

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
22nd Legislative Day
Monday, May 9, 2022

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

Prayer by Vice Chief Darrell J. Newell I, Wabanaki Elder.

National Anthem by Evelyn LaCroix, Skowhegan.

Pledge of Allegiance.

The Journal of Monday, April 25, 2022 was read and approved.

SENATE PAPERS
Non-Concurrent Matter

Act To Encourage the Relocation of Persons from outside the State to Rural Maine

(S.P. 455) (L.D. 1406)
(C. "A" S-649)

PASSED TO BE ENACTED in the House on April 25, 2022.

Came from the Senate **FAILING** of **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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

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

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

The following item was taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE
Pursuant to Statute
Revisor of Statutes

Representative HARNETT for the **Revisor of Statutes** pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 94 asks leave to report that the accompanying Bill "An Act To Correct Errors in Recently Enacted Legislation"

(H.P. 1544) (L.D. 2041)

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

Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Sent for concurrence.

BILLS RECALLED FROM GOVERNOR

(Pursuant to Joint Order - House Paper 1541)

An Act Concerning Nondisclosure Agreements in Employment

(H.P. 711) (L.D. 965)
(S. "A" S-610 to C. "B" H-906)

- In House, **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** on April 25, 2022.

- In Senate, **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** on April 25, 2022.

On motion of Representative HARNETT of Gardiner, the House **RECONSIDERED** its action whereby the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**.

On further motion of the same Representative, the House **RECONSIDERED** its action whereby the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**. as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-906) as Amended by Senate Amendment "A" (S-610) thereto.

On further motion of the same Representative, the House **RECONSIDERED** its action whereby **Committee Amendment "B" (H-906) as Amended by Senate Amendment "A" (S-610)** thereto was **ADOPTED**.

On further motion of the same Representative, **Committee Amendment "B" (H-906) as Amended by Senate Amendment "A" (S-610)** thereto was **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

The same Representative **PRESENTED** House Amendment "A" (H-1050) which was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

Subsequently, the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-1050) in **NON-CONCURRENCE** and sent for concurrence.

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

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

On motion of Representative NEWELL of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 1543) (Cosponsored by Senator BAILEY of York and Representatives: COLLINGS of Portland, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, TALBOT ROSS of Portland)

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAY 5, 2022 AS MISSING AND MURDERED INDIGENOUS PERSONS AWARENESS DAY

WHEREAS, there are thousands of unsolved cases of missing and murdered Native Americans, including high case rates involving women and girls, including transgender women and girls; and

WHEREAS, the number of these cases is disproportionately high compared to cases among the population of the United States as a whole; and

WHEREAS, failure to demonstrate the necessary commitment to addressing and preventing this ongoing tragedy fails to honor the dignity and humanity of each person who goes missing or is murdered; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to work with tribal nations to increase coordination among state and tribal entities to investigate and resolve these cases and ensure accountability; and

WHEREAS, it is also necessary to address the underlying causes of these cases, including sexual violence, human trafficking, domestic violence, violent crime, systemic racism, economic disparities and substance use and addiction, as well as to put in place a support system to bridge the gap for families in crisis and provide opportunities for healing through community-driven approaches; and

WHEREAS, the challenges in tribal communities are best met by solutions that are informed and shaped by tribal leaders and tribal governments; and

WHEREAS, an effective community response plan requires critical partnerships within and timely response from the community, tribal law enforcement and local, state and federal law enforcement; 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 May 5, 2022 as Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons Awareness Day in order to remember the indigenous people we have lost and commit to working to ensure that any incident of a missing or murdered person is met with swift and effective action.

READ.

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

Representative **NEWELL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and Honorable Members of the House, I read to you a letter written two weeks ago today from May 5, 2022. Our beautiful Kim was tragically taken away from us. Losing a loved one is devastating, but losing a child to murder is traumatic and heartbreaking. Our lives will never be the same and our grief will never stop. This horrible act of violence has had a major emotional impact on our loved ones, families, friends and community. Our baby girl was ripped from our hearts. A beautiful murdered indigenous woman who touched so many lives with her humble and gentle soul was ripped from our hearts. As we struggle to find out why this tragedy has shattered us, many emotions have surfaced in more ways than one and finding the strength to cope with these feelings is going to take some time for us all. We have to remember by taking care of hearts, mind and soul is important in this grieving process. I found this quote and I want to share with you; your tears are our tears and our tears are your tears. As we stand here honoring and remembering Kim, our daughter, a granddaughter, a sister, a niece, an aunt and a friend, her kindness, generosity and her love for all will forever hold a special place in our hearts. I strongly believe she has given me the strength to write this to you today as there were seven eagles flying high above our house at 1:30 p.m. Today, we are raising awareness and to remember all the missing, murdered indigenous women who have lost their lives and to bring home the missing. Your love and support will be forever cherished and not forgotten. Our family extends our heartfelt thank you to your condolences, thoughts, kind words, generosity and continued prayers. *Woliwon*, thank you, *Woliwon*, we love you. This letter, Mr. Speaker and Honorable Members of the House, was written by the mother of a tribal citizen lost just recently and it's my honor to read the words of Gloria Lewey-Cleaves.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Portland, Representative Talbot Ross.

Representative **TALBOT ROSS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and Fellow Members of the House, I rise to give voice and to name the scourge of violence against our indigenous neighbors and to urge the Members of this Body to act to end it. American Indian and Alaskan Native women experience higher rates of violence and that violence is most commonly perpetrated by non-natives. Four in five native women experience violence in their lifetime. For native women, according to research done on violence against women, the murder rate is almost three times that of white women. As we have heard today, let us not accept these devastating statistics as an abstract and distant problem to be addressed by other leaders at some other time and place. Today, we pause in our deliberations to remember Kimberly Neptune, a deeply loved and valued individual whose life was stolen by violence. Kim

Neptune was a kind, steady, generous soul. She loved her family. She loved and served her community. She worked hard. Kim is anything but a statistic and we cannot allow ourselves to think of her as one and simply move on. Instead, we must commit ourselves to ending violence against our indigenous brothers and sisters. For Kim, for all those who loved her and for all of those lives that have been impacted by violence against indigenous people, I rise and ask you to please remember today and every day for all of the missing and murdered indigenous persons. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

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

Recognizing:

Anne Davis, of Dresden, to whom the City of Gardiner dedicated its 2021 Annual Report for her significant public service, including many years of service as Library Director and service as Acting City Manager. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 832)

Presented by Representative HARNETT of Gardiner. Cosponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec, Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc, Representative HEPLER of Woolwich.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative HARNETT of Gardiner, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Gardiner, Representative Harnett.

Representative **HARNETT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. It is my honor and privilege to rise today to celebrate my friend, Anne Davis. To recognize her for all that she has done for the City of Gardiner and to thank her for her over 30 years of service to our community as she approaches her well-deserved retirement. Anne began her storied career in Gardiner when she joined the city in 1991 as a library technician for the Gardiner Public Library. Six years later, she was promoted to Library Director, a position she skillfully held until 2021. During those three decades, Anne led a series of projects that have restored the Gardiner Public Library building to its original grandeur. As a student of historic preservation, she set out a methodical plan to reclaim the original building designed by Henry Richards in 1881 from decades of remodeling. She worked from the bottom up. She first restored the archives room located in the library's basement, moved on to the first-floor reference room and Hazzard Reading Room before finally finishing in the children's room on the top floor with its grand stage, including restoring the beautiful stage curtain. Anne also worked to make sure that the library was accessible to all patrons by adding appropriate ramps, an elevator and an accessible bathroom. Anne has been a true leader from the outset. She led Gardiner into the digital age with the introduction of computers and the internet to our library and taught us all about the worldwide web, its opportunities and pitfalls. Anne was so proficient that she became Gardiner's Information Technology Director, proving again that no good deed goes unpunished. I think Anne might be Gardiner's longest-serving city manager, as she has filled that role three times, including when I served as mayor of Gardiner. She was a remarkable colleague for me during that time. Anne also filled the roles of finance director, public works

director and economic development director. I think I even saw her plowing our streets during blizzards, though I might be gilding the lily a bit here.

Along with everything Anne has done for Gardiner, she is also a well-recognized leader among members of the Maine Library Association. She was an active member in the organization, served as president and was named Outstanding Librarian of the Year in 2015. On top of all of that, Anne served on several State boards, including the InforME Board of Directors and the Networkmaine council. In Gardiner, Anne served on many boards and committees including the Board of Trade and the Rotary Club of Gardiner. She was active in coordinating many community events and celebrations. While libraries are often perceived as quiet and still, as Mayor Patricia Hart noted, Anne brought light and laughter to its rooms, inviting us all to learn, to recreate and to share in community. There is no one who has invested more in our community over the past 30 years. Anne has truly been and will always be thought of as a Gardiner treasure. I am so pleased to share just some of Anne's story with you today. I wish her much health and happiness as she writes the next chapters with her husband, Bob and so many friends. From the bottom of my heart; thank you for everything, Anne.

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

Representative **HEPLER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'm glad I got here in time to hear what the Representative from Gardiner had to say. I just wrote a book about being a librarian during tough times and I just wanted to add that Anne has been that leader during tough times and libraries, as the Representative from Gardiner said, are community important, really important community partners and also have known her as an advocate for the town and for the library and so, I also offer my congratulations. Thank you.

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

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

Recognizing:

Shelley Connolly, of Pittsfield, who has received the Kennebec Valley District Award of Merit for her outstanding volunteer service to scouting. Ms. Connolly has served as Scoutmaster, Venture Crew adviser, Unit Committee chair, den leader, Webelos leader, Chartered Organization representative and District Merit Badge Counselor coordinator. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 821)

Presented by Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield.

Cosponsored by Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

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

Representative **COLLAMORE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. And, just really quickly to address an error in the calendar. It was co-sponsored by Senator Farrin and the sentiment is being corrected. Mr. Speaker, I stand today to recognize Shelley Connolly, but I'd like to start with a quick background. My very first floor speech given at the Civic Center was in honor of the

Eagle Scout, Michael Connolly. I had the privilege to have him in my den when I was a Cub Scout den leader. So, Mr. Speaker, it seems only fitting that my last floor speech in my first term is given in honor of Shelley Connolly, the mother of the Eagle Scout I first honored. Shelley first started in scouting as a very active mom in her son's Cub Scout den and pack. Since those first days, she has given so much of her valuable time as a den leader, Webelos leader, scoutmaster, venture crew advisor, unit committee chair, chartered organization representative and district merit badge counselor coordinator. And if you've never been part of scouting, I can't tell you how much time all of that dedication gives, in addition to her teaching activities. Additionally, she organizes scouting events, volunteers every summer at the Boy Scout camp and is an active Elk member in our community. I am very honored to rise to congratulate Shelley for the receipt of the highest honor a district scouting area can bestow on an individual. The Kennebec Valley District awarded Shelley the Award of Merit. Congratulations, Shelley and thank you for all of your continued support of scouting in our community and beyond. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Recognizing:

Jennifer McGowan, of Hallowell, who is retiring as the Maine House of Representatives Assistant Clerk of the House after many years of public service. Ms. McGowan was first hired on January 30, 2001 and was elected Assistant Clerk of the House in 2014. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 824)

Presented by Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford.

Cosponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec, Representative WARREN of Hallowell.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative TALBOT ROSS of Portland, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

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

In Memory of:

Kimberly Alice Neptune, of Pleasant Point. Ms. Neptune's favorite pastime was working seasonally as a housekeeper in Bar Harbor. In addition to her seasonal work, she looked forward to yearly fishing and dipping for elvers, wrinkling and also working at Whitney Wreath, all of which required dedication, commitment and hard physical labor. Devoted to her family, friends and community, she was always available in the time of need to help the Sipayik Tribal Government. Ms. Neptune will be long remembered and sadly missed by her family and friends and all those whose lives she touched;

(HLS 844)

Presented by Representative NEWELL of the Passamaquoddy Tribe.

Cosponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington, Representative COLLINGS of Portland, Representative PERRY of Calais, Representative TALBOT ROSS of Portland.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative TALBOT ROSS of Portland, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ and **ADOPTED** and sent for concurrence.

In Memory of:

the Honorable James Gilcrest Skoglund, of St. George. Mr. Skoglund had a long and distinguished teaching career in the Whitefield school system, later teaching junior high courses in the Thomaston Academy Building until his retirement in 1996. He served in the Maine House of Representatives from the 114th to the 116th and from the 118th to the 120th Legislatures. He was a deacon of the First Baptist Church at Wiley's Corner in St. George and an active and longtime member of the St. George Grange. He was also a custodian of the records of the North Parish Association and served many years as the sexton, caring for two cemeteries. An authority on the history of St. George and the surrounding towns, he was one of the principal architects and founders of the St. George Historical Society. One of his many accomplishments was to help to forge an agreement to renovate the Marshall Point Lighthouse, making it the showplace it is today. Mr. Skoglund will be long remembered and sadly missed by his family and friends and all those whose lives he touched;

(HLS 845)

Presented by Representative MATLACK of St. George.

Cosponsored by Senator MIRAMANT of Knox.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative MATLACK of St. George, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

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

Representative **MATLACK**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Jimmy Skoglund, Representative Skoglund was a fixture in my town, in the Town of St. George and in the little villages that create St. George; Port Clyde, Tenants Harbor, Martinsville, Spruce Head. As the sentiment shows, he was a great historian and he also represented my district before me, several years before me and was always a thoughtful person and had a wonderful story to tell on just about every bill that came up. In St. George, the first time I was running for office, I was out gathering signatures and I came across Mr. Skoglund and he said he would be happy to sign my petition, would I be interested in a bill he would always put in every year when he was in the Legislature and I said certainly and he said penmanship; they need to teach penmanship in the school. I thanked him for his suggestion and then I met the chair of the Education Committee and I decided that between Representative Skoglund and Representative Cornwright, I think I would disappoint Representative Skoglund and not introduce it into the Education Committee that session. Jimmy was a historian. He was also the moderator of our town meeting for many, many years. It was an education to go to the meetings. He was calm and thoughtful and very funny and very witty in his take on different ways that people might respond to voting on a warrant item or discussing different items. And he could always be counted on to have a short story that would illustrate why that person was really not correct in their assumptions and that they would be moving along. So, I enjoyed knowing Jimmy Skoglund for the many years that I've lived in St. George. He was a school teacher that everybody still remembers to this year and the town of St. George will miss Jimmy Skoglund greatly. Thank you, sir.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bar Harbor, Representative Williams.

Representative **WILLIAMS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The late Jim Skoglund was my Representative when I lived in Port Clyde and Rockland during his tenure in the House. In addition to being an excellent Representative, he twice drove my son, Brendon, to Augusta so that Brendon could serve as a page. And this was the early impetus of his interest in politics. If and when Brendon is elected to office, we will have Jim Skoglund to either blame or thank. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Penobscot, Representative Hutchins.

Representative **HUTCHINS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I served with Jim Skoglund many years ago and just wanted to take just a moment to let you know what a very fine gentleman he was. We often went to prayer meeting, I think it was Tuesday mornings and then we very often went to lunch together because we both enjoyed eating. And the good Representative just spoke about he liked to tell stories. Of course, you need to remember his brother was the humble farmer who is famous for telling stories and Jim was as good as his brother was at telling humorous stories. Thank you.

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 428)

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0001**

April 26, 2022

The 130th Legislature of the State of Maine

State House

Augusta, Maine

Dear Honorable Members of the 130th Legislature:

By the authority conferred by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing L.D. 170, *An Act Pertaining to Transmission Lines Not Needed for Reliability or Local Generation*.

L.D. 170 would create inappropriate barriers to the development of transmission lines which could hinder the ability of the state and region to meet our critically important climate and clean energy goals. The bill would designate certain transmission lines as "non-essential" if those projects are not constructed primarily to provide electric reliability within the state, or to provide electricity to retail customers in the state. It would then impose additional requirements on the approval of "non-essential" transmission lines, some of which are vague, ill-considered, and unworkable.

As an initial matter, designating transmission line projects as "non-essential" because they provide substantial benefits beyond Maine's borders fails to recognize the regional nature of our electrical grid, and the global dimension of the climate crisis. If we are to meet the threat that global warming represents to our environment and our economy, and do so in a manner that keeps the cost of electricity affordable for our citizens, we must be willing to think and act on a regional and national level. However well-intentioned, it would be a serious mistake to

penalize interstate transmission projects merely because of the benefits they would deliver to other jurisdictions. Section 2 of the bill would require an entity seeking to develop a transmission line that cannot finance the project through the use of revenue bonds to make "a reasonable effort to negotiate ownership of the line by an entity that is authorized by charter or other law to own transmission facilities and that has the ability to finance the line through the use of revenue bonds." This provision is too vague to have regulatory meaning. It is unclear what is intended by the phrase "negotiate ownership." If this implies an obligation to negotiate the sale of the project, it is constitutionally suspect. Even assuming a project's owner can identify a negotiating partner, this bill attempts to compel a negotiation between two parties when neither may have independent interest in the transaction. If two parties exist with mutual interest in negotiating a sale, they will do so on their own accord, but otherwise this requirement would only mandate a pointless regulatory exercise.

Maine has some of the most ambitious clean energy and climate targets in the country. As my Energy Office identified in the *State of Maine Renewable Energy Goals Market Assessment*, electrical transmission is a key component of Maine's renewable energy future. To meet our climate goals, we will need to increase dramatically the deployment of electric vehicles and high efficiency heat pumps. This, in turn, will require new large- and small-scale renewable energy resources and will dramatically increase the capacity of our electric grid. The other New England states will need to undertake similar efforts, and the federal government has recently allocated more than \$20 billion in federal financing tools to support new grid projects and the deployment of grid enhancement technologies.² In order to succeed, it will be essential to work strategically on a regional level, and this bill would seriously interfere with those efforts.

For these reasons, I return L.D. 170 unsigned and vetoed and I urge the Legislature to sustain this veto.

Sincerely,
S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

¹ Governor's Energy Office. State of Maine Renewable Energy Goals Market Assessment. February 2021.

https://www.maine.gov/energy/sites/maine.gov.energy/files/inlinenfiles/GEO_Renewable%20Energy%20Goals%20Market%20Assessment_Feb%202021_1.pdf

² U.S. Department of Energy, Building a Better Grid initiative. January 2022. <https://www.energy.gov/articles/doe-launches-new-initiative-president-bidens-bipartisan-infrastructure-law-modernize>

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The accompanying item An Act Pertaining to Transmission Lines Not Needed for Reliability or Local Generation

(H.P. 123) (L.D. 170)
(C. "A" H-931)

The Chair recognizes the Representative from Oxford, Representative Dillingham.

Representative **DILLINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I request a Roll Call.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would inform the Member a Roll Call is already in order pursuant to the Constitution. The Chair would clarify; when a veto is sustained, it is not sent to the Senate, so these previous items were not sent to the Senate, they rest with us when the veto is sustained.

After reconsideration, the House proceeded to vote on the question, 'Shall this Bill become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?' A roll call was taken.

The SPEAKER: The pending question before the House is 'Shall this Bill become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?' All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 613V

YEA - Arford, Babbidge, Bell, Berry, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Cloutier, Collings, Crafts, Crockett, Cuddy, Dodge, Doudera, Evangelos, Evans, Gramlich, Hall, Harnett, Hepler, LaRochelle, Lookner, Madigan, Matlack, McCrea, Melaragno, Morales, O'Neil, Osher, Pebworth, Pluecker, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roeder, Sachs, Salisbury, Sheehan, Supica, Warren C, Warren S, White, Williams, Wood, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Alley, Andrews, Arata, Austin, Bernard, Bickford, Boyle, Bradstreet, Caiazzo, Cardone, Carmichael, Collamore, Connor, Corey, Costain, Craven, Dillingham, Dolloff, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Fay, Foster, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hanley, Harrington, Hasenfus, Head, Hutchins, Javner, Kinney, Landry, Lemelin, Libby, Lyford, Lyman, Martin J, Martin T, Mason, McCreight, McDonald, Meyer, Millett, Moriarty, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, O'Connell, Ordway, Parry, Perkins, Perry, Pickett, Pierce, Poirier, Prescott, Quint, Roche, Rudnicki, Sampson, Stearns, Stetkis, Stover, Theriault, Thorne, Tucker, Tuell, Wadsworth, White, Mr. Speaker.

ABSENT - Blier, Blume, Carlow, Cebra, Copeland, Dunphy, Geiger, Gere, Gifford, Grignon, Grohoski, Hymanson, Kessler, Martin, Mathieson, Millett, O'Connor, Paulhus, Perry, Roberts, Sharpe, Skolfield, Stanley, Sylvester, Tepler, Terry, Underwood.

Yes, 47; No, 73; Absent, 27; Vacant, 4; Excused, 0.

47 having voted in the affirmative and 73 voted in the negative, 4 vacancies with 27 being absent, and accordingly the Veto was **SUSTAINED**.

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 429)

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0001**

April 26, 2022

The 130th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House

Augusta, Maine

Dear Honorable Members of the 130th Legislature:

By the authority conferred by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing L.D. 1820, An Act to Strengthen the Governance of the University of Maine System.

The perspective of faculty, staff, and the public is certainly important to the work of the Board of Trustees of the University of Maine System. I encourage the Board to develop better methods for obtaining input from current faculty and staff at its Board and subcommittee meetings to ensure that they have ample opportunity for involvement in significant decisions impacting the System. However, I believe this can and should be done without adding to the membership of the Board

individual faculty and staff who are currently employed by the System.

L.D. 1820 is very similar to L.D. 1253 from last year, except that it adds a member and it makes the new member non-voting. But it has the same flaws. This proposal, once again, contravenes longstanding policy and law that guard against members of public boards having real or perceived conflicts of interest in matters in which they benefit financially or otherwise from board action. Title 17 M.R.S. §3104 prohibits any "trustee, superintendent, treasurer or other person holding a place of trust in any state office or public institution of the State" from being "pecuniarily interested directly or indirectly in any contracts made in behalf of the State or of the institution in which he holds such place of trust, and any contract made in violation hereof is void." This bill purports to "notwithstanding" that longstanding law, without articulating any reason for doing so. This same common sense conflict rule is the reason why current employees are not permitted to serve on any school board, on the Maine Maritime Academy board, the Maine Community College System board or on other public governing boards.

University of Maine policy goes further than state law and prohibits trustees from being employed by the System during their service and for one full year following service on the Board. This prohibition does not just prevent trustees from voting on contracts in which they have a direct or indirect pecuniary interest; it prohibits them from serving at all. The same policy voids any contracts made while persons with such conflicts serve as trustees. Simply put, as I wrote in my June 23, 2021, veto message on L.D. 1253, it is bad public policy to authorize active employees to serve on a board that sets their salaries, governs the budget, and otherwise makes decisions that directly impact them.

L.D. 1820 differs from L.D. 1253 by adding three current employees to the Board instead of two, and by making these employee trustees non-voting members. However, the law and policy cited above apply whether or not the person with a conflict is a voting member, and the same risk to the validity of contracts exists. Both perceived and actual conflicts remain.

Current University Board policy states that trustees cannot participate in discussions about agenda items which may benefit them or their family more than the average Maine person. Employee compensation makes up more than two-thirds of the University's budget, and budgetary matters are at the heart of the Board's work. Allowing trustees who are current employees to participate in deliberations on matters in which they have a direct financial interest, regardless of whether they vote, would create a distinct conflict of interest and undermine the decision-making process of the Board.

During the committee process, the University proposed an alternative to L.D. 1820 that would have avoided the conflict of interest problem while creating more opportunity for faculty and staff to provide input, including a standing coordinating committee established in statute and co-chaired by a trustee and faculty member with regular reporting to the Legislature. Unfortunately, this proposal was rejected and was not incorporated into this bill. The bill remains as flawed as L.D. 1253 before it.

For all these reasons, and for the reasons articulated in my veto message last year, I return L.D. 1820 unsigned and vetoed and I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain this veto.

Sincerely,
S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The accompanying item An Act To Strengthen the Governance of the University of Maine System

(H.P. 1353) (L.D. 1820)

(H. "A" H-821 to C. "A" H-811; H. "A" H-833)

After reconsideration, the House proceeded to vote on the question, 'Shall this Bill become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?' A roll call was taken.

The SPEAKER: The pending question before the House is 'Shall this Bill become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?' All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 614W

YEA - Arford, Babbidge, Bell, Berry, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Cloutier, Collings, Craven, Crockett, Cuddy, Dodge, Doudera, Evangelos, Gramlich, Harnett, Hasenfus, Lookner, Madigan, Matlack, McCreia, McCreight, Melaragno, Meyer, Morales, Moriarty, O'Connell, Osher, Pebworth, Perry, Reckitt, Rielly, Roeder, Sachs, Salisbury, Sheehan, Supica, Tucker, Warren, White, Williams, Wood, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Alley, Andrews, Arata, Austin, Bernard, Bickford, Boyle, Bradstreet, Caiazza, Cardone, Carmichael, Collamore, Connor, Corey, Costain, Dillingham, Dolloff, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Evans, Faulkingham, Foster, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Hanley, Harrington, Head, Hutchins, Javner, Kinney, Landry, Lemelin, Libby, Lyford, Lyman, Martin J, Martin T, Mason, McDonald, Millett, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, Ordway, Parry, Perkins, Pickett, Pierce, Poirier, Prescott, Quint, Riseman, Roche, Rudnicki, Sampson, Stearns, Stetkis, Stover, Theriault, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, White, Mr. Speaker.

ABSENT - Blier, Blume, Carlow, Cebra, Copeland, Crafts, Dunphy, Fay, Geiger, Gere, Gifford, Grignon, Grohoski, Hepler, Hymanson, Kessler, LaRochelle, Martin, Mathieson, Millett, O'Connor, O'Neil, Paulhus, Perry, Pluecker, Roberts, Sharpe, Skolfield, Stanley, Sylvester, Tepler, Terry, Underwood, Warren.

Yes, 46; No, 67; Absent, 34; Vacant, 4; Excused, 0.

46 having voted in the affirmative and 67 voted in the negative, 4 vacancies with 34 being absent, and accordingly the Veto was **SUSTAINED**.

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 431)

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0001**

May 6, 2022

The 130th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, Maine

Dear Honorable Members of the 130th Legislature:

By the Authority conferred by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing L.D. 1338, *An Act to Prohibit Employers from Retaliating Against the Use of Earned Paid Leave*.

When Maine's first-in-the-nation requirement for most employers to provide paid time off for their employees became law in 2021, the law was silent on the issue of retaliation. This omission was intentional, so that employers and employees would have an opportunity to experience the new law and potential impacts of the law.

The Maine Department of Labor's (MDOL) January 2022 report indicates that no allegations of retaliation for the use of earned paid leave were reported in 2021. I believe these new requirements of L.D. 1338 are unnecessary and unwarranted at this time, based on a one-year review of the earned paid leave law.

L.D. 1338 also requires that MDOL review existing provisions in Title 26, M.R.S., chapter 7 relating to retaliation against employees for the use of rights granted in that chapter. I support that portion of L.D. 1338; therefore, I am asking MDOL to proceed with that review and to bring forward a department bill that creates a uniform statute for all of chapter 7 for consideration by the 131st Legislature. While no proof of retaliation against employees for the use of earned paid leave exists, I do recognize that retaliation against employees for exercising their rights to use earned paid leave could occur. I feel that the best way to address any potential retaliation is through a comprehensive review of all related provisions in MRSA Title 26 chapter 7.

L.D. 1338 would burden employers with unnecessary requirements as they continue to overcome the hardships and workforce challenges they have experienced because of the pandemic. This is not the time to impose additional burdens without evidence of improper behavior or a comprehensive review of existing provisions of law.

For the reasons I have detailed in this letter, I return L.D. 1338 unsigned and vetoed, and I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain this veto.

Sincerely,
S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The accompanying item An Act To Prohibit Employers from Retaliating against the Use of Earned Paid Leave

(H.P. 989) (L.D. 1338)
(C. "A" H-193)

After reconsideration, the House proceeded to vote on the question, 'Shall this Bill become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?' A roll call was taken.

The SPEAKER: The pending question before the House is 'Shall this Bill become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?' All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 615V

YEA - Alley, Arford, Babbidge, Bell, Berry, Boyle, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Caiazzo, Cardone, Cloutier, Collings, Crafts, Craven, Cuddy, Dodge, Doudera, Evangelos, Evans, Gramlich, Harnett, Hasenfus, LaRoche, Lookner, Madigan, Martin, Matlack, McCrea, McCreight, McDonald, Melaragno, Meyer, Morales, Moriarty, O'Connell, Osher, Pebworth, Pluecker, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roeder, Sachs, Salisbury, Sheehan, Stover, Supica, Madam Speaker, Tucker, Warren C, Warren S, White, Williams, Wood, Zager, Zeigler, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Andrews, Arata, Austin, Bernard, Bickford, Bradstreet, Carmichael, Collamore, Connor, Corey, Costain, Crockett, Dillingham, Dolloff, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Foster, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Hanley, Harrington, Head, Hutchins, Javner, Kinney, Landry, Lemelin, Libby, Lyford, Lyman, Martin, Mason, Millett, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, Ordway, Parry, Perkins, Perry, Pickett, Pierce, Poirier, Prescott, Quint, Roche, Rudnicki, Sampson, Stearns, Stetkis, Theriault, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, White.

ABSENT - Blier, Blume, Carlow, Cebra, Copeland, Dunphy, Fay, Geiger, Gere, Gifford, Grignon, Grohoski, Hepler, Hymanson, Kessler, Martin, Mathieson, Millett, O'Connor, O'Neil, Paulhus, Perry, Roberts, Sharpe, Skolfield, Stanley, Sylvester, Tepler, Terry, Underwood.

Yes, 58; No, 59; Absent, 30; Vacant, 4; Excused, 0.

58 having voted in the affirmative and 59 voted in the negative, 4 vacancies with 30 being absent, and accordingly the Veto was **SUSTAINED**.

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair would clarify, when a Veto is sustained it is not sent to the other Body, so these previous items were not sent to the other Body; they rest with us when the Veto is sustained.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 432)

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0001**

May 6, 2022

The 130th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, Maine

Dear Honorable Members of the 130th Legislature:

By the Authority conferred by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing L.D. 844, *An Act to Examine and Amend the Conditions of Release and Probation*.

The purposes of bail are to ensure the appearance of a defendant, ensure the integrity of the judicial process, and to ensure the safety of the community pending trial. To achieve this, current law sets forth a list of conditions that may be imposed on a person who is released on pre-trial release (bail) or on post-conviction release (probation). The first line of this bill completely undermines this purpose by focusing solely on removing any restrictions on the defendant's behavior. This provision is unrealistic and unacceptable.

L.D. 844 would eliminate or amend several of the existing conditions. I object to this legislation because some of its

changes are unworkable and because the bill would deprive judicial officers of important tools for protecting the public safety and ensuring the appearance of the defendant at trial. These include amendments to the conditions limiting the use of alcohol, requiring participation in treatment programs during probation, and requiring the payment of fines imposed as part of a sentence as a condition of release from jail or prison.

As I stated in my veto of L.D. 1134 last year, judges and bail commissioners should have latitude to place appropriate restrictions on an individual who seeks pre-trial or post-conviction release from jail or prison. For some, that may be a complete bar on use or possession of alcohol. L.D. 844, however, would weaken current law and leave only a restriction on the "excessive use of alcohol." As the Department of Public Safety stated in their testimony opposing this bill, this subjective standard does not provide guidance either to individuals on release, or to law enforcement officers who will be called upon to make judgements about compliance. Alcohol use and abuse is a common contributing factor to criminal activity. Prohibiting its use during periods of release can be an essential means of both protecting public safety and helping individuals to refrain from self-destructive behavior during a time of stress. L.D. 844 would essentially leave it to the individuals released on bail or probation to self-monitor for "excessive" drinking, a proposition that is confusing and potentially dangerous.

I also object to changing the law to make probation conditions requiring participation in treatment programs unenforceable. Judges, who have the benefit of a factual record in each case, should have discretion in dispensing the appropriate sentence for a violation of law. This should include determining whether an individual must participate in a treatment program during probation. The purpose of having a condition of probation that requires participation in treatment is to encourage rehabilitation and reduce recidivism. It would be a serious mistake to eliminate the consequence for failing to comply with a probation condition that a person engage in a treatment program. The Department of Corrections appeared before the Judiciary Committee to express their opposition to this provision of the bill because it will prevent the Department from intervening early to help the individual stay on course as they reintegrate into the community. Finally, judges should retain the authority to require payment of a fine - imposed as part of sentence - as a condition of release. Defendants and prosecutors often resolve cases by having a person take responsibility in the form of a fine, rather than time in jail. Failure to pay a fine could be contempt of court, but it is far preferable to ensure the fine is paid at the time of, or while on release, rather than in a separate, later court action. If the individual is unable to pay the full fine amount immediately, this can be addressed through a payment plan. It would be misguided, however, to prohibit judges from requiring a fine's payment as a condition of release.

For these reasons I return L.D. 844 unsigned and vetoed and urge the Legislature to sustain this veto.

Sincerely,
S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The accompanying item An Act To Examine and Amend the Conditions of Release and Probation

(H.P. 612) (L.D. 844)
(S. "A" S-607 to C. "A" H-704)

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

Representative **MORALES**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Colleagues and Friends in the House. Last night, my kids took me to see the *Multiverse of Madness* at the Saco IMAX for Mother's Day. In all honesty, I questioned the sincerity of going to see that particular movie for Mother's Day. But, in fact, it was appropriate. For anyone who has seen it, it is all about Wanda, or some refer to her as Scarlet Witch's absolute dedication to protect her children at all costs, which of course resonated with me. The underlying message, though, of the *Multiverse of Madness* was that the decisions that we make impact other peoples' lives every day, they change the course of our lives and these decisions particularly for us who make laws are an enormous responsibility that should weigh heavily on our hearts and minds. This bill, LD 844, is the result of three years of work with a diverse group of stakeholders with a primary victim-centered, recovery-centered, evidence-based guided lens. This included Maine Pretrial Services, Maine Coalition to End Domestic Violence, Maine prosecutors, defense attorneys, recovery advocates, persons with lived experience, the Judicial Branch and the Department of Corrections. There were many, many, many ideas on the table during these three years and many compromises made.

This bill, Mr. Speaker, updates decades-old policy of probation and pretrial conditions of release to reflect today's reality. The purpose of conditions, as we all know in this Body, for people pretrial and people on probation is to make sure that they show up at court hearings and that they don't commit more crimes. So, the changes we made in this bill have the aim to remove all unnecessary nonpublic safety-related conditions while also ensuring that people show up at court hearings and don't commit more crimes. With that goal in mind, we agreed on almost two dozen important updates to this policy which were not mentioned in the veto letter. And for all of these updates, the stakeholders determined that they would not impact public safety, would not create more victims, Mr. Speaker and they would, in fact, reduce recidivism. The provisions opposed in the veto letter are centered around, number one, the possession of alcohol, which is legal, number two, jailing people when they fail in treatment, whether that be substance use disorder treatment or psychological treatment. It's important for all of you to know in this Body that this bill does not anywhere allow for the use of illegal substances. And, number three mentioned in the veto letter is paying a fine to cover the Department of Corrections' cost to supervise a defendant sentenced to probation. To be clear, this bill does not in any way remove cash bail. With almost half of Maine's criminal defendants being indigent and living at the poverty level, the stakeholders agreed that this fee and criminalizing the nonpayment of it, did not further the goals of probation conditions. When working on policy, Mr. Speaker, I believe it's important to be consistent, to build on work that is currently being done to further objectives and plans that are currently in place. According to Maine's Substance Use Strategic Plan of 2021 developed by the Executive Branch's Office of Policy, Innovation and the Future, the number one goal is to reduce stigma associated with substance use disorder and identifying it as a chronic medical condition. I believe that the State of Maine adopted goal number one as the most important part of its strategic plan because it is nationally understood in the profession of public health and substance misuse policy that stigma is a major factor for the increase in substance use disorder and overdose deaths.

This is why this veto message, for me, is so disappointing. It directly contradicts this strategic plan by perpetuating stigma and in so doing, it ignores the science of human behavior and nationally accepted evidence-based public health policy. This veto message also rejects the fact that using crime and jail to address legal alcohol possession, failure to complete behavioral health treatment and poverty actually does the opposite; it creates more crime and potentially more victims by ensnaring people in the criminal justice system, which is a barrier, as we all know, to getting a job, getting housing, getting education and it does not reduce recidivism. Additionally, a policy approach that utilizes jail to address chronic medical conditions arguably violates the Eighth Amendment's prohibition on cruel and unusual punishments. So, in closing, reflecting on the poet Alok's work and thinking about were we to do a metaphorical autopsy on why we are in this overdose crisis, Mr. Speaker, we would, sadly, undoubtedly see a collection of these outdated and harmful laws in each of the precious Mainer's lives that have been lost to this disease, laws with words so powerful, so powerful that they decide what freedoms and opportunities this government grants and what freedoms and opportunities it takes away. This weekend, the Maine recovery community lost a treasured family member and I ask everyone in this Body and everyone in every branch of government in Maine to ask themselves how many lives are we willing to lose before we stand up and decide to change our course of action. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

After reconsideration, the House proceeded to vote on the question, 'Shall this Bill become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?' A roll call was taken.

The SPEAKER: The pending question before the House is 'Shall this Bill become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?' All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 616V

YEA - Alley, Arford, Babbidge, Bell, Berry, Blume, Boyle, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Caiazzo, Cloutier, Collings, Craven, Crockett, Cuddy, Dodge, Doudera, Evangelos, Evans, Fay, Gramlich, Harnett, Hasenfus, Hepler, Lookner, Madigan, Matlack, McCreight, McDonald, Melaragno, Meyer, Morales, Moriarty, O'Neil, Osher, Peabworth, Perry, Pierce, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roeder, Sachs, Salisbury, Sheehan, Supica, Tepler, Warren, Williams, Wood, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Andrews, Arata, Austin, Bernard, Bickford, Bradstreet, Cardone, Carmichael, Collamore, Connor, Costain, Dillingham, Dolloff, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Foster, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Hanley, Harrington, Head, Hutchins, Javner, Kinney, Landry, Lemelin, Libby, Lyford, Lyman, Martin J, Martin T, Mason, McCreia, Millett, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, O'Connell, Ordway, Parry, Perkins, Pickett, Poirier, Prescott, Quint, Roche, Rudnicki, Sampson, Skoffield, Stearns, Stetkis, Stover, Theriault, Thorne, Tucker, Tuell, Wadsworth, White B, White D, Mr. Speaker.

ABSENT - Blier, Carlow, Cebra, Copeland, Corey, Crafts, Dunphy, Geiger, Gere, Gifford, Grignon, Grohoski, Hymanson, Kessler, LaRochelle, Martin, Mathieson, Millett, O'Connor, Paulhus, Perry, Pluecker, Roberts, Sharpe, Stanley, Sylvester, Terry, Underwood, Warren.

Yes, 54; No, 64; Absent, 29; Vacant, 4; Excused, 0. 54 having voted in the affirmative and 64 voted in the negative, 4 vacancies with 29 being absent, and accordingly the Veto was **SUSTAINED**.

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 433)
STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0001

May 6, 2022

130th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, Maine

Dear Honorable Members of the 130th Legislature:

By the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing L.D. 1919, *An Act to Encourage Job Growth in the Forest Products Sector through Tax Incentives*.

Promoting growth, diversification, and innovation in Maine's forest products sector is a top priority for my Administration. This heritage industry is a key part of Maine's history and an integral part of our economic future. The intent of this legislation, to create new employment opportunities in the forest products sector, is a laudable goal that I support. Unfortunately, L.D. 1919 would not effectively achieve this outcome. The bill would require the State to offer a cash incentive for any qualified business in the industry that adds even just one new qualified employee. After close review of the public hearing testimony, work session discussion, and correspondence received by my office, it is apparent that there is no consensus among industry leaders that this program would result in positive results for the forest products sector. I am concerned about the creation of a new sector-specific program that lacks broad support within the very sector it is supposed to help.

In fact, some have warned that creation of this tax credit could create additional instability in an already competitive labor market. The logging industry has faced significant workforce shortages in recent years, with estimates showing that the industry will need to replace a projected 2,000 workers by 2031. This bill would reward an employer for hiring a person away from another contractor in the same industry, even in the same geographical area, effectively cannibalizing the existing workforce rather than expanding it. We must take care to ensure that any new state initiatives actually help alleviate that shortage and do not inadvertently exacerbate the challenge of attracting and retaining qualified workers in the industry.

Establishing a new tax incentive program would also require costly and time-intensive administrative measures, including new staff and substantial resources. Making that type of investment would be worthwhile if it were clear that the initiative would achieve the desired outcome, but the concerns expressed about this initiative demonstrate that is not the case here.

My Administration is committed to the economic recovery, sustainability, and growth of the forest products sector. That is why my Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan Forest Recovery Initiative recently invested \$6 million in 224 Maine forest products-related companies – most of them with ten employees or fewer. My plan, recently made available nearly \$40 million for small businesses in seven of Maine's key technology sectors, including Forest Products & Agriculture.

There is more we can do to help the forest products industry succeed and to increase the number of loggers and truckers in Maine. L.D. 1919, however, is the wrong approach.

For the reasons I have detailed in this letter, I return L.D. 1919 unsigned and vetoed, and I urge the Legislature to sustain this veto.

Sincerely,
S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The accompanying item An Act To Encourage Job Growth in the Forest Products Sector through Tax Incentives (H.P. 1425) (L.D. 1919) (S. "A" S-561 to C. "A" H-944)

After reconsideration, the House proceeded to vote on the question, 'Shall this Bill become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?' A roll call was taken.

The SPEAKER: The pending question before the House is 'Shall this Bill become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?' All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 617V

YEA - Alley, Arford, Babbidge, Bell, Berry, Blume, Boyle, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Cardone, Cloutier, Collings, Crafts, Crockett, Cuddy, Dodge, Doudera, Evangelos, Evans, Gramlich, Harnett, Hasenfus, Hepler, LaRochelle, Lookner, Madigan, Martin, Matlack, McCrea, McCreight, McDonald, Melaragno, Meyer, Morales, Moriarty, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Pebworth, Perry, Pierce, Pluecker, Reckitt, Rielly, Roeder, Sachs, Salisbury, Sheehan, Stover, Supica, Tucker, Warren C, Warren S, White, Williams, Wood, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Andrews, Arata, Austin, Bernard, Bickford, Bradstreet, Caiazzo, Carmichael, Collamore, Connor, Corey, Costain, Craven, Dillingham, Dolloff, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Fay, Foster, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hall, Hanley, Harrington, Head, Hutchins, Javner, Kinney, Landry, Lemelin, Libby, Lyford, Lyman, Martin, Mason, Millett, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, Ordway, Parry, Perkins, Pickett, Poirier, Prescott, Quint, Riseman, Roche, Rudnicki, Sampson, Skolfield, Stearns, Stetkis, Tepler, Theriault, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, White, Mr. Speaker.

ABSENT - Blier, Carlow, Cebra, Copeland, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Geiger, Gere, Gifford, Grignon, Grohoski, Hymanson, Kessler, Martin, Mathieson, Millett, O'Connor, Paulhus, Perry, Roberts, Sharpe, Stanley, Sylvester, Terry, Underwood.

Yes, 60; No, 62; Absent, 25; Vacant, 4; Excused, 0.

60 having voted in the affirmative and 62 voted in the negative, 4 vacancies with 25 being absent, and accordingly the Veto was **SUSTAINED**.

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 430)

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

May 5, 2022

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

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Public Law, Chapter 593, I am pleased to appoint Representative Traci Gere of Kennebunkport to the *State Education and Employment Outcomes Task Force*, effective immediately.

Representative Gere will serve as one of the two members of the House of Representatives holding the largest number of seats in the Legislature.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

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

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 427)

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE STATE AUDITOR
66 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0066
Letter of Transmittal**

Honorable Members of the Legislative Council for the 130th Legislature

Honorable Janet T. Mills

Governor of the State of Maine

I am pleased to submit the Single Audit of the State of Maine for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021. The audit was conducted in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States; the requirements of the Single Audit Act Amendments of 1996; and Title 2 U.S. Code of Federal Regulations Part 200, *Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards* (Uniform Guidance). Our audit complies with 5 MRSA §243 and is also a prerequisite for the receipt of Federal financial assistance. During fiscal year 2021, \$6.4 billion in Federal financial assistance was expended by the State of Maine.

This document contains the following reports and schedules:

- Independent Auditor's Report
- Basic Financial Statements, Management's Discussion and Analysis, Notes to the Financial Statements, and Required Supplementary Information
- Independent Auditor's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters based on an Audit of Financial Statements performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*
- Independent Auditor's Report on Compliance for Each Major Program and on Internal Control over Compliance Required by the Uniform Guidance
- Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards
- Schedule of Findings and Questioned Costs
- Financial Statement Findings

- Indexes to Federal Program Findings
 - Federal Findings and Questioned Costs
 - Corrective Action Plan
 - Summary Schedule of Prior Audit Findings
- On behalf of the Office of the State Auditor, I thank employees throughout Maine Government who assisted us during the audit. Please contact me if you have questions or comments about the 2021 Single Audit of the State of Maine.
Respectfully submitted,
S/Jacob Norton
State Auditor
March 31, 2022

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

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

ORDERS

On motion of Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 1542) (Cosponsored by Representatives: ALLEY of Beals, ANDREWS of Paris, ARATA of New Gloucester, ARFORD of Brunswick, AUSTIN of Gray, BABBIDGE of Kennebunk, BELL of Yarmouth, BERNARD of Caribou, BERRY of Bowdoinham, BICKFORD of Auburn, BLIER of Buxton, BLUME of York, BOYLE of Gorham, BRADSTREET of Vassalboro, BRENNAN of Portland, BROOKS of Lewiston, BRYANT of Windham, CAIAZZO of Scarborough, CARDONE of Bangor, CARLOW of Buxton, CARMICHAEL of Greenbush, CEBRA of Naples, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, COLLINGS of Portland, CONNOR of Lewiston, COPELAND of Saco, COREY of Windham, COSTAIN of Plymouth, CRAFTS of Newcastle, CRAVEN of Lewiston, CROCKETT of Portland, CUDDY of Winterport, DILLINGHAM of Oxford, DODGE of Belfast, DOLLOFF of Milton Township, DOUDERA of Camden, DOWNES of Bucksport, DRINKWATER of Milford, DUCHARME of Madison, DUNPHY of Old Town, EVANGELOS of Friendship, EVANS of Dover-Foxcroft, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, FAY of Raymond, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, FOSTER of Dexter, GEIGER of Rockland, GERE of Kennebunkport, GIFFORD of Lincoln, GREENWOOD of Wales, GRIFFIN of Levant, GRIGNON of Athens, GROHOSKI of Ellsworth, HAGGAN of Hampden, HALL of Wilton, HANLEY of Pittston, HARNETT of Gardiner, HARRINGTON of Sanford, HASENFUS of Readfield, HEAD of Bethel, HEPLER of Woolwich, HUTCHINS of Penobscot, HYMANSON of York, JAVNER of Chester, KESSLER of South Portland, KINNEY of Knox, LANDRY of Farmington, LaROCHELLE of Augusta, LEMELIN of Chelsea, LIBBY of Auburn, LOOKNER of Portland, LYFORD of Eddington, LYMAN of Livermore Falls, MADIGAN of Waterville, MARTIN of Eagle Lake, MARTIN of Sinclair, MARTIN of Greene, MASON of Lisbon, MATHIESON of Kittery, MATLACK of St. George, McCREA of Fort Fairfield, McCREIGHT of Harpswell, McDONALD of Stonington, MELARAGNO of Auburn, MEYER of Eliot, MILLETT of Waterford, MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth, MORALES of South Portland, MORIARTY of Cumberland, MORRIS of Turner, NADEAU of Winslow, NEWELL of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, NEWMAN of Belgrade, O'CONNELL of Brewer, O'CONNOR of Berwick, O'NEIL of Saco, ORDWAY of Standish, OSHER of Orono, PARRY of Arundel, PAULHUS of Bath, PEBWORTH of Blue Hill, PERKINS of Oakland, PERRY of Calais, PERRY of

Bangor, PICKETT of Dixfield, PIERCE of Falmouth, PLUECKER of Warren, POIRIER of Skowhegan, PRESCOTT of Waterboro, QUINT of Hodgdon, RECKITT of South Portland, RIELLY of Westbrook, RISEMAN of Harrison, ROBERTS of South Berwick, ROCHE of Wells, ROEDER of Bangor, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, SACHS of Freeport, SALISBURY of Westbrook, SAMPSON of Alfred, SHARPE of Durham, SHEEHAN of Biddeford, SKOLFIELD of Weld, STANLEY of Medway, STEARNS of Guilford, STETKIS of Canaan, STOVER of Boothbay, SUPICA of Bangor, SYLVESTER of Portland, TALBOT ROSS of Portland, TEPLER of Topsham, TERRY of Gorham, THERIAULT of China, THORNE of Carmel, TUCKER of Brunswick, TUELL of East Machias, UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle, WADSWORTH of Hiram, WARREN of Hallowell, WARREN of Scarborough, WHITE of Waterville, WHITE of Mars Hill, WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor, WOOD of Portland, ZAGER of Portland, ZEIGLER of Montville, Senators: BAILEY of York, BALDACCI of Penobscot, BENNETT of Oxford, BLACK of Franklin, BREEN of Cumberland, BRENNER of Cumberland, CARNEY of Cumberland, CHIPMAN of Cumberland, CLAXTON of Androscoggin, CURRY of Waldo, CYRWAY of Kennebec, DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, DAVIS of Piscataquis, DESCHAMBAULT of York, DIAMOND of Cumberland, DILL of Penobscot, FARRIN of Somerset, GUERIN of Penobscot, HICKMAN of Kennebec, President JACKSON of Aroostook, KEIM of Oxford, LAWRENCE of York, LIBBY of Androscoggin, MAXMIN of Lincoln, MIRAMANT of Knox, MOORE of Washington, POULIOT of Kennebec, RAFFERTY of York, ROSEN of Hancock, SANBORN of Cumberland, STEWART of Aroostook, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, VITELLI of Sagadahoc, WOODSOME of York)

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING

MAY 2022 AS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, the mental health and well-being of all children, youth, adults and families in the State are of fundamental importance to the Legislature; and

WHEREAS, since 1999, the national suicide rate has increased more than 30%, with more than 10 million individuals experiencing suicidal thoughts and 1.4 million individuals attempting suicide annually in the United States; and

WHEREAS, approximately 129 individuals die by suicide in the United States each day; and

WHEREAS, suicide, opioid misuse and addiction and children's mental health issues are areas of concern in the State; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately 65,000 adults in the State who are living with a serious mental illness, including, but not limited to, bipolar disorder, severe depression and schizophrenia, and 27.2% of the children in the State have a mental illness, the highest rate of any state in the nation; and

WHEREAS, the effective treatment of mental health conditions is critical to reducing the number of individuals and families who find themselves in mental health crises, to breaking individual and generational cycles of mental illness and to promoting healing; and

WHEREAS, recovery from a mental illness requires access to professional services and involves families and caregivers as allies in recovery and as critical members of the care delivery team; and

WHEREAS, maintaining an open dialogue regarding mental health conditions encourages individuals struggling with mental illness to seek help and is an essential component to fighting the stigma associated with mental illness; 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 May 2022 as Mental Health Awareness Month in order to raise awareness of mental health conditions and services and to break the stigma surrounding mental illness in the State.

READ.

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

Representative **GRAMLICH**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Colleagues of the House, I rise today to present a Joint Resolution recognizing May as Mental Health Awareness Month. This month, we raise awareness about the importance of mental health and its impact on the wellbeing of all Americans, including children, adults, families and communities across our nation. Even before the pandemic, record numbers of Mainers were experiencing stress, trauma, anxiety and heightened levels of depression. The COVID-19 pandemic exasperated these conditions, creating an unprecedented mental health crisis throughout the State of Maine and across our country. Communities of color, frontline workers, health care workers and individuals with eating disorders have been disproportionately impacted and the rate of depression across the country has more than tripled compared to rates in 2019. Mental health challenges among our youth have also been particularly acute due to disruptions in routines, increased social isolation and learning loss. Research has shown that social media plays a central role in increasing mental health challenges among young people, especially young women. Emergency department visits for attempted suicide among girls in 2021 increased by more than 50% compared to 2020. Our indigenous people, youth of color and LGBTQI+ youth also face a disproportionate risk of suicide. Despite these disturbing trends, less than half of those struggling with mental illness receive the treatment they need, even fewer within black and brown communities.

Far too many communities lack sufficient numbers of mental health providers. Even where there are enough mental health providers, our fragmented system makes it so difficult for people to access them. Tragically, too many Mainers feel ashamed to reach out for help or are stigmatized for seeking care. And I want to share anecdotally, Mr. Speaker, a very short story of a family that I know personally that has been struggling with this issue for over 10 years. They have an adult son who has schizophrenia and he has been in and out of the hospital and in and out of the jail system within the State of Maine. He had been on medications and he has recently stopped taking his medications because he felt well. And I spoke to his parents just this weekend and they are just waiting, unfortunately and sadly, for this young man of 27 years old, to do something that will get him involved with the criminal justice system, praying that he doesn't hurt himself or others or harm any items and cause destruction. Because they know the only way that they will get their son treatment is if he is incarcerated and then hopefully hospitalized. We can do much better, Mr. Speaker. Mental health is an incredibly important part of overall health. With a growing number of Mainers experiencing mental health symptoms, we need to join together to advocate for improving our mental health care system. This year's theme, together for mental health, reminds us that we each have an important role to play in addressing this critically important issue. Learn the

warning signs of emotional distress and suicide, engage affected loved ones in supportive dialogue, fight the prejudice and negative attitudes that discourages those in need from seeking mental health support. Above all, let us collectively ensure that all children and adults experiencing mental health challenges are treated with the compassion, respect, dignity and understanding they deserve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

Representative DILLINGHAM of Oxford moved that SENATE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (8) **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-557)** - Minority (5) **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (S-558)** - Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** on Bill "An Act To Make Changes to the State's Hemp Program"

(S.P. 683) (L.D. 1942)

- In Senate, Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-557) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-582)** thereto.

TABLED - April 20, 2022 (Till Later Today) by Representative DUNPHY of Old Town.

PENDING - **ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT.**

Be **REMOVED** from the table.

Representative O'NEIL of Saco **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **REMOVE** the Bill from the table.

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 Removal of the Bill from the table. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 618

YEA - Andrews, Arata, Austin, Bernard, Bickford, Bradstreet, Brennan, Carmichael, Collamore, Connor, Costain, Dillingham, Dolloff, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Fay, Foster, Greenwood, Griffin, Hall, Harrington, Head, Hutchins, Javner, Kinney, Landry, Lemelin, Libby, Lyford, Lyman, Martin J, Martin T, Mason, Millett, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, Ordway, Parry, Perkins, Pickett, Poirier, Prescott, Quint, Roche, Rudnicki, Sampson, Skolfield, Stearns, Tuell, Wadsworth, White B, White D, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Alley, Arford, Babbidge, Bell, Berry, Blume, Boyle, Brooks, Bryant, Cardone, Cloutier, Collings, Corey, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Cuddy, Dodge, Doudera, Evangelos, Evans, Gramlich, Harnett, Hasenfus, Hepler, LaRochelle, Lookner, Matlack, McCreight, McDonald, Melaragno, Meyer, Morales, Moriarty, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Pebworth, Perry, Pierce, Pluecker, Reckitt, Riseman, Roeder, Sachs, Salisbury, Sheehan, Stover, Tepler, Thorne, Tucker, Warren C, Warren S, Williams, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

ABSENT - Blier, Caiazzo, Carlow, Cebra, Copeland, Dunphy, Faulkingham, Geiger, Gere, Gifford, Grignon, Grohoski, Haggan, Hanley, Hymanson, Kessler, Madigan, Martin, Mathieson, McCreia, Millett, O'Connor, Paulhus, Perry, Rielly, Roberts, Sharpe, Stanley, Stetkis, Supica, Sylvester, Terry, Theriault, Underwood, Wood.

Yes, 55; No, 57; Absent, 35; Vacant, 4; Excused, 0.

55 having voted in the affirmative and 57 voted in the negative, 4 vacancies with 35 being absent, and accordingly the motion to **REMOVE** the Bill from the table **FAILED**.

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

Expression of Legislative Sentiment recognizing Jennifer McGowan, of Hallowell.

(HLS 824)

Which was **TABLED** by Representative TALBOT ROSS of Portland pending **PASSAGE**.

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

Representative TALBOT ROSS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, members of the public outside this chamber may not know how much work needs to be done by staff in order for us to conduct this important work for the people of Maine. It is hard to think of anyone more integral to that behind-the-scenes work than our Assistant Clerk of the House, Jennifer McGowan, who is retiring after dedicating so many years, actually 21 years, of public service, of which the last eight she was our Assistant Clerk. For everything Jennifer has done for the Members of this Body and the people of Maine, I want to extend my deepest gratitude and admiration. She has conducted her work with integrity, consistency and a wonderful sense of humor and spirit. She is trustworthy and a consummate professional. Jennifer, I hope that your well-deserved retirement is spent doing the things that make you the happiest in the places that bring you joy and with the people that you love. We want to thank you for all that you have done for us, for the previous Members of this Body and for all of the people of this beautiful and beloved State. You will truly be missed. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative WARREN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Women and Men of the House, the Legislature is an exciting, dynamic place. And when I think back on my decision to run for this office and everything that followed after that election, I had a lot of questions, like what happens now, where do I park, how do I file a bill, what committee will I be assigned to, where will I sit in the chamber. In those hectic early days, we rely heavily on the people who make the institution run; the legislative aides, the Reviser's office, staff, our committee clerks, our committee chairs and, in this chamber, perhaps no group more than the skilled and helpful people in the Clerk's Office. Jennifer McGowan has served in this institution longer than almost any of us have been here. She always has a smile and can answer any question any Member has about the steps we need to take when we're working to best represent our constituents. The work is quiet, it's behind the scenes, but incredibly important. She's not only unfailingly backed up our Clerk, but she's been a strong resource for everyone in the Clerk's Office as they work to support us as Members. She knows firsthand how vital it is to respond to Members promptly and accurately and she has always overdelivered. As she steps into a well-earned and much-deserved retirement of gardening and camping, I'm reminded of a saying that no one goes to a baseball game to watch the umpire, but it wouldn't be the game without them. Likewise, we could not have gotten so much done

here in this chamber without Jen McGowan making it look so easy for all of these years. Jen, thank you for your service and congratulations on your retirement.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Winterport, Representative Cuddy.

Representative CUDDY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. One of the qualities that that I've found has been necessary of chamber staff, nonpartisan staff, the folks who staff our committees, is, in all honesty, I need to be able to bring them my ignorance. Because I'm an electrician and the making of laws is not something I understand. Protocol is not something I understand. How this Body runs, clearly, to anybody that knows me, is not something I understand. And I have been able to on multiple occasions bring my ignorance to Jen and she has accepted it and has not made me feel any less for what I don't know. It has made it possible and beyond possible, it's made it enjoyable for me to do a lot of the work that I have done. So, I thank you so much for your service to the people of the State of Maine, I thank you for accepting my ignorance and not making me feel ignorant when I do it.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Weld, Representative Skolfield.

Representative SKOLFIELD: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I just want to say that it's been a pleasure to serve in this Body with that young lady sitting down there in front of you to your left. I remember, as so many have said, I'll point it out here this morning, there was never a stupid question and I am one to ask stupid questions. And she never let me, she always, she never let me feel that way and she's always been a help. She's done it with pleasantness, she's been pleasant and she's done it with grace. And I thank you, Jennifer, thank you very much and thank you for all your service.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Topsham, Representative Tepler.

Representative TEPLER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Men and Women of the House. I just want to say a big thank you to Jen McGowan, whose kindness and whose smiling face really helped me through here. And I know she works tremendously hard and that she's Rob's right hand, oh, excuse me, Mr. Clerk's right hand and I just really appreciate her and her service. I hope she has a wonderful and enjoyable retirement and a long life.

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

Representative COLLINGS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Friends and Colleagues of the House. I am very saddened to hear that you will no longer be here, Ms. Jennifer McGowan. You were such an asset here. In an era of term limits, when we come and go, it's vital that we have people like Jennifer here that can help this chamber, this building run. So, while I know many other of the staff that works with her now will fill in her shoes, it still is a great loss when you have all those years of knowledge and expertise, it's very valuable and we treasure it and so, thank you for all you've done for the State. I know your family, they're all very good people, very good public servants, entrepreneurs and you are no exception. You have been tremendous for the State and I hope you have a great retirement and I hope you don't go too far. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Gray, Representative Austin.

Representative **AUSTIN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen. Jennifer has been a constant for all the reasons that have previously just been mentioned. And in that manner, she's a jewel and she's been stellar at all of her work. But she has a wonderful personal touch, a level that she brings to her capacity and when there are times when our folks have had difficult personal times, changes in their lives, Jennifer has been there to notice that time and to be compassionate, caring and helpful as people make the change and go on with their work. So, Jennifer, it was noticed and it's very valuable and it shall be missed and I hope there will be someone that will take up that guard and carry on in your footsteps. I'm not sure there will be, but hopefully we will have someone as we move forward and as you folks come back next year. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Calais, Representative Perry.

Representative **PERRY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Jennifer, I am one of those who come and go and come back and you have been here. I think one of the pieces is that you do, somehow or other, remember us all. And you are a person as well. And I'm going to miss the knitting comparisons and talking about yarns and our socks and what we're doing. And I am sure you will be enjoying that with your retirement and enjoy your retirement, you've earned every bit of it, but it has been wonderful to be able to work with you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Oxford, Representative Dillingham.

Representative **DILLINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Jennifer, it has been a pleasure to work with you and work with you for these many, many, many years. You have always been a quiet, driving force in the Clerk's Office, as well in this chamber. Everything that has been said about you is one hundred percent true. I appreciate getting to know you and our many conversations and I think the first thing that I remember, we both started in 2001 and my first interaction with you was actually having to get permission to get some pencils. And I've always remembered that, that I had to fill out a form to be able to get pencils and often thought in my mind that you were the keeper of the pencils. So, enjoy your retirement, you've certainly earned it and I hope you have a wonderful time.

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

Representative **PIERCE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just stand to express my gratitude for you, too, Jennifer. As I was sorting through some of my materials from my last eight years here, I found a letter that you sent when I was first elected in your beautiful handwriting and it was a pleasure to receive that as a newly-elected person. We also share some friends in common with your family and that's been a lovely, lovely thing to have every day here. So, we will miss your kindness and your spirit and your thoroughness and thank you. Thank you for everything.

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

Representative **KINNEY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen and Jennifer. It's been a pleasure getting to know you over the last eight years and you will be very much missed. I'm going to actually miss being here, it's going to be strange, but I've appreciated the conversations we've had both in the office and even in the parking lot. It's been really a pleasure to get to know you and I wish you the best in your retirement.

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

Representative **BABBIDGE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I've been here long enough to realize that Jen came to us with a political pedigree, very active family. And in her nonpartisan position, she's been a wonderful public servant. It's been comforting to me to know that I can go to the Clerk's Office and definitely find an answer to a question that I had and in the rare occasion that I couldn't find an answer, she would have one for me very shortly. So, Jen, thank you so much for all of your service to all of us but I am particularly grateful and congratulations on a well-earned retirement. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: Announcement from the Chair. I just want to wish Jennifer a happy retirement. I cannot State it better than all the Members have already, but you are a steady hand for this institution. If anyone has ever had the opportunity to talk to you about what this building means to you, the operations of this building and what they mean to you, they would quickly find out that there is maybe no one else in this building who cares about the institution of the Legislature and making sure that we can do our work in this building to the best of our ability. You have not only had to learn your own job as Assistant Clerk, but knowing that at any moment you could be standing where the Clerk is now. You have to learn two jobs, essentially and I think that is something that we should all take note of. You are both the Assistant Clerk but you are in the wings should duty call upon you to stand in and I cannot be more thankful for all the work that you have done, all the work that you've done for the people of the State of Maine, for all of us as lawmakers to do our jobs to the best of our ability. And I don't think anyone can fill your shoes, but we will miss you, we will miss you dearly, but I know you will enjoy retirement greatly and no more long nights here at the State House.

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 435)

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

May 9, 2022

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

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Resolves 2022, Ch. 174, I am pleased to appoint the following to the *Task Force To Study the Creation of a Comprehensive Career and Technical Education System*, effective immediately:

Honorable David McCrea of Fort Fairfield as the first-named member of the House of Representatives;

Honorable Lester Ordway of Standish as a member of the House of Representatives;

Amanda Peterson as the member who is a current career and technical education high school administrator;

Paulette Bonneau of Biddeford as the member who is on the State Board of Education;

George Howe of Blue Hill as a member of a skilled trade union or representative of a skilled trades business or industry;

Ben Greenlaw of Presque Isle as a member who is a superintendent of a school administrative unit.

If you have any questions regarding these appointments, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

S/Ryan M. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

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

ORDERS

On motion of Representative MARTIN of Eagle Lake, the following House Order: (H.O. 24)

ORDERED, that Representative David G. Haggan of Hampden be excused April 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Frances M. Head of Bethel be excused April 19 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative H. Scott Landry, Jr. of Farmington be excused April 18 and 19 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Anne C. Perry of Calais be excused April 18, 19 and 20 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Braden Sharpe of Durham be excused April 15, 18, 19 and 20 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Peggy Jo Stanley of Medway be excused April 18 for personal reasons and April 19 and 20 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Joel R. Stetkis of Canaan be excused April 25 for personal reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Bruce A. White of Waterville be excused April 25 for personal reasons.

READ and PASSED.

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

ENACTORS

Act

An Act Concerning Nondisclosure Agreements in Employment

(H.P. 711) (L.D. 965)
(H. "A" H-1050)

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

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

Representative DILLINGHAM of Oxford moved that **SENATE DIVIDED REPORT - Majority (8) Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-557) - Minority (5) Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (S-558) - Committee on AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** on Bill "An Act To Make Changes to the State's Hemp Program"

(S.P. 683) (L.D. 1942)

- In Senate, Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-557) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-582)** thereto.

TABLED - April 20, 2022 (Till Later Today) by Representative DUNPHY of Old Town.

PENDING - ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT.

Be **REMOVED** from the table.

Representative TALBOT ROSS of Portland **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **REMOVE** the Bill from the table.

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 Removal of the Bill from the table. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 619

YEA - Arata, Austin, Bernard, Bickford, Carmichael, Collamore, Corey, Costain, Dillingham, Dolloff, Doudera, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Fay, Foster, Greenwood, Griffin, Hall, Hanley, Harrington, Head, Hutchins, Javner, Kinney, Landry, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Martin, Mason, McCrea, McCreight, McDonald, Millett, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, Ordway, Parry, Perkins, Pickett, Quint, Roche, Rudnicki, Sampson, Stearns, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, White, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Alley, Arford, Babbidge, Bell, Berry, Boyle, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Cardone, Collings, Crafts, Craven, Cuddy, Dodge, Evans, Gramlich, Harnett, LaRochelle, Lookner, Madigan, Matlack, Melaragno, Meyer, Moriarty, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Pebworth, Pierce, Pluecker, Reckitt, Rielly, Roeder, Salisbury, Sheehan, Stover, Supica, Tepler, Tucker, Warren C, Warren S, Wood, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

ABSENT - Andrews, Blier, Blume, Bradstreet, Caiazzo, Carlow, Cebra, Cloutier, Connor, Copeland, Crockett, Dunphy, Evangelos, Geiger, Gere, Gifford, Grignon, Grohoski, Haggan, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hymanson, Kessler, Lyford, Martin R, Martin T, Mathieson, Millett, Morales, O'Connor, Paulhus, Perry A, Perry J, Poirier, Prescott, Riseman, Roberts, Sachs, Sharpe, Skolfield, Stanley, Stetkis, Sylvester, Terry, Theriault, Underwood, White, Williams.

Yes, 53; No, 46; Absent, 48; Vacant, 4; Excused, 0.

53 having voted in the affirmative and 46 voted in the negative, 4 vacancies with 48 being absent, and accordingly the Bill was **REMOVED** from the table.

Representative O'NEIL of Saco moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Saco, Representative O'Neil.

Representative **O'NEIL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maine cannot put into Statute bad rules that create obstacles to a strong, inclusive Maine hemp industry. By voting to Indefinitely Postpone, we keep bad laws off the books in Maine and give farmers a clear path to federal compliance. The feds created onerous, discriminatory policies that we don't need to put in place in our State. The first aspect of how these are bad is that they perpetuate Jim Crow era policies. If you have a criminal record, you can't be a business owner but you can be a field worker. The second way is that there's an onerous THC threshold and measurements that aren't based in science and make it difficult to farm. The third is that they take away Mainers' ability to grow personal plants without a license, a right to food issue if we put this here in our Statute. It will also take away grower confidentiality. These policies take us backward and hurt everyone, our communities and our economy. We must continue to stand strong for freedom and justice for all. I spent many hours meeting with farmers over the past year and a half and we all agree that the federal rules are bad and they need to change. Representative Pingree is working on making those changes at the federal level. The federal program needs to be fixed and at that time we can put those rules on the books here in Maine. This bill is onerous and discriminatory and by indefinitely postponing it, Maine hemp farmers will be able to license directly with the federal government and continue working with DACF staff in Maine for sampling. We'll have a

path forward while we work together to change these bad federal rules. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The same Representative moved that the Bill and all accompanying papers be **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would clarify if the Member would like to make the motion to Indefinitely Postpone.

Representative **O'NEIL**: That's right. Thank you.

Representative DILLINGHAM of Oxford **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** the Bill and all accompanying papers.

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 Oxford, Representative Dillingham.

Representative **DILLINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

This is something certainly for me that up until this past week hasn't been anything that's in my wheelhouse. But I have spent the past week including as early as this morning and my Mother's Day speaking to I believe a good majority of the 47 hemp growers that we have left in the State of Maine. I've learned more about the program in a short period of time than I ever thought I would be able to. And what they have expressed and explained to me isn't any disagreement from what the Representative from Saco has said other than also stating that they fully support a USDA-compliant Maine hemp program. By not having the USDA-compliant program, you put at risk and they lose the following; risk management tools that are provided from the USDA, federally subsidized crop insurance, conservation and/or research NIFA grants, National Organic Program accreditation. They understand there's the issue around a .3% threshold on THC and that some would like a 1%. One percent puts it into cannabis level that we already have that program in our State and if those individuals that want to try to grow to get to a mature plant to have at the 1% can enter into that State program versus trying to raise hemp. Hemp is something that these individuals, there are some that they raise them for microgreens and salad mixes, that they raise them for seed and there's the CBD issue. The other part is without a USDA-compliant program, they cannot do their sales interstate. So, it puts them at a great disadvantage and going into their growing season, some started to plant this weekend, some said they're three weeks out from planting and without this assurance of having this program, a compliant program, you put their entire industry in jeopardy. And we already know, for anyone that's in the farming industry, the cost that farmers are facing all across the board from increased insurance, you have diesel, your off road gasoline, everything is going up and the amount of money that they're trying to put into their program is going to be fully at risk without having to be able to be compliant. And, again, this isn't something that's in my wheelhouse to fully understand, I don't serve on the Ag committee, I was not there during this debate, but certainly I've heard from all of these growers and this is their industry. These are the people that are on the ground, these are the ones that are doing the work, it's their money, their time that they're putting into this crop and they want this. They want the Majority Report passed, they're fine if there's a further amendment that was adopted in the other Body comes forward, they support that as well, but they believe that by not adopting a USDA-compliant Maine State-run program, you are throwing their entire industry under the bus and out the window. And they ask that people support this. I know Members in here have heard from the hemp growers in their districts and they have asked them to please support them. Support their industry and vote against this indefinite postponement.

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

Representative **PLUECKER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I appreciate the opportunity to speak today. I just want to clarify that if we do go with the USDA program that will take in effect if we indefinitely postpone today. The USDA, I've heard as recently as this afternoon from the Department, the USDA is ready to step up and run the program within the next 30 days. The farmers will be able to plant, will be able to do what they're asking to do immediately. Also, in terms of crop insurance, conservation access to the NOP, National Organic Practices, standards and licensing, that will all go into effect and will carry through if we go ahead and with the USDA license program. I also want to be clear that this is a right to food issue. The USDA is asking us for a 10-year lookback on drug felonies and that those folks who do have drug felonies in their record for the last 10 years cannot farm hemp. And that hemp is classified as a food product, we have it on record from committee, you know, I guess a month or two ago at this point, people are eating hemp, it falls under our food regulatory program, it is food. So, a discriminatory program which does not allow access to food for certain people within our community is blatantly against our right to food, which is in our constitution. And then the other part is that they don't like the fact that Maine lets people grow up to three hemp plants in their backyard. This is up to the personal discretion of the people, the citizens of the State of Maine. The USDA shouldn't have a say in how we regulate how people grow food in their backyards. That's just not who we are, who I believe we are as a State and who we are as a Legislature. So, I support indefinite postponement. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Oxford, Representative Dillingham.

Representative **DILLINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Again, I will clarify the difference is they would like a State-run USDA-compliant program versus having to go to the USDA for their licensing. It's a difference in the program, it's a difference in the way the licensing will be administered, it's a difference in who is going to be doing the inspections. The other concern are those individuals that do raise hemp who are also caregivers. And if they are inspected, which would happen if we go with just a USDA license and they have to come out and inspect to see if you qualify for the USDA license alone through the USDA and they come out and they see that you have co-growing on your land your hemp and what you are growing for your caregiver program, you will be disqualified and quite possibly lose your investment in your plants that you have made for your caregiver plants. They've sent a letter, they've done it in other states, they most likely could do it in this State as well. And that's also a current concern there. I'll reference the farm bill as far as at the USDA level a congressional delegation is working on these issues but as far as your 10 year lookback for felons with drug-related offenses and also looking at the .3% of THC levels. This group; and this is what they do, they understand what they are doing, they understand the regulations, they understand the difference between a Maine-compliant program that's administered by the State of Maine versus just working with the USDA and they believe the farm bill is going to address some of the issues that have been raised here today. Again, please vote against indefinite postponement, listen to these farmers, it's their industry, they're the ones that have put their time, money and their livelihood on the line. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Saco, Representative O'Neil.

Representative **O'NEIL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. So, I want to reemphasize that we've been meeting about this for the

last year and a half. Some of the things that got raised have to do with a bit of misinformation about one of our other options, which would be the Minority Report. And based on my conversations that I've had with farmers, I have not moved that Minority Report. Taking into account what they've said, I am moving that we indefinitely postpone and the reason is that we avoid putting bad laws on the books in Maine but folks will be able to get their license and be compliant by licensing directly with the federal government and will keep our staff that folks really like working with for sampling. So, that's how it's going to work, we know that it can work and the Department has said that, you know, as soon as the Legislature does something one way or another, they're going to move forward and support people so that they can get through this season. And what we're committed to is all working together to change these bad federal rules because they just don't work for Maine and we don't want to put them on the books here, we just want people to be able to be federally compliant, get through this season and then we'll keep working to make the federal rules better. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Wilton, Representative Hall.

Representative **HALL**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I do sit on the Agricultural Committee and we did discuss and hear this for several hours in public hearings. I've heard from many, many farmers across the State about the hemp bills. This bill was brought to us by the Department of Agriculture and that they would like for us to move this ahead with the Majority Report so that the farmers that do raise hemp can actually put their money in the bank, they can actually apply for USDA loans, USDA grants and this is a huge benefit. So, I would concur that we should move along with the Majority Report and not postpone this. Thank you.

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

Representative **KINNEY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I'm a veteran of the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee and have dealt with hemp bills over the last eight years often. And I concur with the Representative from Oxford. She hit one of my points where we want to enforce the idea that if we don't go with a State-approved program, our medical caregivers who are growing cannabis with over .3% THC and also grow hemp will be negatively affected. Having a State program that has USDA backing helps Mainers. We've seen it in the slaughterhouse industry where we have State-inspected slaughterhouses that follow USDA rules without having to go directly through USDA. Having it be through the State, it makes it simpler for these growers, it's closer to home and there's actually a better outlook on what's going on with the process and this will help our farmers. Our farmers in Maine struggle because we are a very short growing season State and we have to compete with these states that can grow six to 12 months out of the year. We have a three-month growing season in general in Maine and moving this forward and not indefinitely postponing this bill will help our farmers in the State and that's something that I have advocated for from day one that I came here and I'm going to continue to do so. Please follow my light and vote no on the indefinite postponement.

The SPEAKER: The Representative from Oxford, Representative Dillingham, having spoken twice, requests unanimous consent to address the House for a third time. Hearing no objection, it is so ordered. The Chair recognizes the Representative from Oxford, Representative Dillingham.

Representative **DILLINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. In all of my time, this is a first for me to stand for a third time. But I was reached out and I wanted to share on behalf of the

individuals that administer the current program. They wanted to share that they actually cannot do sampling for the federal government and that they would have no idea even how the process of how they would get paid because that's not part of what their program would be able to do and they could not contract with the federal government. Thank you.

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

Representative **PLUECKER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I just want to clarify that the rules we're talking about putting onto our hemp program are more strenuous than the program that we have for cannabis, all right? So, we're talking about making it more difficult to grow hemp, which is a food product, than we are talking about growing cannabis, which is a medicine. And this just does not make sense for our State to move forward. The hemp growers will have access to all of the aforementioned USDA programs if they are licensed through the USDA. We also talked about medical growers who right now if you are a medical grower and a hemp grower, you have two different businesses on paper because you cannot take credit cards, you cannot get insurance, you can't use banking if you're growing cannabis. So, they have already two different businesses. And those are the folks that are worried about where the direction of this program is going to go. It's because they're growing a federally illegal crop and they don't want to face the difficulties that are going to come from that. Whereas, if you're just growing hemp, you're going to be able to continue to grow just as you have been growing for the past years and into the future. So, what I'm saying is give us an opportunity to sort this out, let those folks divide their businesses and move forward with two separate businesses as already exists on paper. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Indefinite Postponement of the Bill and all accompanying papers. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 620

YEA - Alley, Arford, Babbidge, Bell, Berry, Blume, Boyle, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Cardone, Collings, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Cuddy, Dodge, Evans, Gramlich, Harnett, LaRochelle, Lookner, Madigan, Matlack, McCrea, Melaragno, Meyer, Morales, Moriarty, O'Neil, Osher, Pebworth, Perry, Pierce, Pluecker, Reckitt, Rielly, Roeder, Sachs, Salisbury, Sheehan, Stover, Supica, Tepler, Tucker, Warren C, Warren S, Williams, Wood, Zager, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - Arata, Austin, Bernard, Bickford, Boyle, Caiazza, Carmichael, Collamore, Corey, Costain, Dillingham, Dolloff, Doudera, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Fay, Foster, Greenwood, Griffin, Hall, Hanley, Harrington, Head, Hutchins, Javner, Kinney, Landry, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Martin, Mason, McCreight, McDonald, Millett, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, O'Connell, Ordway, Parry, Perkins, Pickett, Quint, Roche, Rudnicki, Sampson, Stearns, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, White, Mr. Speaker.

ABSENT - Andrews, Blier, Bradstreet, Carlow, Cebra, Cloutier, Connor, Copeland, Dunphy, Evangelos, Geiger, Gere, Gifford, Grignon, Grohoski, Haggan, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hymanson, Kessler, Lyford, Martin R, Martin T, Mathieson, Millett, O'Connor, Paulhus, Perry, Poirier, Prescott, Riseman, Roberts, Sharpe, Skolfield, Stanley, Stetkis, Sylvester, Terry, Theriault, Underwood, White.

Yes, 51; No, 55; Absent, 41; Vacant, 4; Excused, 0.

51 having voted in the affirmative and 55 voted in the negative, 4 vacancies with 41 being absent, and accordingly the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** the Bill and all accompanying papers **FAILED**.

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

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

Senate Amendment "A" (S-582) to **Committee Amendment "A" (S-557)** was **READ** by the Clerk.

Representative **PLUECKER** of Warren moved that **Senate Amendment "A" (S-582)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (S-557)** be **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

Representative **DILLINGHAM** of Oxford **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE Senate Amendment "A" (S-582)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (S-557)**.

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

Representative **PLUECKER**: Thanks for the opportunity to speak to this. The Senate Amendment has taken what we passed as a majority out of the committee and made it even more strenuous and more difficult for farmers to grow hemp than the original product of the committee. So, I'm recommending to all that we follow the original recommendation of the committee and vote down the Senate Amendment. Thank you.

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 Indefinite Postponement of Senate Amendment "A" (S-582) to Committee Amendment "A" (S-557). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

ROLL CALL NO. 621

YEA - Alley, Arford, Babbidge, Bell, Berry, Blume, Boyle, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Caiazza, Cardone, Collings, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Cuddy, Dodge, Doudera, Evans, Fay, Gramlich, Harnett, LaRochelle, Lookner, Madigan, Martin, Matlack, McCrea, McCreight, McDonald, Melaragno, Meyer, Morales, Moriarty, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Pebworth, Perry, Pierce, Pluecker, Reckitt, Rielly, Roeder, Sachs, Salisbury, Sheehan, Stover, Supica, Madam Speaker, Tepler, Tucker, Warren C, Warren S, Williams, Wood, Zager, Zeigler, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Arata, Austin, Bernard, Bickford, Carmichael, Collamore, Corey, Costain, Dillingham, Dolloff, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Faulkingham, Foster, Greenwood, Griffin, Hall, Hanley, Harrington, Head, Hutchins, Javner, Kinney, Landry, Lemelin, Libby, Lyman, Mason, Millett, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, Ordway, Parry, Perkins, Pickett, Quint, Roche, Rudnicki, Sampson, Stearns, Thorne, Tuell, Wadsworth, White.

ABSENT - Andrews, Blier, Bradstreet, Carlow, Cebra, Cloutier, Connor, Copeland, Dunphy, Evangelos, Geiger, Gere, Gifford, Grignon, Grohoski, Haggan, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hymanson, Kessler, Lyford, Martin R, Martin T, Mathieson, Millett, O'Connor, Paulhus, Perry, Poirier, Prescott, Riseman, Roberts, Sharpe, Skolfield, Stanley, Stetkis, Sylvester, Terry, Theriault, Underwood, White.

Yes, 60; No, 46; Absent, 41; Vacant, 4; Excused, 0.

60 having voted in the affirmative and 46 voted in the negative, 4 vacancies with 41 being absent, and accordingly **Senate Amendment "A" (S-582)** to **Committee Amendment "A" (S-557)** was **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

Subsequently, **Committee Amendment "A" (S-557)** was **ADOPTED**.

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

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

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

The SPEAKER: The Chair is pleased to recognize in the back of the Chamber, her Excellency, the Governor of the great State of Maine, Janet T. Mills.

Governor **MILLS**: Sorry, I'm yelling, a very productive session. We've all been through so much together these last two years in particular but we have survived, we are thriving, our economy is coming back and you've made so many good changes in these last two years and just this last session, special session, Second Regular Session. For you to come together in such a fashion and address difficult issues such as PFAS, would've thought, you know? And to address everything ranging from the Maine Space Corporation to Good Samaritan Bill and the Maine veterans' homes and out-of-state waste in Juniper Ridge and everything, some of which started in a very controversial fashion. But you came together as a group. Ninety-something percent of these bills that I just read and signed, 97% of them, were bipartisan, truly bipartisan and none more so than the supplemental budget. And I want to extend my personal thanks, my gratitude, to Representative Pierce, Representative Millett, where is he? There he is. And Representative Martin and other distinguished Members of the Appropriations Committee for the hundreds and hundreds of hours they spent pouring over this budget and creating a bill that you all voted for that provides two years of free community college for every kid who graduates this year, last year, the year before, for universal free meals in our schools pre-K to 12, better funding for hospitals and nursing homes who stood by us during this pandemic and who need our help, property tax relief for so many middle class property taxpayers who are getting edged out of the market by people coming here and buying up properties, student debt relief, a very bipartisan measure, expanding the CHIP program so our neediest children will get the help that they need, expanding the Medicaid rates for needy services to make sure that those providing mental health, behavioral health and physical health care will get what they need to fulfill the workforce needs of these very critical services. And I say that this is bipartisan because it is. I know the steps were not easy, the struggles were hard to endure sometimes, the debates vigorous behind closed doors and out in this hall, in this chamber, but you know that alone we can only do as little as we can alone but together, we can do so much and together we did so much this session and I'm here to simply say thank you.

And thank you especially not only to the Members of the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee who work so terribly hard, but also to those of you who are term limited and otherwise won't be coming back, those like Representative Pat Corey, where is he? Where'd he go? There. Pat Corey, you've been a joy to work with on so many committees. And what you did last year on Land for Maine's Future, carrying the water there and making sure that happened, \$40 million dollars for

conservation. Thank you, Representative Corey. Representative Tucker. Where is he? Where'd he go? Ralph. One of the few people you'll ever know who served in all three branches of government now. Astonishingly and with great, great expertise and what a gem to deal with that you've been and we'll miss you so next year. And several of the leaders, Representative Michelle Dunphy. Where'd she go? She's not here. All right, we'll skip her.

Representative Dunphy and Leader Dillingham, thank you so much for your efforts and it's been a pleasure to talk with you and deal with you on so many different subjects. We don't always agree, that's not what we're supposed to do here, but we come together and we exchange views in a very frank way and I appreciate your relationship and your conversations. And then there's Babbidge and Bickford and Bryant, so many other B's in this Body who won't be coming back. And then there's Danny Martin and John L. Martin, whom you've spent many minutes celebrating, commemorating just the other day in the House and the Senate and I will miss you next year, too, John L. Martin, the Earl of Eagle Lake, as Davis Rossin named him. And, finally, Mr. Speaker. I'm going to miss you a lot. And you're the smartest 29-year-old I've ever met. I say that because, you know, we can talk about stuff, every kind of subject and come together and fix things that need to be fixed and do so in a civil manner, in a diplomatic manner without an ounce of mudslinging or hate speech. And you are full of compassion and just the ability to get 'er done. And whoever takes your place next year, I hope they have the same attitude, the same aptitude and the same relationship-building experience levels that you have exhibited during this last session. Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker. That's all I got.

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

SENATE PAPERS
Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act To Correct Errors in Recently Enacted Legislation"

(H.P. 1544) (L.D. 2041)

READ TWICE under suspension of the rules without reference to a committee and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-1051)** in the House on May 9, 2022.

Came from the Senate **READ TWICE** under suspension of the rules without reference to a committee and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-1051) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENTS "A" (S-653) AND "B" (S-654)** thereto **AND SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-651) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-655)** thereto in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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

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

The Speaker inquired if a Quorum was present.
The Chair ordered a quorum call.
More than half of the members responding, the Chair declared a Quorum present.

**ENACTORS
Act**

An Act To Improve the Laws Governing Hemp by Bringing Them into Compliance with Federal Law

(S.P. 683) (L.D. 1942)
(C. "A" S-557)

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

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

Emergency Measure

An Act To Correct Errors in Recently Enacted Legislation
(H.P. 1544) (L.D. 2041)

(S. "A" S-653 and S. "B" S-654 to H. "A" H-1051; S. "A" S-655 to S. "A" S-651)

Reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed. This being an emergency measure, a two-thirds vote of all the members elected to the House being necessary, a total was taken. 120 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

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

The Speaker appointed Representative TALBOT ROSS of Portland on the part of the House to inform the Senate that the House was ready to adjourn without day.

The Speaker appointed the following members on the part of the House to wait upon her Excellency, Governor JANET T. MILLS, and inform him that the House was ready to adjourn without day:

- Representative TUCKER of Brunswick
- Representative BLUME of York
- Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach
- Representative ZEIGLER of Montville
- Representative DOUDERA of Camden
- Representative BELL of Yarmouth
- Representative BOYLE of Gorham
- Representative HANLEY of Pittston
- Representative O'CONNOR of Berwick
- Representative TUELL of East Machias

Subsequently, the Committee reported that they had delivered the message with which they were charged.

Subsequently, Representative TALBOT ROSS reported that she had delivered the message with which she was charged.

At this point, a message came from the Senate borne by Senator DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, of that Body, informing the House that the Senate was ready to adjourn without day.

Representative MARTIN of Eagle Lake assumed the Chair.

The House was called to order by the Speaker Pro Tem.

On motion of Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, the House adjourned without day at 6:20 p.m.