

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
3rd Legislative Day
Thursday, February 10, 2022

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

Prayer by Honorable Kevin J. M. O'Connell, Brewer.

National Anthem by Gary Crocker, West Gardiner.

Pledge of Allegiance.

The Journal of Wednesday, January 26, 2022 was read and approved.

The SPEAKER: Being back this afternoon is both a joyous occasion, as we are together to do the work on behalf of the people of Maine, but in the time that we were last together here in this Body, we have lost two of our esteemed colleagues who have passed. Representative Doore and Representative Tuttle, two people that I was very proud and grateful to call friends during their course of service here and even before. And I look forward to next week when their families will be joining us here in this Body so we can honor them and recognize the service that they made to our State, to the people they represented and to their families. And I'm sure many of us have stories we will share so that their families can hear how we fondly remember them in the time that they spent in this Body. This is a tough job and there was no greater struggle, no task that was more difficult than placing the phone calls over the last week and a half to the loved ones of Representative Doore and Representative Tuttle. It is very, very difficult to be on the other side of a phone call talking to a member of a family, husband and wife, about the passing of the people that they loved through and through and cared so deeply about. And I know that as Members of this Body, despite the challenges and the debates that we certainly have during the course of the session, ultimately, we build friendships and ultimately, we are like a family in and of ourselves. And I know that as I told Representative Doore's husband and I told Representative Tuttle's wife, should they ever need anything, I know that they can call upon this Body, Members of this Legislature and we'll be there for them. Thank you. I would ask that we bow our heads in a moment of prayer and remembrance.

At this point, the Members of the House stood and joined in a moment of silence in honor of the Honorable Donna R. Doore, of Augusta and the Honorable John L. Tuttle, of Sanford

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.P. 1456)

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

February 1, 2022
Honorable Ryan M. Fecteau
Speaker of the House
130th Legislature
Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
130th Legislature

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

On February 1, 2022, 1 bill was received by the Clerk of the House.

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, this bill was referred to a Joint Standing Committee on February 1, 2022, as follows:

Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services

Bill "An Act To Update the Consumer Credit Laws Related to Legal Funding Practices" (H.P. 1455) (L.D. 1956) (Sponsored by Representative MORRIS of Turner) (Cosponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot and Senator: KEIM of Oxford) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

Sent for concurrence.

The Following Communication: (H.P. 1459)

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

February 2, 2022

Honorable Ryan M. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

130th Legislature

Honorable Troy D. Jackson

President of the Senate

130th Legislature

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

On February 2, 2022, 2 bills were received by the Clerk of the House.

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, these bills were referred to the Joint Standing Committees on February 2, 2022, as follows:

Judiciary

Bill "An Act To Amend the Maine Parentage Act with Regard to Presumed Parentage" (H.P. 1458) (L.D. 1958) (Submitted by the Family Law Advisory Commission pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 19-A, section 354, subsection 2.)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act To Promote Equity and Increase Opportunities in the Cannabis Industry by Removing Restrictions Related to Convictions for Drug Offenses and To Replace the Term 'Marijuana' with the Term 'Cannabis' in the Maine Revised Statutes" (H.P. 1457) (L.D. 1957) (Sponsored by Representative TALBOT ROSS of Portland) (Cosponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec and Representatives: FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, HARNETT of Gardiner, PLUECKER of Warren, SUPICA of Bangor, WARREN of Hallowell, WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor, Senator: MAXMIN of Lincoln) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

Sent for concurrence.

The Following Communication: (H.P. 1461)

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

February 3, 2022

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

Dear Mr. Speaker and Mr. President:

On February 3, 2022, 1 bill was received by the Clerk of the House.

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, this bill was referred to a Joint Standing Committee on February 3, 2022, as follows:

Education and Cultural Affairs

Bill "An Act To Create the General Purpose Aid Stabilization Fund" (H.P. 1460) (L.D. 1963) (Sponsored by Representative LaROCHELLE of Augusta) (Cosponsored by Representatives: DUNPHY of Old Town, HEPLER of Woolwich, McCREA of Fort Fairfield, PEBWORTH of Blue Hill) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.)

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House

S/Darek M. Grant

Secretary of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

Sent for concurrence.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 335)

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

January 26, 2022

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

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Title 1, MRSA, Ch. 14, §534.1-G, I am pleased to reappoint Mr. Jeremy Cluchey of Bowdoinham as a member of the public to seat 15 on the InforME Board, effective immediately.

If you have any questions, please don't 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. 344)

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

January 31, 2022

The Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under Title 5, MRSA, Chapter 163, section 2003, I am pleased to appoint Gregory Copeland to seat number six on the Maine Library of Geographic Information Board, replacing Patrick Cunningham, effective the date of this letter.

Please let me know if you have any questions regarding this appointment.

Sincerely,

S/Troy D. Jackson

President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 345)

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

January 31, 2022

The Honorable Robert B. Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Title 5, MRSA, Chapter 163, §2003, I am pleased to appoint Patrick Cunningham of Hallowell to the Maine Library of Geographic Information Board as a member of the private sector representing geographic information vendors, seat #14.

Please contact my office if you have any questions regarding this appointment.

Sincerely,

S/Ryan M. Fecteau

Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 346)

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

January 31, 2022

Honorable Robert Hunt

Clerk of the House

2 State House Station

Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt,

Pursuant to my authority under Title 22, MRSA, Subtitle 22, Part 4, Ch. 401, §1726.2, I am pleased to appoint Laura

Pelletier of Turner to the Maine Palliative Care and Quality of Life Interdisciplinary Advisory Council, effective immediately. Ms. Pelletier is appointed to seat 9 as a representative of health insurers.

If you have any questions, please don't 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. 355)

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

February 8, 2022
Honorable Robert Hunt
Clerk of the House
#2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0002
Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (I) (a) and Joint Rule 371, I rescind the appointment of Genevieve McDonald of Stonington from the Government Oversight Committee, effective immediately.

Should you have any questions regarding this appointment, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 356)

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

February 8, 2022
Honorable Robert Hunt
Clerk of the House
#2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0002
Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (I) (a) and Joint Rule 371, I have appointed Representative Holly Stover of Boothbay as House Chair of the Government Oversight Committee, replacing Representative Genevieve McDonald of Stonington, effective immediately.

Should you have any questions regarding this appointment, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 357)

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

February 8, 2022
Honorable Robert Hunt
Clerk of the House
#2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0002
Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (I) (a) and Joint Rule 371, I have appointed Representative Jessica Fay of Raymond to the Government Oversight Committee, effective immediately.

Should you have any questions regarding this appointment, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 358)

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

February 8, 2022
Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Ryan M. Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Fecteau:

Thank you for inviting me to deliver the State of the State Address to the 130th Legislature. I humbly accept your invitation and look forward to speaking to the Joint Convention on Thursday, February 10, at 7 pm.

Sincerely,
S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 336)

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE
CRIMINAL RECORDS REVIEW COMMITTEE**

January 13, 2022
The Honorable Troy Jackson, President
Maine State Senate
The Honorable Ryan M. Fecteau, Speaker
Maine House of Representatives
State House
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Fecteau:

Pursuant to Resolve 2021, chapter 121, the Criminal Records Review Committee is pleased to submit its final report. Copies of the full report have been distributed to committees or individuals as directed by law and copies have been placed on file with the Law and Legislative Reference Library. Others

may access the full report on-line through the website of the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis at <http://legislature.maine.gov/opla>.

Sincerely,
S/Sen. Donna Bailey
Senate Chair/S/Rep. Rachel Talbot Ross
House Chair

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 337)

MIDCOAST REGIONAL REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

January 15, 2022
The Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
The Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Fecteau:
Pursuant to 5 MRSA, Section 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required report from the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority.

MRRA was created in 2006 by the Maine Legislature (5 MRSA §13083-G) as a municipal corporation charged with the responsibility to implement the reuse master plans for Naval Air Station Brunswick (NAS Brunswick) and the Topsham Annex, which closed as a result of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information. Thank you.

Sincerely,
S/Jeffrey K. Jordan
Deputy Director

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 338)

FINANCE AUTHORITY OF MAINE

**94 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04332**

February 1, 2022
Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Honorable Troy Jackson
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Fecteau and President Jackson:
Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A., Section 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required report from the Finance Authority of Maine due February 1, 2022.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
S/Carlos R. Mello
Acting Chief Executive Officer

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 339)

**MAINE VENTURE FUND
P. O. BOX 63
NEWPORT, ME 04953**

January 24, 2022
Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Fecteau:
Pursuant to 5 MRSA, Section 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the attached "Report to Legislature for 2021" on behalf of the quasi-independent state entity, Small Enterprise Growth Board, due February 1, 2022.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
S/Terri Wark
Office Operations Manager
Small Enterprise Growth Board d/b/a Maine Venture Fund

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 340)

**STATE OF MAINE
LORING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF MAINE
154 DEVELOPMENT DRIVE, SUITE F
LIMESTONE, MAINE 04750**

January 25, 2022
Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Fecteau:
Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A., Section 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required report from the Loring Development Authority of Maine due by February 1, 2022.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you.
Very truly yours,
S/Carl W. Flora
President & CEO

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 341)

**MAINE MARITIME ACADEMY
CASTINE, MAINE 04420**

January 26, 2022
Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Fecteau:
Pursuant to 5 MRSA, Section 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required report from the Maine Maritime Academy due by February 1, 2022.
Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
S/Alice Herrick

Director of Fiscal Operations for Maine Maritime Academy

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 342)

**MAINE'S PUBLIC UNIVERSITIES
UNIVERSITY OF MAINE SYSTEM
OFFICE OF THE CHANCELLOR
15 ESTABROOKE DRIVE
ORONO, ME 04469**

January 28, 2022
Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Fecteau:
With this letter I am transmitting on time the report required by 5 M.R.S.A. §12023 from the University of Maine System that documents our qualifying FY21 sole-source procurements and contributions.

As it conducts business, the University of Maine System is committed to a competitive procurement process that ensures the greatest value for our students and taxpayers as well as transparency and fairness for providers of goods and services, many of which are Maine-based. While competitive procurement is our standard, State law and corresponding UMS policy provide legitimate and well-defined reasons for which the purchases listed in this report were waived from our process. For example, given its research and economic development activities that are of vital importance to the state, the University of Maine has unique procurement needs, including for specialized equipment or services required by grant funding or that may only be available from one vendor. In those cases, we have noted that in the description of each relevant procurement listed in our report.

Finally, as I hope is well-known to the Legislature and the people of Maine, we've safely maintained in-person learning, research and other activities while also serving local and state needs throughout the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Our

science-driven leadership and, in some cases, our unique supply chains have made this possible. But given more recent global supply chain challenges, we have also made some purchases for which the competitive bid process was simply not practicable or even safe from the standpoint of public health, including to procure supplies and sampling services for testing wastewater on UMS campuses and as a public service to our local communities.

Please contact my office if you need additional information. Thank you for your ongoing support of Maine's public universities.

Sincerely,
S/Dannel P. Malloy, Chancellor
University of Maine System

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 343)

**MAINE TURNPIKE AUTHORITY
2360 CONGRESS STREET
PORTLAND, MAINE 04102**

January 26, 2022
Honorable Ryan M. Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Re: An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability and the Government Oversight Committee Regarding Quasi-Independent State Entities

Dear Speaker Fecteau,

Enclosed are the reports required under 5 M.R.S.A. §12023, due February 1, 2022. The reports include: a list of all procurements in 2021 exceeding \$10,000 for which competitive procurement was waived; a list of contributions made in 2021 that exceed \$1,000. Section 12023(2c) requires a description of changes to the written policies and procedures required by Section 12022. There were no changes to the policies and procedures required by this section in 2021, therefore, there is nothing to report.

In 2021, the Maine Turnpike Authority made over \$123 million in payments to approximately 680 vendors. The vast majority of these payments, approximately \$109 million, were for competitively bid products or services or were legally or legislatively required. The Authority sole-sourced approximately \$13 million in 2021. Most of these products or services were either proprietary in nature or were procured under long-term contracts. As these long-term contracts expire, the Authority will seek competitive bids.

Respectfully,
S/Peter Mills

Executive Director

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 347)
MAINE TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE
8 VENTURE AVENUE
BRUNSWICK LANDING
BRUNSWICK, MAINE 04011

January 27, 2022

The Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
The Honorable Ryan M. Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Fecteau:

Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A., Section 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required report from the Maine Technology Institute (MTI) due by February 1, 2022.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
S/Brian Whitney
President

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 348)
MAINE STATE HOUSING AUTHORITY
353 WATER STREET
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04330-4633

February 1, 2022

Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Fecteau:

Pursuant to 5 MRSA, Section 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required report from the Maine State Housing Authority due by February 1, 2022.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
S/Daniel Brennan
Director

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 349)
NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND
PASSENGER RAIL AUTHORITY
75 W. COMMERCIAL STREET, SUITE 104
PORTLAND, MAINE 04101

January 27, 2022

Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Fecteau:

Pursuant to 5 MRSA, Section 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required report from the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority (NNEPRA) due by February 1, 2022.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
S/Mr. John Melrose
Chairman

Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority
S/Ms. Patricia Quinn
Executive Director

Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 350)
STATE OF MAINE
WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD
OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/CHAIR
442 CIVIC CENTER DRIVE, SUITE 100
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0027

January 31, 2022

Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

RE: Annual Report of the Workers' Compensation Board
Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A. §12023(2)

Dear Speaker Fecteau and President Jackson:

Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A., §12023, please consider this the transmittal letter for the required report from the Workers' Compensation Board due by February 1, 2022.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,
S/John C. Rohde
Executive Director

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 351)

EFFICIENCY MAINE

February 1, 2022
Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0003
Honorable Ryan M. Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0002

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Fecteau:
Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A., Section 12023, I am pleased to deliver this letter of transmittal for the required report from Efficiency Maine Trust due by February 1, 2022.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.
Thank you.

Sincerely,
S/Michael D. Stoddard
Executive Director

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 352)

**MAINE CONNECTIVITY AUTHORITY
STATE OF MAINE
59 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333**

February 1, 2022
Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Fecteau:
Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A., Section 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required report from the Maine Connectivity Authority due by February 1, 2022.

As a new organization formed in late 2021 only hiring staff in January, please note that there are no eligible activities to report for this filing.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.
Thank you.

Sincerely,
S/Andrew Butcher, President
Maine Connectivity Authority

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 353)

**STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES
78 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0078**

January 31, 2022
Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333
Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Fecteau:
Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A., Section 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required report from the CDS Annual Legislation Report due by February 1, 2022.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.
Thank you.

Sincerely,
S/Dr. Roberta Lucas
CDS Director

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

The Following Communication: (H.C. 354)

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

February 10, 2022
Honorable Ryan M. Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

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

- Criminal Justice and Public Safety
- L.D. 1863 An Act To Allow Bars with an Occupancy of 30 or Fewer Persons To Have Only One Bathroom
- Environment and Natural Resources
- L.D. 1872 Resolve, To Create a Task Force Relating to the Water Quality of Saco Bay
- Health and Human Services
- L.D. 632 An Act To Facilitate the Conversion of Children's Private Nonmedical Institutions to Qualified Residential Treatment Programs as Required by Federal Law
- L.D. 1059 An Act To Provide Substance Use Disorder Treatment to Adolescents
- L.D. 1701 An Act To Establish a Managed Care Program for MaineCare Services
- Inland Fisheries and Wildlife
- L.D. 394 An Act To Protect Maine's Loons and Other Wildlife in the Issuance of a Permit To Hold a Regatta, Race or Boat or Water-ski Exhibition

Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business
L.D. 919 An Act To Advance Maine's Economic Growth by Investing in Innovative, Next-generation Technology and Research

State and Local Government
L.D. 383 An Act Concerning Small Wireless Facilities in Maine

Transportation
L.D. 899 An Act To Protect Privacy and Security at the Bureau of Motor Vehicles
L.D. 1749 An Act To Change the Requirements for the Sales of Used Catalytic Converters

Sincerely,
S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of House

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

The Following Communication: (S.P. 675)

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

January 10, 2022
Hon. Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
130th Legislature
Hon. Ryan M. Fecteau
Speaker of the House
130th Legislature

Dear Mr. President and Mr. Speaker:
On January 10, 2022, 2 bills were received by the Secretary of the Senate.
Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, these bills were referred to the Joint Standing Committees on January 10, 2022, as follows:

Energy, Utilities and Technology

Bill "An Act To Review Strategies for Improving Utility Rate Affordability and To Provide Utility Relief" (S.P. 674) (L.D. 1913) (Sponsored by Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc) (Cosponsored by Representative FAY of Raymond and Senators: President JACKSON of Aroostook, HICKMAN of Kennebec, BAILEY of York, CURRY of Waldo, BRENNER of Cumberland, RAFFERTY of York, Representative: PIERCE of Falmouth) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Transportation

Resolve, To Rename 3 Bridges in Brownville and Brownville Junction (S.P. 672) (L.D. 1912) (Sponsored by Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis) (Cosponsored by Senator: GUERIN of Penobscot) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.)

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

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

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

The Following Communication: (S.P. 681)

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

January 18, 2022
Hon. Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
130th Legislature
Hon. Ryan M. Fecteau
Speaker of the House
130th Legislature

Dear Mr. President and Mr. Speaker:
On January 20, 2022, 2 bills were received by the Secretary of the Senate.

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, these bills were referred to the Joint Standing Committees on January 20, 2022, as follows:

Education and Cultural Affairs

Bill "An Act To Expand Access to Justice in Rural Maine through Legal Education" (S.P. 679) (L.D. 1924) (Sponsored by President JACKSON of Aroostook) (Cosponsored by Representative MARTIN of Eagle Lake and Senators: BAILEY of York, STEWART of Aroostook, CARNEY of Cumberland, Representative: MARTIN of Sinclair) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business

Bill "An Act To Establish the Maine Space Corporation" (S.P. 678) (L.D. 1923) (Sponsored by Senator DAUGHTRY of Cumberland) (Cosponsored by Senators: HICKMAN of Kennebec, CYRWAY of Kennebec, BREEN of Cumberland, Representatives: Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, McCREA of Fort Fairfield, ROBERTS of South Berwick, DODGE of Belfast) (Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.)

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

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

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

The Following Communication: (S.C. 954)

**MAINE SENATE
130TH LEGISLATURE**

January 26, 2022
Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0002

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

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

To the Advisory Council on Affordable Health Care:

- Anne Graham of N. Yarmouth for appointment
- Kathryn Ende of S. Portland for appointment
- Carl Toney of Scarborough for appointment
- Malory Shaughnessy of Westbrook for appointment
- Katie Fullam Harris of Yarmouth for appointment

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

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: (S.C. 955)

**MAINE SENATE
130TH LEGISLATURE**

January 26, 2022
Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0002

Dear Speaker Fecteau:

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

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

To the Advisory Council on Affordable Health Care:

- Kevin Lewis of Winthrop for appointment
- Trevor Putnoky of Yarmouth for appointment
- Patricia Riley of Brunswick for appointment
- Jeffrey A. Sanford of Holden for appointment
- Dr. Renee Fay-LeBlanc of Portland for appointment

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

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

At this point, a message came from the Senate borne by Senator Daughtry, of Cumberland, of that Body, proposing a Joint Convention of both branches of the Legislature to be held in the Hall of the House at 6:45 in the evening for the purpose of extending to Her Excellency, Governor Janet T. Mills, an invitation to attend the Joint Convention and to make such communication as pleases her.

Thereupon the House voted to concur in the proposal for a Joint Convention to be held at 6:45 in the evening and the Speaker appointed Representative DUNPHY of Old Town to convey this message to the Senate.

The Following Communication: (S.C. 956)

**MAINE SENATE
130TH LEGISLATURE**

January 26, 2022
Honorable Ryan Fecteau
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0002

Dear Speaker Fecteau:

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

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

To the Land For Maine's Future Board:

- Malcolm L. Hunter, Jr. of Amherst for appointment

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology:

As the Public Advocate:

- William S. Harwood, Esq. of Yarmouth for appointment

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources:

To the Board of Environmental Protection:

- Sarah Alexander of Easton for appointment
- Susan M. Lessard of Bucksport for reappointment
- Robert G. Marvinney of Readfield for appointment
- Barbara Vickery of Richmond for appointment

To the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund Board:

- Erin Merrill of Belgrade for appointment

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Judiciary:

As a District Court Judge:

- Terence M. Harrigan, Esq. of Bangor for appointment
- Peter J. Malia Jr., Esq. of Fryeburg, for appointment
- Joshua A. Randlett, Esq. of Hampden for appointment
- Meghan K. Szylvian, Esq. of Holden for appointment

To the Maine Human Rights Commission:

- The Honorable Julie Ann O'Brien of Augusta for reappointment

As an Active Retired Judge of the District Court:

- Bruce A. Jordan of Veazie for appointment
- Susan E. Oram of Falmouth for appointment

As an Active Retired Justice of the Superior Court:

- Thomas D. Warren of Portland for appointment

As a Superior Court Justice:

- The Honorable Deborah P. Cashman of W. Bath for appointment
- The Honorable William Stokes of Augusta for reappointment

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Labor and Housing:

To the Board of Trustees of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System:

- John S. Beliveau of Falmouth for reappointment
- Shirrin Blaisdell of Manchester for reappointment

To the Maine Labor Relations Board:

- Roberta L. de Araujo, Esq. of Portland for appointment
- Shari B. Broder, Esq. of Freeport for appointment
- Ann M. Freeman, Esq. of Portland for appointment
- James H. Mackie of South Portland for appointment
- Jessica L. Maher, Esq. of Brunswick for appointment
- Sheila G. Mayberry, Esq. of Falmouth for appointment
- Michael D. Miles of Westbrook for appointment
- Rebekah J. Smith, Esq. of Union for appointment
- Alyssa C. Tibbetts, Esq. of Scarborough for appointment

To the Maine State Housing Authority:

- Sonia M. Barrantes of Portland for appointment
- Elizabeth J. Dietz of Veazie for appointment
- Renee Lewis of Hollis for appointment
- Frank O'Hara of Hallowell for appointment

Upon the recommendation of the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs:

To the Gambling Control Board:

- Joseph R. Hanslip of Sanford for reappointment
- Noel C. March of Hampden for reappointment

To the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices:

- Dennis Marble of Hampden for reappointment

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

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

At this point, Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick and Representative SYLVESTER of Portland were added to the roll call of the Second Regular Session of the 130th Legislature.

PETITIONS, BILLS AND RESOLVES REQUIRING REFERENCE

Bill "An Act To Expand Access to Mental Health and Crisis Care for Individuals in Jails and Individuals Experiencing Homelessness"

(H.P. 1463) (L.D. 1968)

Sponsored by Representative TALBOT ROSS of Portland.
Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Bill "An Act Concerning Equity in Renewable Energy Projects and Workforce Development"

(H.P. 1464) (L.D. 1969)

Sponsored by Representative CUDDY of Winterport.
Cosponsored by Representative: Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford.

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

**Pursuant to Private and Special Law
Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government**

Representative MATLACK for the **Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government** pursuant to Private and Special Law 2021, chapter 10, section 4 asks leave to report that the accompanying Bill "An Act Concerning Winter Maintenance on Private Roads in the Town of Windham" (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 1468) (L.D. 1975)

Be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** and printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

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

Subsequently, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Sent for concurrence.

**Pursuant to Resolve
Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources**

Representative TUCKER for the **Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources** pursuant to Resolve 2021, chapter 67 asks leave to report that the accompanying Bill "An Act To Implement Agency Recommendations Relating to Sea Level Rise and Climate Resilience Provided Pursuant to Resolve 2021, Chapter 67"

(H.P. 1465) (L.D. 1970)

Be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** and printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

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

Subsequently, the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.
Sent for concurrence.

Pursuant to Statute

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Representative HARNETT for the **Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary** pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 411, subsection 6, paragraph G asks leave to report that the accompanying Bill "An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee Concerning Remote Participation" (H.P. 1466) (L.D. 1971)

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

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

Pursuant to Statute

Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary

Representative HARNETT for the **Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary** pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 411, subsection 6, paragraph G asks leave to report that the accompanying Bill "An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee Concerning Public Records Exceptions Related to Research and Aquaculture Leases" (H.P. 1467) (L.D. 1972)

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

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

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

Sent for concurrence.

ORDERS

On motion of Representative TALBOT ROSS of Portland, the following Joint Resolution: (H.P. 1469)

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 2022 AS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

WHEREAS, Maine's Black history and the story of Maine's role in the Atlantic world slave economy have been largely effaced from our narratives and from our collective consciousness; and

WHEREAS, from the earliest arrivals of people from Europe and Africa in the Americas, Africans and African Americans have been part of the story of this land, and researchers have identified over 1,600 people of color who lived in what is now called the state of Maine prior to the year 1800; and

WHEREAS, Africans who were brought involuntarily to these shores suffered generations of enslavement and their

descendants faced the injustices of lynch mobs, segregation and the denial of basic fundamental rights; and

WHEREAS, Maine merchants were deeply entangled in the Atlantic world slave economy, as were the banks that handled their accounts and the insurance firms that secured their investments, and at a time when Havana, Cuba was the hub of the illicit slave trade, Portland was that city's number one trading partner; and

WHEREAS, it was not only Maine's coastal towns that were complicit in the global economy of enslavement through shipbuilding and merchant trading activities, but its inland regions as well: crops and livestock were routinely shipped in the "coastwise" trade to provision the sugar plantations of the West Indies, along with salted fish and even ice from this region; and

WHEREAS, great quantities of Maine timber were processed into barrel staves and shipped throughout the 18th and 19th centuries to the West Indies, where enslaved Africans were forced to fashion them into barrels; they then filled these barrels with the sugar and molasses that were shipped back to Portland and distilled into rum, which was used as currency in purchasing more captive Africans; and

WHEREAS, African Americans in all walks of life have shown resilience despite suffering under slavery and injustice and have made significant contributions throughout the history of the State and across the United States; and

WHEREAS, from the Revolutionary War through the abolitionist movement, to marches from Selma to Montgomery and across America today, and in this State, African Americans have remained devoted to the proposition that all of us are created equal, even when their own rights were denied; and

WHEREAS, the month of February is officially celebrated as Black History Month, which dates back to 1926 when Dr. Carter G. Woodson set aside a special period of time in February to recognize the heritage and achievements of African Americans; 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 the significance of Black History Month as an important time to honor the contributions of African Americans in the nation's history and encourage all people in the State to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the State and the nation.

READ and **ADOPTED**.

Sent for concurrence.

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

Subsequently, Representative DUNPHY of Old Town reported that she had delivered the message with which she was charged.

On motion of Representative KINNEY of Knox, the following Joint Order: (H.P. 1462)

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs may report out, to the House, a bill updating the designation of Vietnam War Remembrance Day under the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 150-G.

READ.

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

Representative **KINNEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. This is just to bring a bill back to committee so that we can align Vietnam War Remembrance Day with the federal day. They are off by one day and I asked to please be the one to present because I am the daughter of a Vietnam veteran. Thank you.

Subsequently, the Joint Order was **PASSED**. Sent for concurrence.

On motion of Representative MARTIN of Eagle Lake, the following House Order: (H.O. 16)

ORDERED, that Representative Scott W. Cuddy of Winterport be excused January 5 for health reasons.

AND BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that Representative Josanne C. Dolloff of Rumford be excused January 5 for health reasons.

READ and PASSED.

SPECIAL SENTIMENT CALENDAR

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

Recognizing:

the Honorable Beverly Bustin-Hatheway, of Hallowell, on her retirement as Kennebec County Register of Deeds after 19 years of public service. Ms. Bustin-Hatheway also served in the Maine Senate from 1981 to 1996, including a term of service as Assistant Majority Leader and a term as Assistant Minority Leader. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(SLS 646)

On **OBJECTION** of Representative WARREN of Hallowell, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

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

Recognizing:

Hannah Coolen, of Unity, a senior at Mt. View High School and a player on the girls basketball team, who recently scored her 1,000th career point. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 517)

Presented by Representative KINNEY of Knox.

Cosponsored by Senator CURRY of Waldo.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative KINNEY of Knox, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

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

Representative **KINNEY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I've been waiting 8 years to be able to do one of these sentiments. We don't have a lot of thousand-point scorers come from Mt. View and I have been blessed to be able to watch Hannah Coolen start from when she was very little and we saw the athleticism in this young lady. She played soccer with my son who graduated a year earlier and watching her go, we knew she was going to go far. She is only the second girl from Mt. View High School to ever score 1,000 points. The really awesome part about this, Emily

Ellis, who was the other Mt. View High School student to have scored 1,000 points, was on hand for Hannah's game when she scored that thousandth point and I'm looking forward to being able to present this legislative sentiment to her in the very near future. Thank you.

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

Recognizing:

the Honorable Christopher W. Rector, of Thomaston, on his retirement as a Regional Representative for United States Senator Angus King after many years of public service. Prior to his service with Senator King, Mr. Rector served two terms in the Maine Senate and three terms in the Maine House of Representatives, with service on the Joint Standing Committees on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development, Marine Resources and Energy, Utilities and Technology, and also worked with the Maine Economic Growth Council and the Community Preservation Advisory Committee. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 521)

Presented by Representative MATLACK of St. George.

Cosponsored by Senator MIRAMANT of Knox, Representative DOUDERA of Camden, Representative EVANGELOS of Friendship, Representative GEIGER of Rockland, Representative McDONALD of Stonington, Representative PLUECKER of Warren.

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

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

Recognizing:

the Honorable William J. Brennan, of Castine, Doctor of Ecology and the Environmental Sciences, who is retiring as President of the Maine Maritime Academy after 12 years of service as president and earlier service as the academy's Sawyer Professor of Ocean Studies in the Corning School of Ocean Studies. Dr. Brennan's long history in public service includes service as Acting Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, within the United States Department of Commerce and as United States Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, and 8 years of service as Commissioner of Marine Resources for the State of Maine, appointed by Governor John R. McKernan, Jr. Dr. Brennan also served as the Director of the United States Climate Change Science Program and, for a time, as the United States Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce for International Affairs. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

(HLS 526)

Presented by Representative HUTCHINS of Penobscot.

Cosponsored by Representative ALLEY of Beals, Representative ANDREWS of Paris, Representative ARATA of New Gloucester, Representative ARFORD of Brunswick, Representative AUSTIN of Gray, Representative BABBIDGE of Kennebunk, Senator BAILEY of York, Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot, Representative BELL of Yarmouth, Senator BENNETT of Oxford, Representative BERNARD of Caribou, Representative BERRY of Bowdoinham, Representative BICKFORD of Auburn, Senator BLACK of Franklin, Representative BLIER of Buxton, Representative BLUME of York, Representative BOYLE of Gorham, Representative

BRADSTREET of Vassalboro, Senator BREEN of Cumberland, Representative BRENNAN of Portland, Senator BRENNER of Cumberland, Representative BROOKS of Lewiston, Representative BRYANT of Windham, Representative CAIAZZO of Scarborough, Representative CARDONE of Bangor, Representative CARLOW of Buxton, Representative CARMICHAEL of Greenbush, Senator CARNEY of Cumberland, Representative CEBRA of Naples, Senator CHIPMAN of Cumberland, Senator CLAXTON of Androscoggin, Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston, Representative COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, Representative COLLINGS of Portland, Representative CONNOR of Lewiston, Representative COPELAND of Saco, Representative COREY of Windham, Representative COSTAIN of Plymouth, Representative CRAFTS of Newcastle, Representative CRAVEN of Lewiston, Representative CROCKETT of Portland, Representative CUDDY of Winterport, Senator CURRY of Waldo, Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec, Senator DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis, Senator DESCHAMBAULT of York, Senator DIAMOND of Cumberland, Senator DILL of Penobscot, Representative DILLINGHAM of Oxford, Representative DODGE of Belfast, Representative DOLLOFF of Milton Township, Representative DOUDERA of Camden, Representative DOWNES of Bucksport, Representative DRINKWATER of Milford, Representative DUCHARME of Madison, Representative DUNPHY of Old Town, Representative EVANGELOS of Friendship, Representative EVANS of Dover-Foxcroft, Senator FARRIN of Somerset, Representative FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, Representative FAY of Raymond, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, Representative FOSTER of Dexter, Representative GEIGER of Rockland, Representative GERE of Kennebunkport, Representative GIFFORD of Lincoln, Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, Representative GREENWOOD of Wales, Representative GRIFFIN of Levant, Representative GRIGNON of Athens, Representative GROHOSKI of Ellsworth, Senator GUERIN of Penobscot, Representative HAGGAN of Hampden, Representative HALL of Wilton, Representative HANLEY of Pittston, Representative HARNETT of Gardiner, Representative HARRINGTON of Sanford, Representative HASENFUS of Readfield, Representative HEAD of Bethel, Representative HEPLER of Woolwich, Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec, Representative HYMANSON of York, President JACKSON of Aroostook, Representative JAVNER of Chester, Senator KEIM of Oxford, Representative KESSLER of South Portland, Representative KINNEY of Knox, Representative KRYZAK of Acton, Representative LANDRY of Farmington, Representative LaROCHELLE of Augusta, Senator LAWRENCE of York, Representative LEMELIN of Chelsea, Senator LIBBY of Androscoggin, Representative LIBBY of Auburn, Representative LOOKNER of Portland, Representative LYFORD of Eddington, Representative LYMAN of Livermore Falls, Representative MADIGAN of Waterville, Representative MARTIN of Eagle Lake, Representative MARTIN of Greene, Representative MARTIN of Sinclair, Representative MASON of Lisbon, Representative MATHIESON of Kittery, Representative MATLACK of St. George, Senator MAXMIN of Lincoln, Representative McCREA of Fort Fairfield, Representative McCREIGHT of Harpswell, Representative McDONALD of Stonington, Representative MELARAGNO of Auburn, Representative MEYER of Eliot, Representative MILLETT of Waterford, Representative MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth, Senator MIRAMANT of Knox, Senator MOORE of Washington, Representative MORALES of

South Portland, Representative MORIARTY of Cumberland, Representative MORRIS of Turner, Representative NADEAU of Winslow, Representative NEWELL of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, Representative NEWMAN of Belgrade, Representative O'CONNELL of Brewer, Representative O'CONNOR of Berwick, Representative O'NEIL of Saco, Representative ORDWAY of Standish, Representative OSHER of Orono, Representative PARRY of Arundel, Representative PAULHUS of Bath, Representative PEBWORTH of Blue Hill, Representative PERKINS of Oakland, Representative PERRY of Calais, Representative PERRY of Bangor, Representative PICKETT of Dixfield, Representative PIERCE of Falmouth, Representative PLUECKER of Warren, Representative POIRIER of Skowhegan, Senator POULIOT of Kennebec, Representative PRESCOTT of Waterboro, Representative QUINT of Hodgdon, Senator RAFFERTY of York, Representative RECKITT of South Portland, Representative RIELLY of Westbrook, Representative RISEMAN of Harrison, Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick, Representative ROCHE of Wells, Representative ROEDER of Bangor, Senator ROSEN of Hancock, Representative RUDNICKI of Fairfield, Representative SACHS of Freeport, Representative SALISBURY of Westbrook, Representative SAMPSON of Alfred, Senator SANBORN of Cumberland, Representative SHARPE of Durham, Representative SHEEHAN of Biddeford, Representative SKOLFIELD of Weld, Representative STANLEY of Medway, Representative STEARNS of Guilford, Representative STETKIS of Canaan, Senator STEWART of Aroostook, Representative STOVER of Boothbay, Representative SUPICA of Bangor, Representative SYLVESTER of Portland, Representative TALBOT ROSS of Portland, Representative TEPLER of Topsham, Representative TERRY of Gorham, Representative THERIAULT of China, Representative THORNE of Carmel, Senator TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, Representative TUCKER of Brunswick, Representative TUELL of East Machias, Representative UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle, Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc, Representative WADSWORTH of Hiram, Representative WARREN of Hallowell, Representative WARREN of Scarborough, Representative WHITE of Mars Hill, Representative WHITE of Waterville, Representative WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor, Representative WOOD of Portland, Senator WOODSOME of York, Representative ZAGER of Portland, Representative ZEIGLER of Montville.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative HUTCHINS of Penobscot, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

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

Representative **HUTCHINS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I'd like to thank you all for recognizing the Honorable Mr. Brennan with me today on this sentiment. It's a great pleasure to speak for William Brennan, one of Maine's very talented citizens, a friend and neighbor of mine, in fact. Living in Castine most of his life, I lived in Penobscot, his wife lived in Castine, she lived in the house that my dad built for her family. He's a very talented gentleman, as you just found out by listening to what the Good Clerk wrote, his public service for our beloved State and nation is well known. He was not able to be with us here today, however, that will not diminish the thanks and congratulations we in this chamber send to he and his family on this day. Thank you.

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

Representative **MATLACK**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I've known Dr. Brennan for a number of years. When my family first moved to Castine and I attended the University of Maine, Dr. Brennan gave me a lift to Orono even though he was only going as far as Bangor. So, that's when I first met him lo these many years ago and over the years, I've bumped into him when he worked for Chief Executive McKernan as the Commissioner of Marine Resources. We would chat with him and give him courage to go out yet again and face the public hearings with regard to the lobstermen and all the other missions that he had to undertake in that job. A few years later, when he worked for NOAA, I got an email out of the blue from someone saying so, do you know this Bill Brennan from Castine? I've heard he's a really great guy and I'm glad he's going to be working for NOAA. So, over the years, I've known Bill in many different roles. The one I really enjoy most is the one that he serves in now as president of Maine Maritime Academy. He was a consensus candidate for the job at a time when there was quite a bit of tension between town and gown and the third party in Castine, which is the summer residents. But Bill gracefully, eloquently and with great panache bridged those divides and for 12 years he has served at a school that has saw its star rising even further, its students being able to be hired fresh out of college and start their jobs immediately. And Bill has done a wonderful job in working with everyone across the aisle and across the town of Castine and I'm going to miss his presence but probably I'll get to see him yet again in the end zone when we go watch football games in Maine Maritime Academy. Thank you, sir.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Cape Elizabeth, Representative Millett.

Representative **MILLETT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen. I rise because I do wish that Dr. Brennan could be here with us. I have the deepest respect for his service to our State as the head of Maine Maritime Academy. Over the 10 years that I've served in the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee, he has shown the utmost professionalism, passion for his work and the students and it is with great sadness that I contemplate his departure. It was always such a pleasure to have him be with us in the Education and Cultural Affairs Committee and represent such an esteemed higher education institution in the State of Maine. So, I just wanted to be on record that I wish Dr. Brennan well. I am sure he's made sure that he's leaving the Academy in very good hands but nonetheless, we'll miss him greatly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Bowdoinham, Representative Berry.

Representative **BERRY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House, I am compelled to rise as well and to add my voice because Dr. Brennan was, in many respects, an educator to me even before he was in charge of one of Maine's premier educational institutions. I was a young, impressionable 17-year-old working as an intern in the office of congressman and future Chief Executive John McKernan and at the time Bill Brennan was a legislative aide in charge of, among other policy areas, maritime affairs. And he was always professional, always available to me as a lowly intern and a great steward of the congressman's agenda and, frankly, of the country's as well and of the State of Maine. I could see it in his work then, we all saw it in his work carrying forward the important mission of the Academy and as the

house chair of the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee, I'm especially appreciative of his work in pioneering opportunities for Maine to move forward with our own clean energy independence. He was a great supporter early on of important tidal research for tidal energy as well as critically important research in pioneering the University of Maine's very groundbreaking floating offshore wind technology. So, thank you, Dr. Brennan, congratulations, we look forward to seeing what is next for you and for your family.

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

Representative **FOSTER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I believe I'm the only one here present today that is a graduate of Maine Maritime Academy. And I wasn't going to speak, but I will. And I want to first pass on my congratulations to Dr. Brennan for his moving on, taking this new step in his life. When I was a young fella attending Maine Maritime Academy, I had the pleasure of serving, if you will, under his father, Captain Brennan. Not always a pleasant task. And I remember the days hearing especially from upper classmen some of the stories of a young Dr. Brennan growing up in Castine and some of us never would've imagined that he would one day be actually running the Academy. However, in those days, my final days at the school, I used to walk around and think this is going to be a great college someday. And as the maritime industry had faced many issues with filling the seats at the school and also putting graduates out to sea, the Academy moved and Dr. Brennan carried that on the last years that he's been there and has transformed that school from basically a military academy serving the marine industry to one who still fills that role but is also moved on to welcome in students and train them in other endeavors, always keeping leadership, citizenship and serving their fellow man at the forefront for those students no matter what occupation they trained for and I congratulate him, I wish the best for he and his family. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

In Memory of:

Susan Shaw, of New York City and Blue Hill, Doctor of Public Health and Environmental Health Sciences. Dr. Shaw was globally recognized for her pioneering research on ocean pollution, oil spills and plastics. Her book *Overexposure* was the first to document the health hazards of photographic darkroom chemicals and pointed to a link between these chemicals and cancer and ultimately transformed the field. In 1989, she moved to Blue Hill to work on her dissertation and founded the Marine Environmental Research Institute, later renamed the Shaw Institute, a nonprofit scientific institution with the mission of improving human and ecological health through innovative science and strategic partnerships. Named *Gulf of Maine Visionary* in 2007, she was credited as the first scientist to reveal widespread contamination of fish and marine mammals in the northwest Atlantic from flame retardant chemicals leaching from furniture. An outspoken voice on ocean pollution, she was the first scientist to dive into the Gulf of Mexico in 2010 to assess the BP oil spill, influencing the national debate on the dangers of dispersant chemicals. In 2012, she launched the first studies of microplastics in the Gulf of Maine, which led to state and national bans of microbeads. More recently, she worked to advance the understanding of the human health effects of microplastics and promote effective

plastic reduction strategies on a global scale and to expose the illegal plastic waste trade and its catastrophic effect on the health of children in developing nations. Dr. Shaw will be long remembered and sadly missed by her family and friends and all those whose lives she touched;

(HLS 525)

Presented by Representative PEBWORTH of Blue Hill.

Cosponsored by Senator MIRAMANT of Knox.

On **OBJECTION** of Representative PEBWORTH of Blue Hill, was **REMOVED** from the Special Sentiment Calendar.

READ.

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

Representative **PEBORTH**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. We've suffered so much loss. Sometimes it's hard to remember that loss is an opportunity to celebrate someone, to be inspired by a life well lived. It is in that spirit that I rise today to remember Dr. Susan Shaw. You have heard about some of Dr. Shaw's many accomplishments just now. She was a scientist who spent her career, really her life, researching and speaking out about health hazards, dangerous chemicals, unsafe waters. But Dr. Shaw and her wife, Cynthia Stroud, found time for that work-life balance we hear so much about. They played Petanque, a game like Bocci but French and were national champions of the sport and founding members of the Maine Boules Club. Thank you for joining me today in honoring Dr. Susan Shaw. I hope you are inspired as well.

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**.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

Divided Report

Majority Report of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act To Require Law Enforcement Agencies To Retain Serial Numbers of Stolen Firearms"

(H.P. 1340) (L.D. 1799)

Signed:

Senators:

DESCHAMBAULT of York
CYRWAY of Kennebec

Representatives:

WARREN of Hallowell
COSTAIN of Plymouth
NEWMAN of Belgrade
PICKETT of Dixfield
PLUECKER of Warren
RECKITT of South Portland
RUDNICKI of Fairfield
SHARPE of Durham

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Representatives:

LOOKNER of Portland
MORALES of South Portland

READ.

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

Majority Report of the Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-760)** on Bill "An Act To Support Statewide Economic Recovery through Strategic Investments"

(H.P. 1334) (L.D. 1793)

Signed:

Senators:

CURRY of Waldo
CYRWAY of Kennebec
RAFFERTY of York

Representatives:

ROBERTS of South Berwick
AUSTIN of Gray
BERNARD of Caribou
COLLAMORE of Pittsfield
DUCHARME of Madison
GEIGER of Rockland
HASENFUS of Readfield
LaROCHELLE of Augusta
PEBORTH of Blue Hill

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

Signed:

Representative:

ANDREWS of Paris

READ.

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

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

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

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Paris, Representative Andrews.

Representative **ANDREWS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On its surface, LD 1793 seems like a routine housekeeping department bill. That's the problem; it's a routine department bill that grants itself new centralized power and rulemaking authority. We as legislators need to stop blindly rubberstamping department bills simply because they come from a government agency. In the age of COVID and the era of expedited government growth, authority and coercion, we can no longer simply trust that government departments have the best interests of our constituents or constituents' businesses at heart. Government has abused their proper role and they need to earn back the peoples' trust. It is imperative that we go through every bill, especially department bills, with a fine-tooth comb to see if there is any chance that the proposed legislation could be used to consolidate power. We need to measure whether that consolidated power could be used to segregate, coerce, or punish a Maine citizen or business if

their opinion differs from the unelected bureaucrats in the central planning office who run our lives.

Administrative departments should not be granting themselves more authority to centralize power away from the people who pay taxes and live in Maine. Mr. Speaker, this bill touches on one of the main themes that I have noticed this session and that is to centralize power into the hands of a few in unelected offices in Augusta and to take it away from the grassroots elected leadership in towns and communities all across this State. LD 1793 was stripped and replaced with an amendment that grants the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development unilateral authority to act alone to broker economic development deals and to create rules on how to distribute economic development funds. This is too much power to be given to one person. Where is the oversight and where are the checks and balances? During the January 20th work session for LD 1793 in the IDFB committee, I asked the Commissioner the following: Hypothetically, in terms of disbursement of funds, would rulemaking authority allow, hypothetically, for businesses or whoever to get access to these funds to have to comply with any COVID restrictions or mandates put in place by any section of government. I continued, with that rulemaking authority, and that can be done if people wanted to do that. The Commissioner replied yes, that's right, rulemaking is there in case we need to utilize it. I would argue that this departmental rulemaking provision allows an opportunity to coerce through the force of government if it is deemed that the government needs to make businesses bend the knee to their potential future mandates in order to receive these funds. I cannot vote for a bill that would allow for this to happen, even if it only exists in the hypothetical realm for now.

In the age of COVID regulation and mandates, we have seen hypothetical become a harsh reality all too often. We as a legislative Body were wrong to give away our power to the Chief Executive at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. We must stop continuing to give away the involvement and decision; making from the Legislature. We are the peoples' representatives and we must begin to speak and fight for them no matter how small the technicality or possibility. I know that my constituents would not want me to go quietly into the night and rubberstamp department bills that expand and grow the power base of the administrative, bureaucratic state. Mr. Speaker, the essential role of government is to protect our God-given rights. It is not to wield a carrot or a stick depending on the situation, to get people to do what the administrative state wants because bureaucrats feel they know what's best for those they seek to rule. If our government could get back to preserving our essential liberty instead of running our lives, our businesses and bank accounts, we would all be better off. This bill consolidates power and decision-making into one person and allows for potential tyranny through rulemaking. It should be voted down and replaced with a bill that allows the department to still be nimble to disburse funds in a fair manner for all businesses that can demonstrate being impacted by COVID and never have their qualification for aid be measured by past or future compliance with mandates. I thank you for the time and please follow my light.

Representative ROBERTS of South Berwick **REQUESTED** that the Clerk **READ** the Committee Report.

The Clerk **READ** the Committee Report in its entirety.

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

ROLL CALL NO. 449

YEA - Arford, Austin, Babbidge, Bell, Bernard, Berry, Bickford, Blume, Boyle, Bradstreet, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Caiazzo, Cardone, Cloutier, Collamore, Collings, Copeland, Corey, Costain, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Cuddy, Dillingham, Dodge, Doudera, Downes, Ducharme, Dunphy, Evangelos, Evans, Fay, Geiger, Gere, Gramlich, Grohoski, Hall, Harnett, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hymanson, Kessler, Kinney, Landry, LaRochelle, Lookner, Madigan, Martin J, Martin R, Mathieson, Matlack, McCrea, McCreight, Melaragno, Meyer, Millett H, Millett R, Morales, Moriarty, Morris, Nadeau, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Parry, Paulhus, Pebworth, Perry A, Perry J, Pierce, Pluecker, Reckitt, Rielly, Riseman, Roberts, Roche, Roeder, Sachs, Salisbury, Sheehan, Stearns, Stover, Sylvester, Talbot Ross, Tepler, Terry, Theriault, Tuell, Warren C, Warren S, White, Williams, Wood, Zager, Zeigler, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Andrews, Arata, Blier, Carmichael, Connor, Drinkwater, Foster, Greenwood, Griffin, Haggan, Hanley, Harrington, Hutchins, Javner, Lemelin, Libby, Lyford, Lyman, Martin, Mason, Newman, O'Connor, Ordway, Perkins, Poirier, Quint, Rudnicki, Sampson, Skolfield, Stetkis, Thorne, Underwood, White.

ABSENT - Alley, Carlow, Cebra, Dolloff, Faulkingham, Gifford, Grignon, Head, Kryzak, McDonald, Pickett, Prescott, Sharpe, Stanley, Supica, Tucker, Wadsworth.

Yes, 98; No, 33; Absent, 17; Vacant, 3; Excused, 0.

98 having voted in the affirmative and 33 voted in the negative, 3 vacancies with 17 being absent, and accordingly the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-760)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-760)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-759)** on Bill "An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Small Enterprise Growth Program"

(H.P. 1341) (L.D. 1800)

Signed:

Senators:

CURRY of Waldo
CYRWAY of Kennebec
RAFFERTY of York

Representatives:

ROBERTS of South Berwick
AUSTIN of Gray
BERNARD of Caribou
COLLAMORE of Pittsfield
DUCHARME of Madison
GEIGER of Rockland
HASENFUS of Readfield
LaROCHELLE of Augusta
PEBWORTH of Blue Hill

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

Signed:

Representative:
ANDREWS of Paris

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-759)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-759)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-762)** on Bill "An Act Clarifying the Right to Legal Representation for Individuals Subject to Guardianship"

(H.P. 1325) (L.D. 1774)

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland
KEIM of Oxford
SANBORN of Cumberland

Representatives:

HARNETT of Gardiner
BABBIDGE of Kennebunk
EVANGELOS of Friendship
HAGGAN of Hampden
LIBBY of Auburn
MORIARTY of Cumberland
POIRIER of Skowhegan
RECKITT of South Portland
SHEEHAN of Biddeford

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

Signed:

Representative:
THORNE of Carmel

Representative NEWELL of the Passamaquoddy Tribe - of the House - supports the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-762)** Report.

READ.

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

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-762)** was **READ** by the Clerk and **ADOPTED**.

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

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-762)** and sent for concurrence.

Majority Report of the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on Bill "An Act To Expand the Rights of Public Sector Employees"

(H.P. 400) (L.D. 555)

Signed:

Senators:

HICKMAN of Kennebec
GUERIN of Penobscot

Representatives:

BRADSTREET of Vassalboro
CUDDY of Winterport
DRINKWATER of Milford
MORRIS of Turner
PEBWORTH of Blue Hill
PRESCOTT of Waterboro
ROEDER of Bangor
WARREN of Scarborough

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-755)** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

MIRAMANT of Knox

READ.

Representative SYLVESTER of Portland moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought Not to Pass** Report.

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

Representative **SYLVESTER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, this is my bill. It's the bill that is the public sector --

The **SPEAKER**: The Member will defer. The House will be in order. If you have a conversation you'd like to have, please take it behind the glass or in the hallway. The Member may proceed.

Representative **SYLVESTER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Now I'll just have to speak louder. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wanted to speak briefly on this bill for a couple different reasons. This is my bill, it's a public sector right to strike bill and the unions with whom I put this bill in in conjunction have asked me to not pursue it and I wanted to speak briefly about why I thought, for those listening at home, that strikes are important and why I thought public sector workers were important. For those who are historically bent, the first documented strike in what is now the United States of America was the Jamestown Polish Craftsmen's Strike of 1619. Skilled Polish craftsmen were sent to Jamestown by the Virginia Company to produce tar, pitch and turpentine that was used for shipbuilding. They were not allowed the right to vote as they were not of English origin so they went on strike and won the right to vote and to have their voices heard and counted. Right here in Colonial Maine, indentured servants and fishermen withheld their labor in what has been called by historians the Mutiny of Indentured Servants and Fishermen of 1636. The issue? The boat owners in this case literally held control of all the financial resources and the workers had no other choice but to refuse their work until they were paid.

Now, the good public workers of this country follow these two things; the first two strikes in this country were about democracy, Mr. Speaker and about workers getting what they

were promised. Every day the public workers of this State wake up and they are asking the question how do they make our lives better, how do they keep us safe, how do they make our State better. It has been my incredible honor for the last almost six years to wake up every day thinking about those public workers and the workers of our State, about how we could make their lives better, about how we could make their lives safer, about how they could have a voice in the workplace like those workers in Virginia and how they would get what they were promised like those workers here in Maine. Yet I will respect the voice of those workers who wish not to pursue this bill at this time because they are trying to keep us safe. And I want to thank everyone in this chamber for keeping them in our thoughts as we move the legislation the rest of this session. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

First Day

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

(H.P. 1310) (L.D. 1759) Bill "An Act To Extend the Legal Hours for Harvesting Lobster in the Month of September" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 1342) (L.D. 1801) Bill "An Act To Modify Exemptions for Certain Storm Water Discharges to Class AA and SA Waters" (EMERGENCY) Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 1363) (L.D. 1842) Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 120: Release of Data to the Public, a Major Substantive Rule of the Maine Health Data Organization (EMERGENCY) Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 1375) (L.D. 1865) Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 34: Child Care Provider (Child Care Facilities and Family Child Care Providers) Background Check Licensing Rule, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services (EMERGENCY) Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 1429) (L.D. 1921) Resolve, Authorizing the State To Convey to the Passamaquoddy Tribe the State's Interest in a Parcel of Land in the Town of Meddybemps Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** reporting **Ought to Pass**

(H.P. 795) (L.D. 1080) Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services To Update the Rights of Recipients of Mental Health Services Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-758)**

(H.P. 963) (L.D. 1307) Bill "An Act To Restrict the Sale, Purchase and Use of Fireworks in the State" Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-757)**

(H.P. 1319) (L.D. 1768) Bill "An Act To Allow the Private Sale of Certain State Surplus Property to State Employees" Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-761)**

(H.P. 1345) (L.D. 1803) Bill "An Act To Attract and Retain Firefighters and Emergency Medical Services Personnel through the Maine Length of Service Award Program" Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-756)**

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

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

ENACTORS

Emergency Measure

An Act To Make a Technical Correction Concerning Maine's Earned Income Tax Credit

(H.P. 1315) (L.D. 1764)

(C. "A" H-753)

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. 122 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 283: Newborn Bloodspot Screening Rule, Section 14, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Health and Human Services, Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention

(H.P. 1362) (L.D. 1841)

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. 119 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Resolve was **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Emergency Measure

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 305: Rules and Regulations Pertaining to Traffic Movement Permits, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Transportation

(H.P. 1372) (L.D. 1851)

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. 117 voted in favor of the same and 0 against, and accordingly the Resolve was **FINALLY PASSED**, signed by the Speaker and sent to the Senate.

Acts

An Act To Amend the Charter of the Boothbay Harbor Sewer District To Set the Terms of Its Trustees at 3 Years
(H.P. 1311) (L.D. 1760)

An Act To Remove Watson's Bridge in the Town of Littleton from the List of Historic Bridges for Which the State Is Responsible for Maintenance and Rehabilitation
(H.P. 1317) (L.D. 1766)

An Act To Ensure Tribal Representation in the Public Health Infrastructure
(H.P. 1318) (L.D. 1767)

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

Resolves

Resolve, Authorizing the State Tax Assessor To Convey the Interest of the State in Certain Real Estate in the Unorganized Territory
(H.P. 1335) (L.D. 1794)
(C. "A" H-752)

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

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

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act To Sustain Good-paying Jobs in the Forest Products Industry by Ensuring Consistency between Comprehensive River Resource Management Plans and State Water Quality Standards"
(S.P. 710) (L.D. 1979)

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

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

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

Bill "An Act To Amend the Charter of the Gray Water District"
(S.P. 704) (L.D. 1967)

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

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

Bill "An Act To Support Frontline Health Care Workers by Waiving Professional Licensing Fees"
(S.P. 705) (L.D. 1973)

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

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

Bill "An Act To Create Higher Standards for State-owned and State-managed Land for Deer Management"
(S.P. 692) (L.D. 1965)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** and ordered printed.
REFERRED to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Facilitate Access to Heating Assistance"
(S.P. 702) (L.D. 1966)

Came from the Senate, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** and ordered printed.
REFERRED to the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** in concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Create a Small Nonprofit Raffle Operator License"
(S.P. 711) (L.D. 1980)

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

Pursuant to Statute

Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Report of the **Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources** pursuant to Joint Rule 353 asks leave to report that the accompanying Bill "An Act To Update Certain Water Quality Standards and To Reclassify Certain Waters of the State"
(S.P. 690) (L.D. 1964)

Be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** and printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Came from the Senate, Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** in concurrence.

Pursuant to Statute

Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Report of the **Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources** pursuant to Joint Rule 353 asks leave to report that the accompanying Bill "An Act To Establish and Fund the Maine Climate Corps Program Pursuant to Recommendations in the Report Required by Resolve 2021, Chapter 25"
(S.P. 706) (L.D. 1974)

Be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** and printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Came from the Senate, Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** in concurrence.

Pursuant to Statute

Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business

Report of the **Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business** pursuant to Resolve 2021, chapter 76, section 3 asks leave to report that the accompanying Bill "An Act To Require Registration by General Contractors for Home Improvement and Construction"

(S.P. 708) (L.D. 1977)

Be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** and printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Came from the Senate, Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** in concurrence.

Pursuant to Statute

Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business

Report of the **Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business** pursuant to Resolve 2021, chapter 64, section 2 asks leave to report that the accompanying Bill "An Act To Promote Home Ownership by Reducing Education Debt"

(S.P. 709) (L.D. 1978)

Be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** and printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Came from the Senate, Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** in concurrence.

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

The following Joint Order: (S.P. 703)

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

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

READ and **PASSED** in concurrence.

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

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Old Town, Representative Dunphy, who wishes to address the House on the record.

Representative **DUNPHY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Women and Men of the House, today marks the sad occasion of the lone red roses on the desks of two of our colleagues. In this strange time, during a global pandemic, we haven't come together with the degree of frequency that we typically do. So, like a far-flung family that only meets for an occasional dinner, there's much to catch up on and reflect over. The recent passing of Representatives John Tuttle and Donna Doore came as a shock. While they had their health challenges, their infallible good cheer always left me with a smile. And so, I think many of us assumed that we would see them again this week, faithfully at their desks, doing the peoples' business as they had for so very long. Many of us served with John and Donna on committees or worked with them in their communities and I'm sure their neighbors and constituents are going to miss them sorely as well. Today, Mr. Speaker, as I look around this chamber where we have debated, voted, raged, have seen the smiles of triumphs and the tears of defeat, I'm reminded of the true family that we share with each other as we come together as a legislature. When I was first elected to this Body, a former Member told me to keep a copy of the House and Senate Register in my car. The reason, he said, is that if you run out of gas or your car breaks down anywhere in this State, you look up your local representative and they will come help you.

Mr. Speaker, one incredibly important thing I've learned is that the people we get to meet and work with become so much more than our colleagues. They truly become beloved friends and family. That same former Member told me that I would come to realize that we will never again have as much in common with anyone outside of this chamber as we do with anyone we have served with in this chamber. John Tuttle and Donna Doore were my friends. They loved their communities and their neighbors and they loved this institution and both were immensely proud to serve. And they loved all of us. We've suffered a terrible loss in their passing and it should remind us to take an extra moment of kindness with each other as we continue to strive to do our best work. And I think we owe that to them. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

At this point, the Senate came and a Joint Convention was formed.

In Convention

The President of the Senate, the Honorable Troy D., Jackson in the Chair.

The Convention was called to order by the Chair.

On motion of Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc, it was **ORDERED**, that a Committee be appointed to wait upon the First Family of the State of Maine inviting them to attend this Joint Convention now assembled in the Hall of the House for the purpose of extending to Governor Janet T., Mills an invitation to attend and make such communication as she may be pleased to make.

The **ORDER** was **READ** and **PASSED**.

The Chair appointed the following:

The Sen. from Penobscot, Senator BALDACCI
The Sen. from Androscoggin, Senator CLAXTON
The Rep. from St. George, Representative MATLACK
The Rep. from Windham, Representative BRYANT
The Rep. from Bath, Representative PAULHUS
The Rep. from Saco, Representative COPELAND
The Rep. from East Machias, Representative TUELL
The Rep. from Bethel, Representative HEAD
The Rep. from Bucksport, Representative DOWNES
The Rep. from Wales, Representative GREENWOOD
The Rep. from Harrison, Representative RISEMAN

Subsequently, Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot, for the Committee, reported that the Committee had delivered the message with which it was charged and that the Honorable Janet T., Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, and the First Family would attend forthwith.

The Chair welcomed in the House Gallery the First Family of the State of Maine.

On motion of Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc, it was ORDERED, that a Committee be appointed to wait upon the Honorable Janet T., Mills Governor of the State of Maine and Chief Justice Valerie Stanfill extending to them an invitation to attend this Joint Convention and to extending to Governor Janet T., Mills an invitation to make such communication as she may be pleased to make.

The ORDER was READ and **PASSED**.

The Chair appointed the following:

The Sen. from CUMBERLAND, Senator DAUGHTRY
The Sen. from Penobscot, Senator GUERIN
The Rep. from Portland, Representative SYLVESTER
The Rep. from Winterport, Representative CUDDY
The Rep. from Blue Hill, Representative PEBWORTH
The Rep. from Kennebunkport, Representative GERE
The Rep. from Bangor, Representative ROEDER
The Rep. from Vassalboro, Representative BRADSTREET
The Rep. from Turner, Representative MORRIS
The Rep. from Waterboro, Representative PRESCOTT
The Rep. from Milford, Representative DRINKWATER
The Rep. from Scarborough, Representative WARREN

The Chair recognized in the House Gallery the Constitutional and Statutory Officers of the State of Maine: Secretary of State Shenna Bellows, Attorney General Aaron Frey, State Treasurer Henry Beck, and State Auditor Jacob Norton.

The Chair recognized in the House Gallery Maine's Tribal Leaders: Chief Kirk Francis of the Penobscot Nation, Chief William J. Nicholas Senior of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, Chief Edward Peter Paul of the Aroostook Band and Micmacs, Chief Clarissa Sabattis of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians, Vice Chief/Governor Elizabeth Dana of the Passamaquoddy Tribe.

The Chair further recognized in the House Gallery, the Leaders of Higher Education for the State of Maine: Dannel P. Malloy, Chancellor of the University of Maine System, David

Daigler, President of Maine Community College System and Dr. Joan Ferrini-Mundy, President of the University of Maine.

The Chair also recognized in the House Gallery, Members of the Governor's Cabinet, Commissioners: Amanda Beal, Judith Camuso, Denise Garland, Major General Douglas Farnham, Kirsten Figueroa, Laura Fortman, Anne Head, Heather Johnson, Patrick Keliher, Jeanne Lambrew, Randall Liberty, Melanie Loyzim, Pender Makin, John Rohde, Mike Sauschuck, Dr. Nirav Shah and Bruce Van Note.

The Chair further recognized the following Municipal Mayors: Carl Sheline, Mayor of Lewiston, Kate Snyder, Mayor of Portland and Rick Fournier, Council Chair of Bangor.

Subsequently, Senator DAUGHTRY of Brunswick, for the Committee, reported that the Committee had delivered the message with which it was charged and that the Honorable Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, accompanied by Chief Justice Valerie Stanfill, would attend forthwith.

The Chair welcomed to the Joint Convention the Honorable Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, accompanied by the Honorable Valerie Stanfill, Chief Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court.

The Chair recognized the evening's Herald, Maine Army National Guard Second Lieutenant Joshua S. Berberich.

The Chair welcomed the Honorable Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, to the rostrum.

Governor Mills then addressed the Convention.

Governor **MILLS**: Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you so much. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you, President Jackson, Speaker Fecteau, Chief Justice Stanfill, Secretary Bellows, Attorney General Frey, Treasurer Beck, Auditor Norton, Distinguished Members of the 130th Maine Legislature, Distinguished Mayors and Honored Guests, it's good to be back.

Tonight is the first time in two years we've been together in this chamber. I'm here to continue the story I shared then; a story about the promise of our State and the progress we have made to reach our peoples' full potential. As we emerge from the early dark days of January, as a waxing moon sheds light on a dramatic midwinter landscape, it's a good time to take stock, to reflect our common history, our community progress and our communal future, to assess the State of the State. We've been through some difficult and dangerous times these last 23 months. This State and this nation have endured a time like none other, fending off a pervasive, unceasing threat to our lives and our livelihoods. We in Maine have never had it easy, never been able to take things for granted. We don't welcome tough times but we're not afraid of them, either. And as any good Maine forester will tell you, good timber does not grow in ease, the stronger wind, the tougher trees; isn't that right, President Jackson?

Our presence in this chamber tonight is a sign of progress, of recovery. A step forward in our march towards normalcy and stability, especially from where we have been.

Early in the pandemic, with no experience with this novel virus, I, like virtually every chief executive across the nation took steps to protect the health of Maine people, following the best available science to protect lives. Now, with the development of vaccines, now available to nearly everyone, science delivered to us the life-saving miracle we needed and, with it, the responsibility to protect lives no longer belonged to me alone, it became then, as it is now, both a personal responsibility to protect yourself and a shared responsibility to protect us all. We have arrived at yet another inflection point in this winding pandemic, a hopeful moment as we welcome downward trends and declining hospitalizations, a warmer, brighter spring as we emerge from the cold, dark winter. Yes, we are tired. Yes, we are weary. But we are strong. If nothing else, the two years of this pandemic have shown us that we are stronger than we ever imagined. Last year's emergency measures no longer serve the purposes they once did, nor should they. As science and trends evolve, our response evolves as well. And today we focus not on telling people what they cannot do, we focus on telling people what they can and should do. We focus on preserving the most vital facets of our lives; our schools, our hospitals, our jobs.

As the storm of the pandemic endures with peaks and valleys to come, my pledge to you is this; we will work day and night to make vaccines and tests accessible to all, to keep our children safe in their schools, to work in close partnership with our health care systems, ensuring critical care for all those who need it, not just those with COVID and to keep our businesses open and thriving and our economy moving forward.

We will continue to expect the unexpected as commonsense, common courtesy and vigilance rightfully replace fear and anger, as we protect ourselves from the known risks and take care that our individual actions do not jeopardize the health of others. And as the vaccine becomes available for our youngest children, as more people are fully vaccinated and obtain even greater protection with booster shots, we will continue to recommend the commonsense measures that keep our State safe, adjusting to meet changing circumstances. You can all do your part by getting vaccinated. More than one million of you have done so and to each of you, I am deeply grateful. You are why I am proud to report that Maine is one of the most highly-vaccinated states in the nation and despite being one of the oldest states, we have one of the lowest COVID death rates in the nation. Our goal has been to save lives and we have succeeded better than nearly every other state.

This success, however, is cold comfort to the loved ones of those who lost their lives to this insidious virus, the more than 1,800 Maine people; fathers, mothers, grandparents, friends; whose absence is felt painfully every day. Tonight, we also feel the loss of two good people who served so ably in this Legislature; our good friend Representative John Tuttle of Sanford and a friend to all, Representative Donna Doore of Augusta. May we please bow our heads in a moment of remembrance for those good souls and for our fellow citizens who lost their lives.

As we look across the State of Maine right now, we still see local hospitals trying to stay on top of the extraordinary crush of very ill, mostly unvaccinated, patients fighting for their very breath. We see children resilient in the face of great difficulty, desperate for stability, socialization and education. We see parents persevering but searching for a break, hoping not to get the call that the daycare center has been closed because they know they can't afford to miss work. We see citizen school boards patiently listening to students, teachers

and parents and deliberating about the right measures to keep kids in school while protecting everyone from the virus. We see farmers, fishermen, loggers and haulers trying to keep up with the swings and demand, the uncertainty of markets and offshore supplies and for the lobster industry, arbitrary federal regulations over the Gulf of Maine. We see an economy making a historic comeback but challenged by longstanding difficulties, like a shortage of workers, while shops and manufacturers, trades and service providers are anxiously trying to fill thousands of jobs. We see Maine people struggling with the exorbitant electric bills and inflation at the pump, at the grocery store, paying more of their hard-earned paycheck just for basics. We must work together to address these challenges.

But there are also things we cannot see as readily that show that our State is on the road to recovery. Maine's economy, like that of the rest of the nation, is making a comeback. Maine's Gross Domestic Product, a key measure of economic growth, has not only fully bounced back from the pandemic, it has, in fact, surpassed pre-pandemic projections. Indeed, from when I took office through the third quarter of last year, our GDP grew at the second-fastest rate in New England and the 14th-fastest rate in the nation. And our unemployment rate, 4.7%, still too high, has fallen by nearly half from a pandemic high of 9.1%. Jobless rates in the Bangor area have fallen to 3.8%, 4% in Lewiston and Auburn and 3.4% in Portland and South Portland. That's progress. Only about 6,000 people are actually receiving unemployment benefits right now, a number that is comparable to the number before the pandemic. Our auto, building supply, lodging, retail and restaurant sales all were up this summer. Our international exports are up and on track to be the best since 2012. Our tourism industry had a banner summer season. Our State parks saw a record number of visitors, more than 3.3 million last year alone, with thousands more already booked for this year.

Maine families are enjoying their State and people are coming here, enjoying what we have to offer and contributing to our economy. Thank you, Commissioner Beal and your staff for being such good stewards of our public parks and campgrounds. Our population is growing at the second-highest rate in New England and we have the seventh-highest rate of net migration in the nation. Now, there's a change for you! We are encouraging new, innovative businesses with exciting partners like the Roux Institute and welcoming new businesses across the State, like the data and tech company, Dynamic, coming to Lewiston, Maine. Congratulations, Mayor Sheline.

Our credit ratings have been reaffirmed, even as other states were downgraded, by credit rating agencies who cited our governance practices and the growth of our Rainy Day Fund as signs of stability. Our Rainy Day Fund has more than doubled under my administration to nearly \$500 million. Let me repeat. Let me repeat; half a billion dollars. The highest it's ever been. We have returned \$371 million to Maine people and Maine businesses including sending those \$285 checks to more than 500,000 hardworking men and women in Maine and millions more in tax relief for Maine businesses and Maine people. And after passing strong, balanced budgets, the most recent one supported by nearly every Member of this chamber, we are reporting a record budget surplus of \$822 million and this is thanks to good fiscal management and to our careful allocation of federal and State pandemic relief including hundreds of millions of dollars in grant funding to keep Maine's small businesses open and their employees on the job. Oh,

and we've achieved this, all of this, without raising any taxes. All of this is progress. At the same time, Maine is not immune from the impact of pandemic-driven inflation, from higher energy prices caused by a reliance on fossil fuels, to supply chain issues that contribute to higher prices at the grocery store for everything from potato chips to plasticware to Ramen noodles and cat food and even a scarcity of chocolate milk in Houlton and Moxie in Lisbon. A global pandemic has had very real and very clear impacts on the national economy and those impacts are felt here in Maine. While I can't control the impact of COVID-19 on global markets, I can make sure that we deliver to Maine people the resources they need to grapple with these rising costs as we rebuild a stronger, sustainable economy that is more resilient to the whims of the rest of the world.

Now, many of my friends on the other side of the aisle, like Senate Minority Leader Jeff Timberlake and House budget leader Sawin Millett, have called for a return of half the surplus to Maine people through direct checks. I think they're right. I propose that we send half of this surplus, \$411 million, back to the people of Maine. These givebacks by direct checks to the people will amount to about \$500 a person and will be distributed to an estimated 800,000 taxpayers in Maine to help them offset added costs. Well, as we continue to rebuild our economy, we know what the largest impediment is to sustained growth. It's the same issue that has garnered headlines for the past decade; Maine's workforce shortage. Headlines like: Here are the jobs Maine employers struggle to fill. That headline is from the *Bangor Daily News*, November 2015. Quote, some Farmington area stores struggle to get employees, the *Sun Journal*, July 2018. Oh, and what's next for Maine's labor shortage, *MaineBiz*, December 10, 2018. Sound familiar? We know Maine has long grappled with an aging and declining population, with so many young people leaving our State in search of opportunities elsewhere. The pandemic didn't help our workforce by any means. The Maine Department of Labor estimates that of 22,000 people no longer in our workforce, more than 15,000 of them likely retired, a trend that is consistent with the rest of the country. Our workforce shortage is a serious problem. It is a problem I inherited, but it is not one that I will leave to our grandchildren to solve. It will take hard work, not simplistic solutions, but we know what we need to do. Maine people are telling us they need child care, they need housing, the need broadband and that they need good health care and strong public schools for their kids. I agree. This is why we have adopted a comprehensive approach to child care, broadband, housing and health care through the Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan and it's why I welcome a bipartisan effort to improve our schools and make every child ready for a career and a meaningful life in the State we hope they will always call home.

I have five wonderful grandchildren, all here in Maine. One is an adult with special needs, two are young men in college and two are just starting out their academic careers in kindergarten and pre-K. Now, Noel and Brookie, if you're watching tonight, you better be in your pajamas, getting ready for bed. But their hardworking parents, like all Maine parents, juggle jobs, daycare, tuition and books, fuel and groceries. They ask every day what will tomorrow be like for my child. I want us to do everything we can for families like these all across our State, to allow them to stay in Maine and succeed in Maine. We know that lack of quality, affordable child care prevents people from taking jobs, from starting new businesses, from moving to rural communities and it deprives kids of important developmental care. That's why we're taking

this issue head on. We created the first-ever Child Care Plan for Maine that invests approximately \$120 million in American Rescue Funds to help Maine's child care system recover and improve child care quality, accessibility and affordability over the long-term. With this funding, we've provided \$200 monthly stipends to more than 6,000 child care workers to encourage them to work in this valuable profession and now we're investing another \$25 million in federal funds to help renovate, expand, or build new child care facilities and expand early childhood education programs. But we also need to do more. Speaker Fecteau has proposed legislation to provide pay increases for child care workers. I support this proposal. To deliver on it, my supplemental budget will include more than \$12 million to increase pay for our child care workers. This is progress.

The lack of available, affordable housing is also a serious barrier to entering the workforce and Maine's chronic housing shortage, long neglected in the past, has only gotten worse during the pandemic. One of the first things I did as Chief Executive, you'll remember, was to sign the \$15 million senior housing bond, overwhelmingly approved by Maine voters in 2015 but which was never released by the previous administration. Now, we have built more than 200 new housing units for low-income seniors, all of them now occupied or nearly complete and weatherized 100 more with that bond.

Two years ago, I asked you to enact Speaker Fecteau's bill to establish the Maine Affordable Housing Tax Credit. You did so and I was proud to sign into law the single largest State investment in housing in Maine's history. This summer we broke ground on the first major housing project under that law and it is making a difference. Under my Maine Jobs and Recovery Plan, we are investing \$50 million to increase the number of energy-efficient, affordable homes for working Maine people. Ten million dollars of that is going out the door right now and is intended to result in about 150 new affordable homes. This is progress. We must make home ownership and affordable rentals reachable for more Maine people. It is both economic and a moral imperative. Another thing keeping too many people from working, especially in rural areas, is the lack of affordable, effective broadband. I know you hear it everywhere across the State. High-speed internet is no longer a luxury, it is a basic necessity, as fundamental as electricity, heat and water. Two years ago, I asked you to support a \$15 million bond to expand internet for the first time in more than a decade. You agreed and the voters approved and those funds have already brought high-speed internet to more than 11,000 homes and businesses all across Maine. Thank you. We then proposed, and you enacted, with bipartisan support a new entity charged with achieving universal internet access in Maine; the Maine Connectivity Authority. With this new authority up and running and with the support of American Rescue Funds, I pledge to you tonight that every person in Maine who wants to connect to high-speed internet will be able to do so by 2024, just two short years from now. We will make Maine one of the most competitive and desirable places to live in, work in, raise a family and stay connected to the world.

Reliable child care, affordable housing, high-speed internet; all of these things are key to people being able to enter and stay in the workforce and provide for their families. But we've got to also do more to help people get ready for work and careers to begin with and that starts with our youngest kids. That's why when I took office, I reinvigorated the Children's Cabinet, neglected in previous years, to accomplish two goals. One, to ensure that all Maine children enter kindergarten prepared to succeed. And, two, to ensure that all

Maine kids are able to enter adulthood in good health, with a good education and ready for a good-paying job. Beginning with pre-K, we're delivering on these plans. Pre-K, we know, promotes child development, improves early literacy, math, social/emotional skills and bolsters student success. My administration has increased our investment in public pre-K programs by \$5.4 million, resulting in 90 more pre-K classrooms across the State. And just last month, we announced grants from the Maine Jobs & Recovery Plan to 14 school districts, from Kittery and Sanford to Caribou and Greenville and in between, to further expand pre-K to more than 500 children across Maine and there is more to come. I am also proud of the progress we've achieved in kindergarten through 12th grade. Working with you, we've raised the minimum teacher's salary to \$40,000 and we delivered on one of our most fundamental commitments. For the first time in Maine history, we met the State's longstanding commitment to fund 55% of the cost of education. No longer will we underfund education in the State of Maine, as past administrations have done. We will maintain this commitment to our students, to our teachers, to our municipalities, to our property taxpayers. And to help us do so, tonight, I propose creating an education stabilization fund, capitalized with \$30 million from the General Fund, from that surplus, to continue delivering on that promise to our kids, our schools, our teachers, our towns. It is the fiscally responsible thing and the morally right thing to do by our people. In other words, it's progress. We all know, too, that students can't learn on an empty stomach. Last year, the Legislature, led by President Jackson, got rid of the distinction between paid lunch and free lunch, reduced lunch and they asked us to pick up the cost of these school meals once federal funding ended. I am pleased to announce that my supplemental budget will include money to fully fund universal free meals in our schools. It's time to keep feeding our children good food, more and more of it Maine grown, Maine fished, Maine farmed. And, to that same end, to get more Maine-grown food into our schools and towns and to extend the growing season. I'm recommending we provide one-time funds to offer Maine-built greenhouses to as many schools and communities as possible to promote community gardens and teach kids and families how to grow their own food.

So, Maine has placed a high priority on keeping classrooms open, but even so, too many kids have lost the vital connections with their school, their friends, their teachers, their academic path. Children need structure. They need to be in school. But kids can also learn while doing and they can learn outside the walls of a classroom, too. I want to show Maine kids the breadth and depth, the experience of our State. Let them hike the trails of western Maine, learn boating at a 4-H camp, feed the tilapia fish that are fertilizing gardens at Herring Gut Learning Center in Port Clyde or SpringWorks in Lisbon, tend the State's aquarium in Boothbay, learn forestry at an outdoor ed center in Brewer, explore Burnt Island, Hurricane Island and learn how OceansWide is retrieving ghost gear from the ocean bottom, ford the streams at Baxter State Park, see all the research done at the University of Maine, at UNE, at UMaine Machias, the Darling Center, the Bigelow Labs, Jackson Labs and the Gulf of Maine Research Institute. So much to offer. Education is changing in many new and exciting ways and we should be at the forefront, preparing our children, introducing them to the great outdoors and offering them hands-on experiences outside the classroom that will spark new perspectives, engender new friendships and deliver

new skills. Experiential learning will help kids reconnect while enjoying all that Maine has to offer.

So, tonight, I'm directing the Commissioner of Education, Pender Makin, if she's not out serving school lunch at a cafeteria or substitute teaching in Readfield today, I'm asking her to develop a new collaborative using federal enrichment funds to get our children outdoors this summer, expose them to lived experiences that will get them ready for life and careers. We have so much to offer here in Maine at every level in education. Our kids can take courses at career and technical education centers where they can learn critical skills in the trades on the equipment which we have now funded for the first time in decades. They can take courses in Computer Science, a growing and critical part of our economy. Now, those courses should expand and they should be taught earlier. We're working on that. And we believe that exposing young people to meaningful work while they're still in school can increase our workforce participation rates. That's why this summer, we'll expand our Maine Career Exploration Program, connecting Maine high school students with paid work that puts them on a path to future careers. We're making progress. And when they're ready, our kids can then attend one of the University of Maine's seven excellent campuses or one of the nationally-recognized community colleges. This week, we celebrate the University of Maine's achievement of R-1 status as a leading research university. So proud. This well-deserved designation reflects years of hard work by university staff, students and researchers and it will globalize the University of Maine's reputation as a top-flight research institution and attract and keep the best and brightest in our State. Congratulations, President Ferrini-Mundy and Chancellor Dan Malloy. Thank you for your work. Now, it is also our responsibility to ensure that higher education is affordable and I've got some ideas to tackle that, too. First, I'm proposing funding in my supplemental budget to stave off any tuition hikes across the University of Maine System, to keep university education in Maine affordable. Secondly, thinking especially about all those young people whose aspirations have been most impacted by the pandemic, I am proposing making two years of community college free. So, to the high school classes of 2020 through 2023, if you enroll full-time in a Maine Community College this fall or next, the State of Maine will cover every last dollar of your tuition so you can obtain a one-year certificate or a two-year associate's degree and graduate unburdened by debt and ready to enter the workforce. And if you're someone who's already started a two-year program, we've got your back, too. We will cover the last dollar of your second year. There are so many good-paying jobs in health care, engineering, the trades, construction, clean energy technology and so many other industries just waiting for you. As your Chief Executive, I want you to know the future is yours and we will help you embrace it because that is progress and thank you, President Dave Daigler, for helping make this happen.

Now, what about those who have already graduated and still have student debt? Recent graduates in Maine carry an average of \$33,000 in student loan debt. Some carry even more debt, like the nurse who told a radio station she owes more than \$100,000. That level of debt prevents young people from starting a business, affording a mortgage, or paying their bills and achieving their full potential. It is simply unacceptable. Thankfully, Senator Matt Pouliot has had his eyes on this problem for a while now. He's drafted legislation that will streamline the Maine Opportunity Tax Credit after so many years of changes that have complicated and undermined

the goals of this program to attract and keep talented people here. This legislation, which received bipartisan support in committee, transforms the program from an obscure bureaucratic tax benefit available to just a few into a strong student debt relief tool available to all. I like it. I like it. And that's why tonight I'm announcing that I will fund an overhaul of the Opportunity Maine Tax Credit consistent with the goals of this legislation. We will broaden and simplify the program's eligibility criteria so those who graduated with student debt, regardless of what type of degree they have or where they graduated or what type of work they do now, they will be eligible for up to \$25,000 of debt relief over the course of their lifetime so long as they have a job and make Maine their home.

With these changes, the Opportunity Maine Tax Credit will be the leading student debt relief program in the nation and a powerful tool for employers to draw people from all walks of life to work and live in the State of Maine. That's progress.

Now, some of the people coming here may be health care workers. It almost goes without saying that our health care system, like those in states governed by Republicans and those in states governed by Democrats, has been pushed to the very brink. Our health care system has long confronted a shortage of medical professionals, but it is a problem that has grown worse particularly as the pandemic has dragged on and as so many people, largely unvaccinated, have to be hospitalized and receive critical care. But these increased demands never stopped our health care workers, all of them now vaccinated, from holding the hands of their patients to ease their suffering despite their own exhaustion. Just as it has not stopped our National Guard members who have courageously stepped up to fight the pandemic, leaving their families, jobs and communities to serve the people of Maine. You all have our undying gratitude. You are all true heroes. Now, I know there are some who say that requiring our health care workers to be vaccinated against COVID-19 was a bad move. But to them, I say the American Medical Association, American Nurses Association, the American Academy of Pediatricians, along with the Maine Medical Association, Maine Hospital Association, Maine Health Care Association, Maine's two largest hospital systems, not to mention the U.S. Supreme Court which upheld the federal vaccine requirement and let ours stand, well, they all disagree with you and they can't all be wrong.

Yes, our health care system has been stressed, just as the health care systems of our neighboring states, including New Hampshire, have been stressed. But it is because of the virus, not because of the vaccine. Our take-away from this experience should not be to doubt the overwhelming efficacy of a vaccine that has protected those caring for us, the takeaway should be get vaccinated and let's strengthen our health care workforce in new and profound ways. And that's exactly what we're doing. Through my jobs plan, we've invested \$21 million to train new health care workers and we've already started, right, Dave Daigler? - in Northern Maine, Eastern Maine, Southern Maine Community Colleges, with more courses starting soon, in addition to the university's new nursing program at Fort Kent. This is progress. And to bolster the health care workforce, we've invested more than \$600 million in State and federal funds to improve MaineCare rates for health care providers across the spectrum. And tonight I propose that we send another \$50 million in State and federal funds to our hospitals and nursing homes to sustain them through these difficult times. No other administration in Maine history has invested as much as we have in our hospitals,

nursing homes and other health care providers. That is progress. And I have to say thank God, I say every day, thank God that we expanded Medicaid on day one of my administration, extending health care to 90,000 people. And thank God we reinstated the drugs for the elderly program, cut by the previous administration and that we enshrined coverage for preexisting conditions in State law, that we reversed declining health insurance enrollment, covering 11,000 new people through CoverME.gov and that we're lowering the cost of health care for 5,000 small businesses and their 29,000 employees. That is progress.

But that cannot be the end of our efforts. The system of care for people as they grow older in Maine is inadequate. It is far past time to ensure that Maine people can live safely and with dignity as they age. And tonight I'm announcing that I will convene a Silver Cabinet, sort of a mirror to our Children's Cabinet, to mobilize our people, to eliminate the silos across State government and enhance coordination and communication among all players to address long-term care issues and ensure that every person in Maine may age safely, affordably, in a way that best serves their needs. Maine people work hard their entire lives and they deserve no less. They deserve it just as people deserve reliable child care that they can count on and a place they can call home, a safe place and internet that isn't dialup. They deserve affordable health care to keep them on their feet and a quality public education that sets them on a path to lifelong success. These are investments in people, our people. Maine people deserve every ounce of hard-won progress that we've achieved in spite of the pandemic. More than this, Maine people have earned the progress that is yet to come. We will make progress on the opioid epidemic, on improving the child welfare system, on combating climate change, on bringing down the cost of electricity, curbing our reliance on fossil fuels, cutting energy costs and on addressing the devastating impact of PFAS on our health and livelihoods. We will make that progress.

We are making progress because of this Legislature and because of 15 people, in particular, who are sitting in the gallery tonight; the 15 members of my cabinet with whom you have all worked closely and their staff have been by my side and by the side of the people of Maine consistently, with focus, fortitude, courage and creativity through some of the most turbulent times in recent history and I want to thank them publicly tonight for everything they have done, much of it unseen, but all of it always to the enduring benefit of the people of Maine. Jeanne, Pender, Kirsten, Mike, Judy, Pat, John, Amanda, Melanie, Heather, Doug, Randy, Laura, Bruce and Anne; you have my undying respect. Thank you. And, Dr. Shah, you and the cabinet have saved lives. In my State of the State address two years ago, I borrowed a quote that is often attributed to Sam Rayburn. He said; any fool can burn down a barn, but it takes a good carpenter to build one. Let's build that barn together. A solid shelter to weather every storm. And, hey, let's not argue about how many nails are in my nail gun or your nail gun or who didn't close the barn door or who will shovel the roof next winter or will the very rich pay for the shingles, will Portland developers want to put condos in the loft, will the Steller's Sea Eagle build a nest in the cupola and if so, will the planning board consider it to be an accessory dwelling? Will there be a tenant's union? Will John Martin want to store cull potatoes in it? Will it have Starlink?

Look, seriously, it's been a turbulent year, but not so turbulent that we can't work together on all these things and not so turbulent that the sight of mysterious sea smoke doesn't take our breath away, that the cold lapping of the Atlantic

Ocean off the Coast of Maine doesn't send us into rhythmic dreams, that the power of the Maine mountains doesn't cause us to gasp and bend a knee, that the beauty and breadth of our State and the goodness of our people doesn't inspire us all to be better leaders, to take this State to greater heights. Our State is beautiful, our people are good, the State of our State is strong and it is growing stronger. Tonight, we recommit to progress, to recovery, to moving forward towards normalcy, to building that barn, our State, together. A safe and stable structure with crossed rafters and a solid ridge beam, with firm trusses and brackets and a roof that is pointed to the heavens. That is my mission and I ask you all to join me because progress is why people sent us here and after these past 23 months, I have never believed more in the people of our great State of Maine. Thank you and God bless the State of Maine.

At the conclusion of the address, Governor Janet T. Mills withdrew amid the applause of the Convention, the audience rising.

The purpose for which the Convention was assembled having been accomplished, the Chair declared the same dissolved.

The Senate then retired to its chamber.

(After the Joint Convention)

The House was called to order by the Speaker.

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

On motion of Representative BLUME of York, the House adjourned at 8:05 p.m., until the call of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate respectfully, pursuant to the Joint Order (S.P. 703) and in honor and lasting tribute to the Honorable Donna R. Doore, of Augusta, the Honorable John L. Tuttle, of Sanford, the Honorable Neil Craig Corson, of Madison, Larry Whitten, formerly of Westbrook, Janet Phyllis Johnson, of Standish, Marilyn Webb, of Limington, Douglas John Hubbard, of Limington, Robert V. Axelsen, of Limington, Peter Thomas Bosse, of Milford, David Lassell, of Bradford and Susan Shaw, of New York City and Blue Hill.