MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senate Legislative Record

One Hundred and Thirty-First Legislature

State of Maine

Daily Edition

Second Regular Session

Beginning January 3, 2024

Beginning with Page S-1593

Sincerely,

S/Benjamin M. Chipman
Senate Chair

S/Lydia Crafts
House Chair

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

The Following Communication:
S.C. 1109

STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

April 15, 2024

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross, Speaker of the House
131st Maine Legislature
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross,

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

47 Total Numbers of Bills and Papers

26 Unanimous Reports
9 Ought Not To Pass
17 Ought To Pass As Amended

15 Divided Reports

3 Leave to Withdraw
3 Gubernatorial Nominations

Sincerely,

S/Craig V. Hickman
Senate Chair

S/Laura D. Supica
House Chair

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Senate considered the following:

ENACTORS

The Committee on **Engrossed Bills** reported as truly and strictly engrossed the following:

Acts

An Act to Protect Liberty and Advance Justice in the Administration and Enforcement of the Cannabis Legalization Act and the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act
S.P. 32 L.D. 40
(S "A" S-717 to C "A" S-709)

On motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook, supported by a Division of one-fifth of the members present and voting, a Roll Call was ordered.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Hickman.

Senator **HICKMAN**: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, Women and Men of the Senate, on page 27 of the committee amendment of the bill we are about to enact, in line 26 through line 30, it reads as follows: Duties, the Director of the Office of Cannabis Policy shall promote the health and wellbeing of the people of the state and advance policies that protect public health and safety, emphasizing the health and wellbeing of minors as priority considerations in performing all duties including those listed in this subsection. That is the first priority of the new Director of the Office of Cannabis Policy in statute. Must protect the public health and safety of the people of the state, emphasizing the health and wellbeing of minors. And in the definition of minors, Mr. President, Women and Men of the Senate, it is a person who has not yet attained the age of 21 years old. Back in my day, a 19-year-old was a grown person. They could go to war, they could smoke cigarettes, they could drink alcohol, they could go to prison for life. And so, the minors whose lives were destroyed back in the day as we try to protect the health and wellbeing of the minors in Maine today could go to prison for life for the possession of an ounce of cannabis. An Act to Protect Liberty and Advance Justice in the Administration and Enforcement of the Cannabis Legalization Act and the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act is progress, Mr. President. And for a little black kid from the inner city who watched drive-by shootings of minors when no one cared, I am blessed beyond all belief to stand here today as the author of this bill, having worked with the Good Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Timberlake, and all of the stakeholders, and the Office of Cannabis Policy to put together a transformative piece of legislation. And Mr. President, I am humble beyond words to be able to be in this moment and in this place right now, and I thank all those who have come before me, who have fought for justice in the area of cannabis policy, and all the friends that I have lost, who didn't make it, because when you go to prison for life, you sometimes don't make it out. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Enactment. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#761)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSON, LAWRENCE, MOORE, NANGLE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: FARRIN, GUERIN, KEIM, LIBBY, LYFORD, STEWART

EXCUSED: Senators: LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE

27 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 6 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** and, having been signed by the President, was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

An Act to Increase Enforcement and Accountability for Wage Violations
S.P. 179 L.D. 372
(C "A" S-688)

On motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook, supported by a Division of one-fifth of the members present and voting, a Roll Call was ordered.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#762)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSON, LAWRENCE, NANGLE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, FARRIN, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, KEIM, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, POULIOT, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE

20 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** and having been signed by the President were presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

Resolve

Resolve, to Rename Bridges in the Towns of Limerick, Hiram and Limington
S.P. 183 L.D. 402
(S "A" S-705 to C "A" S-698)

FINALLY PASSED and having been signed by the President was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Senate considered the following:

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Non-Concurrent Matter

An Act to Create the Data Privacy and Protection Act
H.P. 1270 L.D. 1977

In Senate, April 17, 2024, the Minority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Comes from the House, that Body having **INSISTED** on its former action whereby the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-975) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-984)** thereto.

On motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, the Senate **INSISTED**.
