have laws in all areas of American life including education, employment, credit eligibility and housing. We would have to make a lot of changes to reverse that. So, I don't really believe that's going to happen, Mr. Speaker. We would no longer be able to differentiate facilities, whether they're nursing homes facilities, hospital rooms, that's a big deal to me. When my mother and my dad had to go to a nursing home for a short time, they needed to have their own space. That's the way I felt about it and I can't imagine my mother being put in a space with another gentleman. That would've been a good time. There are unintended consequences. I think I'm a very practical person and so, when I think about auto and life insurance, for example, costs would go up for women regardless of the fact that women live longer or that young women have better driving records than young men. It wouldn't be fair to have a lower amount paid the way that it is today, it would have to be accrued across the board and for women it would mean that we would pay more. Maybe that's unfair, but I kind of like it. The State would be dictating to churches their doctrine, their policies, their practices regarding clergy, for example and this seems to me to be the worst example of separation of church and state. That indeed is the problem when the State starts to dictate to churches what their policies will be and I'm afraid this would be yet one more unintended consequence. Finally, this would necessitate integrating the prison system and that's according to the past supreme court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She says that if this were to be put into place, you would have to integrate the prison systems with men and women and that that would result in harsher discipline for women. And so, Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen, please think about these unintended consequences as you vote today. And it is those unintended consequences that will make me vote no on this particular question. Thank you.

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

Representative **WARREN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm a 26-year-old legislator, a young woman in the State of Maine, I grew up here. I'm very proud of much of the progress that we've made during the course of my lifetime here in our State to advance gender equality. I think we have very far to go at the same time. I have heard in the course of this discussion, Mr. Speaker, reference to, that this legislation would be giving us help as women or giving us special favors or special treatment. I just want to remind us that this is to prevent discrimination and to give us equality. That is all we are asking for and I believe it's a right. It's not a privilege, I believe we are entitled to it. I hope you follow my light.

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

Representative **PRESCOTT**: Thank you, Speaker. Hello, Members. As I look around this room, I see men and women. We all got elected here by the same process, we all make the same money, we all carry the same title; Honorable. All of this directly due to the way the Constitution is written. If this Constitution discriminated, some people wouldn't be here. But the fact that we are here, what do we see? We see different religions, we see different personal lifestyles, yet we're all here. We all represent the same amount of people. So, how is this possible that we are in this room together, we are all equal and it's due to the way the Constitution is written. I look back on my time in this room and I remember when the subject of same-sex marriage came up and we passed it. Not once did this group of people come to us and say we need to be inserted in the Constitution of the State of Maine. Because they recognize the way it is written gave them the right to come here and they gained it and they got it. And all of this as you see happening right here, right now, we just heard the youngest woman ever is in this room right now as a legislator directly due to the way this Constitution is written. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would remind Members to direct their comments through the Chair. 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.

This legislation would make women's legal equality a constitutionally-protected right, empower the Maine Human Rights Commission to consider all cases of sex discrimination, not just those specified by the Legislature, as is now the case and would further require law enforcement and the courts to fully prosecute crimes against women. LD 344 gives women the dignity of full inclusion in the Maine Constitution that men have always had. History has revealed that we do, indeed, need to assure that women are guaranteed once and for all protection under the law. There are many examples, too numerous to mention here, but I will say that in my grandmother's lifetime, women, and I will add white women finally realized the right to vote in 1920. This was accomplished after years and years of women fighting for this fundamental right. The women's suffrage movement took activists and reformers nearly 100 years to win this right. After the 19th Amendment was enacted, Alice Paul, who was instrumental in assuring women finally had the right to vote, believed the true battle for legally-protected gender equity had yet to be won. Paul began her work on the Equal Rights Amendment in 1923, nearly 100 years ago. Her proposed amendment was simply put as follows: Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex. After years of debate and advocacy, finally in 1972, Congress passed the Equal Rights Amendment with bipartisan support and it went to the states for ratification. However, this achievement was gravely compromised. As of June 30, 1982, the ERA remained three states shy of the 38 necessary for ratification.

Another example of relevance illustrating gender inequality includes simple matters that we today take for granted. For example, in my mother's lifetime, during the 1960s, as we have heard, a bank could refuse to issue a credit card to an unmarried woman. Even if she was married, her husband was required to co-sign. As recently as the 1970s, credit cards in many cases were only issued with a husband's signature and it wasn't until the Equal Credit Opportunity Act of 1974 that it became illegal to refuse a credit card to a woman

based on her gender. Additionally, a married woman could not divorce her husband unless he agreed to it or unless she could prove wrongdoing like abuse or infidelity. We have, indeed, addressed these inequities, Mr. Speaker, however there is yet one more example why I believe it is imperative that we pass LD 344. Recently, I heard a piece on National Public Radio. It was suggested gender bias in the acceptance rate for astronomers relative to both the Hubble and now Webb Telescope existed. In a study published in 2014, it was determined that proposals that were led by women had a lower acceptance rate than proposals led by men. This discrepancy remained constant for more than a dozen years, the entire time it was studied. Recommendations were made to make the review process completely blinded and anonymous for scientists bidding to do this work. Not only would the evaluation committee not get to see any names, but all proposals would be required to be written in a way that made it totally impossible to know who the proposal was from. In 2018, astronomers did their first truly anonymous review for Hubble proposals. That year, for the first time, ever, Mr. Speaker, the acceptance rate for proposals led by women were higher than the acceptance rate for proposals led by men. The gender difference had finally flipped. Let me be clear; the ERA does not add new laws to the Constitution; it only guarantees the rights currently within it. The ERA is an amendment for both men and women. It is not just a woman's issue. Issues of custody, employment and fair wages are important to both sexes and an equal rights amendment would guarantee equal legal rights without regard to sex. The ERA would affirm the basic human right of constitutional protection, Mr. Speaker. I mentioned my grandmother, I mentioned my mother, I will now look to the future and I will mention my daughter. It is my hope to give all of our daughters and sons true equity under the law. I urge you to vote in support of LD 344. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **POIRIER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I stand today in opposition of the current motion. LD 344 neither protects nor empowers women. It empowers the courts to interpret a constitutional amendment to their liking and the Legislature to impose more laws. Mr. Speaker, a question was presented during testimony for this bill and I ask it before you today; what present law or laws in Maine are barring equality for women? The fact is, Maine already protects rights based on sex in many of its laws, including the Equal Employment Act and the Maine Human Rights Act. What's troubling about LD 344 is how it may be interpreted. Based on court findings in states where similar amendments have passed, an equal rights amendment will have impact on other laws and statutes. Ruth Bader Ginsburg even stated that, quote, equal protection under the laws encompasses protections against sex discrimination. She said this when referencing the Fourteenth Amendment in her argument. She further expressed concerns about the number of laws that would be affected by an equal rights amendment. Testimonies on LD 344 stated that women needed equality in insurance. Should this bill pass, insurance companies will no longer be allowed to rate policies based on gender and women will see an increase in their auto and life insurance rates. Mr. Speaker, I prefer my lower insurance rates right now. The truth is we don't know all of the impacts that LD 344 would have on our State. It will fall into the hands of an already heavily burdened judicial system. Mr. Speaker, as a woman who was born, raised and lived all my life in

Maine, I've been afforded every opportunity that I wanted, not because of a law but because of my ambition, my drive to succeed and because of who I am as a person, not because of my gender. So, for these reasons and many others, I ask you to join me and oppose LD 344.

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

Representative **HASENFUS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. You know, listening to this debate has been fascinating and what's so fascinating about it is what has not been said until the Good Representative from Old Orchard Beach mentioned it, but this amendment is going to protect my son as much as my daughter. But the mere fact that that has not been mentioned in this chamber makes me question whether we have really reached a point of true equality.

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

Representative **BROOKS**: Thank you, Speaker. I rise, Women and Men of the House, today and people of the House to support this amendment. I support this amendment and again I've heard people, I apologize for being late to the conversation, I've heard people speak of women figures identified as the nurturing people in their lives. My great-grandmother, my grandmother, my mother, myself, I think of my nieces, I think of men who have nurturing qualities, I think of people that may not say have both qualities, really. We all do. And with this pandemic, we've come together in ways like we never have before. We've come together to raise families, we've come together, and it's not like we never have before, we just kind of forget sometimes, we get so caught up in the hecticness. But, to get to the point, my niece looked at me when she was nine and she said it's too bad a woman can't be president. At the age of nine, she said that and I wondered what she thought about that, you know? And I thought I didn't do my work very well because I had been starting to get involved in politics. And she thought it was illegal Modern Woodman ruler and it went through President George H.W. Bush. And I could see why she might've thought that and it really, you know, made me pause. And now I'm hoping that we could pass this to assert at least here in Maine; we want to stand up and say we have equality.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Knox, Representative Kinney.

Representative **KINNEY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. While I appreciate that some time ago women did not have the ability to open any form of credit, be it a credit card, a personal loan, a car loan, a home mortgage loan or a business loan by themselves. That is no longer the case and I am living proof. As a reminder, I am older than the median age of Mainers. In college, I got a credit card all by myself at only 18 years of age. The minimum wage at that time was nowhere near what it is today. In fact, my first job paid less than \$3 an hour. I don't really remember exactly how much it was, I do remember it was less than three and I remember in the late-80s when it went up to \$3.10 an hour. I was thrilled. Granted, I was in high school. Today, those same kids would get \$12 and I think we're at \$12.75 this year, that's what I recall. I've purchased several brand-new vehicles over the years all by myself. I do have a home mortgage that I will admit is co-owned or co-signed with my husband, not because I needed him on that loan but because we are a team. In my 26-plus years of marriage, I've often made more money than my husband. This is not 1776, 1850, 1923, 1971, the year I was born, or even 2019. It's 2022 and if



a woman wants the same opportunity as a man, all she needs to do is go after it. We do still have that one thing, though, that no man, as I stated before, can do; we can bear children. I can't begin to explain to you how wonderful that is and there is nothing we can do to legislate to give you that gift. I'm sorry. My colleague, the Representative from Caribou, touched on religious issues that this will violate. Constitutional right to freedom of religious freedom. We often in this chamber have dealt with errors bills. In fact, in my committee, it's over a hundred pages worth of errors that we're dealing with when we pass legislation that is in nonconcurrence with another piece of legislation. This will put an error into our constitution.

Article I, Section 6-A of the Maine Constitution states; Discrimination against persons prohibited. No person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law, nor be denied the equal protection of the laws, nor be denied the enjoyment of that person's civil rights or be discriminated against in the exercise thereof. A quick check in the Merriam-Webster dictionary; a person is a human being. Human is then defined as of, relating to, or affecting people, which is the plural of person. In our Statutes, we have eliminated pronouns and instead used the term person so that we're not discriminating men, women, a person is everyone in this chamber. No one is discriminated against when we change that language and go away from those pronouns defining sex. Person is the word we use and we are all protected under the Maine Constitution against discrimination from wages, from jobs, from anything. We cannot be discriminated against. I urge you to vote no on the pending motion with me. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Gorham, Representative Boyle.

Representative **BOYLE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House. I did not intend to stand and speak about this issue. I'm new here and I've been listening and I can't help but stand up. What brought me here was the values I was taught by my mother, a school teacher from East Millinocket, Maine and my father, an Army veteran from Rumford, Maine. And I am voting yes on this in support of my mother, of my wife, Sue, my daughter, Lindsay, my stepdaughter, Devan, my three granddaughters and all the women in this House, in this chamber and in the other chamber who will benefit from it. I'm a white male born in 1958. I don't need this language, but all of them do and all of you do and thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative **RECKITT**: Mr. Speaker, Honorable Members of the House of Representatives, I have to stand for a minute, I've been sitting too long. I rise today to speak once again on behalf of the proposed equal rights amendment for Maine's people. LD 344, which aims to make equality for all of our citizens part of the bedrock of our State laws, our Maine Constitution. To that end, I say to this Body let the people vote. The poet Marge Piercy mused in the late 1970s on the emotional and actual journey of organizing for any cause you most care deeply about. She said it goes on one at a time, it starts when you care to act, it starts when you do it again after they say no, it starts when you say we and know who you mean and each day you mean one more. Today, I invite you to join me on that road that brought me to today. I'm 27 years old and a year has passed since I'd finally discovered the burgeoning second wave of feminism. Now it is 1973. As a terrified 28-year-old citizen of Maine, I first set foot in this State House to lobby your predecessors to ratify the federal Equal

Rights Amendment which was sent to the states that very year. That effort failed by one vote in the Maine Senate. Again, in 1974, I was back here again, lobbying for equality. This time ratification efforts were successful and on the last day of that year, I turned 30. In 1976, at the ripe old age of 31, I was working on the national ratification campaign in support of those efforts. I boarded a bus in Maine, I reached out, went to New York City to then board a freedom train chartered for Amtrak and finally a school bus in Chicago to ride to Springfield, Illinois to attempt to get the Illinois Legislature to ratify the amendment as well. I was much younger then and marched through the streets in Springfield, Illinois in a borrowed 1890s bathing suit. Underneath that bathing suit, I wore an ERA t-shirt covered in signatures of supporters who could not make the trip themselves but had each donated \$2 to help me raise the money I needed to ride that train. One man signed in a much larger script and contributed \$5. That man's name was and is George Mitchell. Two years later, I marched for the ERA in Washington D.C. on July 9th and had the honor of being one of those chosen to carry the banner with the words of the ERA that stretched across Pennsylvania Avenue. As a result, my picture for the first and last time, I hope, was on the front page of the New York Times. I was now 33 years old.

In 1984, now nearly 40 years old, I was elected to be Executive Vice President of the National Organization for Women and moved with a heavy heart to Washington D.C. to continue my work on the Equal Rights Amendment and other issues of equality, including what had become my signature life's work; ending violence against women. During that time, I believe in 1984, a similar equality amendment, a provision based on eliminating discrimination against women passed this Legislature and was sent to the voters. That proposal was defeated in 1985, I believe by a narrow margin. Decades have passed since 1985 and 2022. In fact, 37 years have passed. And for all those intervening years, I worked tirelessly to end violence against women in Maine, especially fighting for survivors of domestic violence and helped Maine often lead the nation in that effort. When I first had the honor of being elected a Representative from South Portland, I was 71 years old. But now I am 77 years old. The federal Equal Rights Amendment, although ratified by the required 38 states two years ago, is mired still in procedural delays and likely soon subject to legal and constitutional roadblocks. As of now, there is no equal rights amendment in the federal constitution and even were those problems of its ratification to be solved, we still live in a federalist country where many issues devolve to the control of the 50 states and a State ERA may be needed to deal with issues not regulated by the federal government. In closing, I want to share with you the words of Jill Ruckelshaus, speaking in 1977 at a convention of the newly-formed National Women's Political Caucus. And I quote; we are in for a very, very long haul. I am asking everything you have to give. We will never give up. You will lose your youth, your sleep, your arches, your strength, your patience, your sense of humor and occasionally the understanding and support of the people that you love very much. In return, I have nothing to offer you but your pride in being a woman, all your dreams you've ever had for your daughters, your nieces and granddaughters, your future and certain knowledge that at the end of your days you will be able to look back and say that once in your life you gave everything you had for justice. It is time to ensure Maine voters are given the choice to rise in support of equality for women and men, pass LD 344 and let the people speak. Thank you very much, 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. 451**

YEA - Alley, Arford, Babbidge, Bell, Berry, Blume, Boyle, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Caiazza, Cardone, Cloutier, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Cuddy, Dodge, Doudera, Dunphy, Evangelos, Evans, Fay, Geiger, Gere, Gramlich, Grohoski, Harnett, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hymanson, Kessler, LaRochelle, Lookner, Madigan, Martin J, Martin R, Mathieson, Matlack, McCrea, McCreight, McDonald, Melaragno, Meyer, Millett, Morales, Moriarty, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Paulhus, Pebworth, Perry A, Perry J, Pierce, Pluecker, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Roeder, Sachs, Salisbury, Sheehan, Stover, Supica, Sylvester, Talbot Ross, Tepler, Terry, Tucker, Warren C, Warren S, White, Williams, Wood, Zager, Zeigler, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Andrews, Arata, Austin, Bernard, Bickford, Blier, Bradstreet, Carlow, Carmichael, Collamore, Connor, Corey, Dolloff, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Foster, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Hanley, Harrington, Hutchins, Javner, Kinney, Lemelin, Libby, Lyford, Lyman, Martin, Mason, Millett, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, O'Connor, Ordway, Parry, Perkins, Pickett, Poirier, Prescott, Quint, Roche, Rudnicki, Sampson, Stanley, Stearns, Stetkis, Theriault, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, White.

ABSENT - Cebra, Collings, Costain, Dillingham, Grignon, Head, Kryzak, Landry, Sharpe, Skolfield, Wadsworth.

Yes, 80; No, 57; Absent, 11; Vacant, 3; Excused, 0.

80 having voted in the affirmative and 57 voted in the negative, 3 vacancies with 11 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Resolution was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-764)** 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**.

Under further suspension of the rules the Resolution was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-764)** and sent for concurrence.

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

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**First Day**

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

(S.P. 649) (L.D. 1832) Bill "An Act To Correct the Year of the Expiration of the Terms of 2 County Commissioners in Sagadahoc County" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(S.P. 653) (L.D. 1835) Bill "An Act To Amend the Laws Governing Storm Water Management To Provide an Exemption for Mountain Bike Trails" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(S.P. 600) (L.D. 1745) Bill "An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Gambling Control Board" Committee on

**VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-410)**

(S.P. 637) (L.D. 1810) Bill "An Act Regarding Examinations and Applications for Professional Engineers and Engineer-interns" Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-409)**

(S.P. 646) (L.D. 1829) Bill "An Act To Amend the Charter of the Ogunquit Sewer District" Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-411)**

(S.P. 654) (L.D. 1836) Bill "An Act To Amend Maine's Financial Institution Merger Statutes and Modernize Certain Sections of Title 9-B" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-413)**

(H.P. 1386) (L.D. 1876) Bill "An Act Regarding Abandoned Motor Vehicle Storage Fees" Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-765)**

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

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

**ENACTORS  
Resolves**

Resolve, To Create the Commission To Examine Reestablishing Parole

(H.P. 610) (L.D. 842)

(H. "A" H-736 and H. "C" H-754 to C. "A" H-717)

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

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

**SENATE PAPERS**

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 714)

**ORDERED**, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until the call of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, respectively.

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

**READ** and **PASSED** in concurrence.

Resolve, Authorizing the Bureau of Parks and Lands To Authorize Additional Construction and Installations Related to a Telecommunications Tower on Bald Mountain in the Town of Rangeley

(S.P. 712) (L.D. 1981)

Resolve, To Authorize the Bureau of Parks and Lands To Enter into a Lease with Christian Camps and Conferences for a Parcel of Land Located in Somerset County

(S.P. 715) (L.D. 1983)

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

**REFERRED** to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** in concurrence.

**CONSENT CALENDAR  
First Day**

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

(S.P. 611) (L.D. 1752) Bill "An Act To Provide Insurance Coverage for a Beneficiary on a Transfer on Death Deed" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-417)**

(S.P. 610) (L.D. 1855) Bill "An Act Regarding Point-of-dispensing Sites for Immunizations against COVID-19" Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-416)**

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.

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEE  
Divided Report**

Majority Report of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-415)** on Bill "An Act To Allow Exceptions to the Height Limitations under the Shoreland Zoning Laws"

(S.P. 636) (L.D. 1809)

Signed:  
Senators:

BRENNER of Cumberland  
BENNETT of Oxford  
CARNEY of Cumberland

Representatives:

TUCKER of Brunswick  
BELL of Yarmouth  
BLUME of York  
BOYLE of Gorham  
DOUDERA of Camden  
GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach  
HANLEY of Pittston  
ZEIGLER of Montville

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

Signed:

Representatives:

O'CONNOR of Berwick  
TUELL of East Machias

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-415)**.

**READ.**

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (S-415)** 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-415)** in concurrence.

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

**SENATE PAPERS  
Non-Concurrent Matter**

Resolve, To Study Maine's Motor Vehicle Inspection Program

(H.P. 200) (L.D. 284)  
(C. "A" H-566)

**FINALLY PASSED** in the House on June 15, 2021.

Came from the Senate with the Bill and accompanying papers **COMMITTED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

On motion of Representative MARTIN of Sinclair, the House voted to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

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

**ORDERS**

On motion of Representative MATLACK of St. George, the following Joint Order: (H.P. 1481)

**ORDERED**, the Senate concurring, that the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government report out a bill related to the Review of the State Government Evaluation Act required under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 3, section 963.

**READ and PASSED.**  
Sent for concurrence.

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

**CONSENT CALENDAR  
First Day**

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

(H.P. 1307) (L.D. 1756) Resolve, Authorizing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry To Convey Certain Land in Aroostook County and Penobscot County Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-767)**

(H.P. 1347) (L.D. 1805) Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 26: Producer Margins, a Major Substantive Rule of the Maine Milk Commission (EMERGENCY) Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-766)**

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.

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

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

Representative **HUTCHINS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. After listening to reports the last week or two and what is happening to our brothers and sisters to the north in Canada, I thought it good to put in a resolve, it hasn't made it to a supplement yet but I'd like to read it at least and see if it maybe perhaps makes it later on. A joint resolution commemorating the impending death of the Canadian democracy. Whereas the premier of Canada is replacing himself with dictator Trudeau and whereas the Canadian leader and government are demanding blind obedience and whereas the use of excessive force and arrest to silence peaceful protestors and whereas the arbitrary blocking and interference with the liberty and freedom of the citizens and whereas the human rights of the Canadian people are being destroyed, their bank accounts frozen, insurance policies for their property cancelled, all to destroy the will and lives and put their people into submission. And whereas the freedom-loving people in the neighboring country of Canada are not being furnished a viable remedy for these government civil rights violations, be it resolved that we, the Members of the 130th Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session on the 16th day of February 2022, pause in our deliberation to express this Legislature's strong disapproval of the excessive force and shameful threats to our northern neighbors and fellow freedom-loving people and be it further resolved that we in the State of Maine and the United States of America extend our condolences.

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

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On motion of Representative DOUDERA of Camden, the House adjourned at 12:36 p.m., until the call of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate respectfully, pursuant to the Joint Order (S.P. 714) and in honor and lasting tribute to John Floyd Melton, of Milford, Richard Litwin, of Old Orchard Beach, Barbara Dyer, of Camden and Amanda Wogaman-Hunt, of Richmond.