

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
JOURNAL AND RECORD OF THE SENATE**

In Senate Chamber
Tuesday
January 28, 2025

Senate called to order by President Matthea E. Larsen Daughtry of Cumberland County.

Prayer by Poet Robert C. Clark of Windham.

POET ROBERT C. CLARK: Thank you, Madam President, Senator Nangle. Good morning. Buenos Dios. Bonjour. My words today bring a message with twin blessings. The first is your past work, and the second is in appreciation as it continues. Membership in this Senate Chamber carries a special historic invitation, an invitation to assist in the uplifting legacy of citizen choice. Toward this high ideal, I would like to first set a context for a short poem entitled Those We Never Knew, then read it and finally, close with some prayer words of encouragement. Since colonial independence, America's governmental decisions have attempted to favor civic duty for civic benefit, trying to shape a common purpose. To formalize colonial victory, the Treaty of Paris was signed. A short 37 years after that, Maine in 1820 became the 23rd of our now 50 states. Now, some 200 years later, the phrase Maine, welcome home, the way life should be, is associated with our northeast corner in manner and style and character. What a message. What an iconic reward. Drive back from anywhere and see the blue and white sign on the Kittery turnpike. My heart always skips a sweet beat. Today, the 132nd Legislature sessions are underway. They have your spirit and your commitment and your progress. It's captivating to realize that decisions aimed at the success that General Washington set in motion to this day continue, they go forward, they account for a common purpose, and they are decisions made right here in Augusta. And now, the poem. Those We Never Knew. For independence cheer, July the 4th is here, reminding us each year how liberty is dear. At Lexington unfurled, a minuteman who whirled a musket ball that hurled a shot heard round the world. In Charlestown hills were met with swords and bayonets, where patriots upset the English epaulets. These acts of war began on water and on land to symbolize and stand against tax out of hand. With rifles to their knees, an era became seized by 13 colonies against the jewels of greed. While sorely ill-prepared, their declaration dared to shift the power shared by crown and only their heirs. Though years it took to win by Washington and friends, when Yorktown's smoke wore thin, the flag was passed to him. So, now, when here we do the fireworks renew, thank those we never knew for bringing freedom through. And so, a cheer for each of you. Your type of work is vital. It determines statewide outcomes. It publicly blends and protects the Maine citizen mission. I am proud -- I'm proud to speak of your devotion. To close, this joy comes with an understanding, the understanding that given time down the road, although people may not know who fought the good fight or to whom they could

directly thank, that attention should be given to you. It belongs to this Chamber because it comes from this Chamber. Let us hope that we who work here today that we also may become incredibly in fact some of those we never knew.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator Richard A. Bennett of Oxford County.

Reading of the Journal of Tuesday, January 21, 2025.

Off Record Remarks

On motion by Senator **DUSON** of Cumberland, the following Senate Order:
S.O. 13

ORDERED, that a message be sent to the House of Representatives proposing a Joint Convention of both branches of the Legislature be held at 6:45 this evening in the Hall of the House for the purpose of extending to the Honorable Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine, an invitation to attend the Convention and make such communication as she may be pleased to make.

READ and PASSED.

The Chair appointed the Senator from Cumberland, Senator **DUSON** to deliver the message to the House of Representatives. The Senator was escorted to the House of Representatives.

Subsequently, the Senator from Cumberland, Senator **DUSON** reported that she had delivered the message with which she was charged.

Senate at Ease.

Senate called to order by the President.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act to Permit the Sale of Motor Vehicles on Sundays"
H.P. 121 L.D. 188

In Senate, January 14, 2025, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Comes from the House, that Body having **INSISTED** on its former action whereby the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**.

On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland, the Senate **RECEDED** and **CONCURED**.

Comes from the House, **READ** and **REFERRED** to the Joint Select Committee on **JOINT RULES**.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

On motion by Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland, **REFERRED** to the Joint Select Committee on **JOINT RULES**, in concurrence.

Joint Orders

The following Joint Order:
H.P. 130

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that the Joint Rules be amended by amending Joint Rule 208 to read:

Rule 208. Requirements for Drafting.

A request for a bill or resolve filed with the Revisor of Statutes is considered complete when the request is properly titled and accompanied by sufficient instructions, information and data required for its preparation. When a request is not accompanied by sufficient instructions, information or data, the Revisor of Statutes is directed to give written notice of inadequate information to the legislator. Upon receipt of said written notice, the legislator has 5 business days, unless an alternative period is set jointly by the presiding officers, to file adequate information with the Revisor of Statutes, or the request for the bill or resolve will be denied. Drafts prepared by an outside source must be filed in final form by the appropriate cloture date.

~~When directed by the sponsor, the Revisor of Statutes shall prepare a bill or resolve in concept form. The bill or resolve shall contain only an enacting clause and a summary of the proposed legislation and shall not be fully drafted by the Revisor of Statutes. The bill or resolve prepared in this form shall be printed and referred to a committee in the same manner as other legislation and may be reported in fully drafted form by that committee in the same manner as other legislation. Except as otherwise provided in this Joint Rule, this method of drafting legislation is not allowed for legislation submitted by the Governor, by agencies or departments of state government, by study commissions, by joint standing committees or joint select committees or pursuant to law or statute. Any request for a bill or resolve submitted after cloture must state if it is a request for a concept draft. Any committee amendment must be germane to the detailed summary of the concept draft.~~

The Revisor of Statutes shall prepare in concept form a bill submitted pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 149 that proposes to make unified appropriations and allocations for the expenditures of state government for the biennium or supplemental appropriations and allocations, and shall include an Internet address at which may be found the text of the draft unified budget bill or supplemental budget bill submitted to the Revisor of Statutes by the Governor.

A proposal to adopt a uniform or model act must be prepared in concept form and must include an Internet address at which may be found the text of the proposed uniform or model act.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication:
S.P. 127

**MAINE SENATE
132nd LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE**

January 23, 2025

Hon. Matthea E. L. Daughtry
President of the Senate
132nd Legislature

Hon. Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House
132nd Legislature

Dear Madam President and Mr. Speaker:

On January 23, 2025, 4 bills were received by the Secretary of the Senate.

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, these bills were referred to the Joint Standing Committees on January 23, 2025, as follows:

Energy, Utilities and Technology

Bill "An Act to Eliminate the Practice of Net Energy Billing" (S.P. 124) (L.D. 257) (Sponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook)

Health and Human Services

Resolve, to Establish a Program to Recruit and Retain Behavioral Health Clinicians (S.P. 125) (L.D. 258) (Sponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook) (Cosponsored by Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, MARTIN of Oxford, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, Representative: MORRIS of Turner)

Housing and Economic Development

Bill "An Act to Support Mobile Home Residents in Purchasing Their Mobile Home Parks" (S.P. 122) (L.D. 255) (Sponsored by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot) (Cosponsored by Senators: GROHOSKI of Hancock, RAFFERTY of York, DUSON of Cumberland, NANGLE of Cumberland)

Taxation

Bill "An Act to Establish a Sales Tax Holiday for Purchases of Certain School Supplies for the Month of August" (S.P. 123) (L.D.

256) (Sponsored by Senator MARTIN of Oxford) (Cosponsored by Representative LANCE of Paris and Senators: BRADSTREET of Kennebec, HAGGAN of Penobscot, MOORE of Washington, BICKFORD of Androscoggin, LIBBY of Cumberland, Representatives: HENDERSON of Rumford, SOBOLESKI of Phillips, WOOD of Norway)

Sincerely,

S/Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate

S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

Sent down for concurrence.

The Following Communication:
H.P. 133

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

January 14, 2025

Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House
132nd Legislature

Honorable Matthea Daughtry
President of the Senate
132nd Legislature

Dear Mr. Speaker and Madam President:

On January 14, 2025, 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 Committee on January 14, 2025, as follows:

Appropriations and Financial Affairs

Bill "An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 131) (L.D. 209) (Sponsored by Representative GATTINE of Westbrook) (GOVERNOR'S BILL)

Bill "An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the

Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 132) (L.D. 210) (Sponsored by Representative GATTINE of Westbrook) (GOVERNOR'S BILL)

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House

S/Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate

Comes from the House, **READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE, in concurrence.

The Following Communication:
H.P. 160

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

January 16, 2025

Honorable Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House
132nd Legislature

Honorable Matthea Daughtry
President of the Senate
132nd Legislature

Dear Mr. Speaker and Madam President:

On January 16, 2025, 20 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 January 16, 2025, as follows:

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Bill "An Act to Protect Minors from Harmful Depictions Generated by Artificial Intelligence" (H.P. 153) (L.D. 230) (Sponsored by Representative CAMPBELL of Orrington)

Education and Cultural Affairs

Bill "An Act to Make School Safer for Students with Epilepsy and Other Seizure Disorders by Requiring Seizure Action Plans and Training in Schools" (H.P. 134) (L.D. 211) (Sponsored by Representative KUHN of Falmouth) (Cosponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland and Representatives: GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, MEYER of Eliot, MITCHELL of Cumberland, MURPHY of Scarborough)

Bill "An Act to Require Schools to Provide Access to Free Condoms for Students in Grades 9 to 12 in the School Nurse's Office" (H.P. 140) (L.D. 217) (Sponsored by Representative DODGE of Belfast) (Cosponsored by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland and Representatives: BOYER of Cape Elizabeth, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, CRAFTS of Newcastle, MCCABE of Lewiston, MURPHY of Scarborough, PLUECKER of Warren, ROEDER of Bangor, STOVER of Boothbay)

Bill "An Act to Make Student Transfer Agreements Renew Automatically Except in Certain Circumstances" (H.P. 141) (L.D. 218) (Sponsored by Representative HASENFUS of Readfield) (Cosponsored by Representative: ARATA of New Gloucester)

Energy, Utilities and Technology

Bill "An Act to Require the Valuation of Energy Produced by Hydropower Dams and Exploration of Alternative Ownership Options Before They Are Removed" (H.P. 135) (L.D. 212) (Sponsored by Representative CAMPBELL of Orrington) (Cosponsored by Representatives: BISHOP of Bucksport, SOBOLESKI of Phillips, Senator: HAGGAN of Penobscot)

Environment and Natural Resources

Bill "An Act to Establish a Take-back and Disposal Program for Firefighting and Fire-suppressing Foam to Which Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances Have Been Added" (H.P. 145) (L.D. 222) (Sponsored by Representative ANKELES of Brunswick) (Cosponsored by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland and Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, CAMPBELL of Orrington, DOUDERA of Camden, GOLEK of Harpswell, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, SOBOLESKI of Phillips, STOVER of Boothbay, Senator: TEPLER of Sagadahoc)

Bill "An Act to Allow Coastal Seawalls to Be Raised by up to 2 Feet in Order to Accommodate Predicted Sea Level Rise" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 151) (L.D. 228) (Sponsored by Representative FOLEY of Wells) (Cosponsored by Senator BAILEY of York and Representatives: BLIER of Buxton, CAMPBELL of Orrington, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, MASON of Lisbon, SOBOLESKI of Phillips, Senator: MARTIN of Oxford)

Bill "An Act to Update the Solid Waste Management Hierarchy" (H.P. 154) (L.D. 231) (Sponsored by Representative CAMPBELL of Orrington) (Cosponsored by Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot and Representatives: DILL of Old Town, GREENWOOD of Wales, SOBOLESKI of Phillips)

Resolve, Regarding the Operation and Future Capacity of State-owned Landfills (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 158) (L.D. 235) (Sponsored by Representative CAMPBELL of Orrington) (Cosponsored by Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, DILL of Old Town, SOBOLESKI of Phillips)

Health and Human Services

Bill "An Act to Limit Hypodermic Apparatus Exchange Programs to a One-for-one Exchange" (H.P. 142) (L.D. 219) (Sponsored by Representative MASTRACCIO of Sanford) (Cosponsored by

Representative: FREDERICKS of Sanford, Senator: HARRINGTON of York)

Marine Resources

Bill "An Act to Create a For-hire Charter Boat Operator License and to Require Individuals Recreationally Fishing for Halibut in Coastal Waters to Register with the Saltwater Recreational Fishing Registry" (H.P. 137) (L.D. 214) (Sponsored by Representative HEPLER of Woolwich) (Submitted by the Department of Marine Resources pursuant to Joint Rule 204.)

State and Local Government

Bill "An Act to Change the Statutory Adjournment Date for the Second Regular Session of the Legislature" (H.P. 139) (L.D. 216) (Sponsored by Representative HASENFUS of Readfield)

Bill "An Act to Provide Legislative Oversight of the Rule-making Petition Process" (H.P. 159) (L.D. 236) (Sponsored by Representative CAMPBELL of Orrington) (Cosponsored by Representatives: SOBOLESKI of Phillips, THORNE of Carmel)

Taxation

Bill "An Act to Address the Effect of Changes to Federal Income Tax Laws on Maine Income Tax Laws" (H.P. 144) (L.D. 221) (Sponsored by Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston) (Submitted by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services pursuant to Joint Rule 204.)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Mining Excise Tax Laws" (H.P. 146) (L.D. 223) (Sponsored by Representative CLOUTIER of Lewiston) (Submitted by the Department of Administrative and Financial Services pursuant to Joint Rule 204.)

Bill "An Act to Reduce Property Taxes and Finance Public School Construction and Education Through a 3 Percent Sales Tax on Hotel and Lodging Place Rentals" (H.P. 148) (L.D. 225) (Sponsored by Representative BRENNAN of Portland) (Cosponsored by Senator RAFFERTY of York and Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, CROCKETT of Portland, DODGE of Belfast, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, MALON of Biddeford, MASTRACCIO of Sanford, MOONEN of Portland, MURPHY of Scarborough)

Bill "An Act to Bring Fairness in Income Taxes to Maine Families by Adjusting the Tax Brackets and Tax Rates" (H.P. 152) (L.D. 229) (Sponsored by Representative MATLACK of St. George) (Cosponsored by Representatives: GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, MCCABE of Lewiston, ROEDER of Bangor, SACHS of Freeport)

Transportation

Bill "An Act to Impose a Vehicle Weight Limit on Route 46 in the Town of Eddington" (H.P. 155) (L.D. 232) (Sponsored by Representative CAMPBELL of Orrington) (Cosponsored by Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot)

Veterans and Legal Affairs

Bill "An Act to Increase the Sales Commission of Retailers Selling Lottery Tickets" (H.P. 136) (L.D. 213) (Sponsored by Representative CHAPMAN of Auburn)

The Following Communication:
S.C. 35

Bill "An Act to Eliminate Ranked-choice Voting" (H.P. 157) (L.D. 234) (Sponsored by Representative CAMPBELL of Orrington) (Cosponsored by Senator BRADSTREET of Kennebec and Representatives: GIFFORD of Lincoln, GREENWOOD of Wales, GRIFFIN of Levant, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, SOBOLESKI of Phillips, STROUT of Harrington)

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

January 22, 2025

Sincerely,

Honorable Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House

Dear Secretary Grant,

S/Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate

Pursuant to my authority under MRSA 7, §320-L, I am pleased to appoint the following members to the *Advisory Committee on the Fund To Address PFAS Contamination*, effective immediately:

Comes from the House, **READ** and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

Representative Daniel Ankeles of Brunswick as a member of the party holding the largest number of seats in the House of Representatives. As the first-named House member, Representative Ankeles will serve as the House chair of this advisory committee; and

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

Representative Randall Hall of Wilton as a member of the party holding the 2nd largest number of seats in the House of Representatives.

The Following Communication:
S.C. 36

**THE STATE OF MAINE
132nd LEGISLATURE
AUGUSTA, MAINE**

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

January 23, 2025

Sincerely,

Honorable Darek Grant
Secretary of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

Dear Secretary Grant:

The Following Communication:
S.C. 38

Pursuant to our authority under MRSA Title 30-A, Ch. 202, Subchapter 5-A, §5047, we are pleased to appoint the following to the Statewide Homeless Council:

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

Emily Flinkstrom of Kittery is a reappointment who will continue to represent Region 1;
Andrew Lardie of Brunswick will represent Region 2;
Honorable Elsie Flemings of Bar Harbor will represent Region 3.

January 24, 2025

Should you have questions regarding these appointments, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Honorable Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Sincerely,

S/Mathea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate
S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

Dear Secretary Grant,

Pursuant to my authority under Title 5 MRSA, Part 8, Chapter 310, §3111, I am pleased to appoint the following to the *Office of New Americans Advisory Council*, effective immediately:

Inza Ouattara of Lewiston, representing an organization providing refugee resettlement services;

Lisa Parisio of Pittston, representing a provider of legal assistance to immigrants;

Liam LaFountain of Biddeford, representing a municipality.

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

Sincerely,

S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:
S.C. 42

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

January 27, 2025

Honorable Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Secretary Grant,

Pursuant to my authority under PL 23, Chapter 643, Part N, I am pleased to appoint Representative Kristen Cloutier of Lewiston to the *Working Group to Recommend any Changes to Eligibility Standards for Expenditures from the Maine Mass Violence Care Fund*, effective immediately.

Representative Cloutier will serve on this Working Group as a member of the House of Representative and as co-chair.

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

Sincerely,

S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:
S.C. 30

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUGUSTA, MAINE**

January 21, 2025

The Honorable Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME. 04333

Re: Nomination to the School Board of the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf

Dear President Daughtry:

I am pleased to nominate the following individuals to School Board of the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf:

- Thomas Minch of Cumberland for reappointment
- Jason Bubier of Ellsworth for reappointment
- Elizabeth Seal of Lisbon Falls for reappointment
- Claire Jeffers of Portland for appointment
- Janet May of Bangor for appointment

Pursuant to Title 20-A §7406, this reappointment is contingent on confirmation by the Maine Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:
S.C. 31

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUGUSTA, MAINE**

January 21, 2025

The Honorable Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME. 04333

Re: Nominations to the University of Maine System, Board of Trustees

Dear President Daughtry:

It is my pleasure to nominate the following individuals to the University of Maine System, Board of Trustees:

- Elise Baldacci of North Yarmouth for reappointment.
- Riley Worth of Sabattus for appointment as a student member.

Pursuant to Title 5, M.R.S.A. §12004-C, these nominations are contingent on confirmation by the Maine Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:
S.C. 33

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUGUSTA, MAINE**

January 22, 2025

The Honorable Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: Nominations to the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority

Dear President Daughtry:

It is my pleasure to nominate the following individuals to the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority:

- F. Jay Astle of Brunswick
- Linda E. Smith of Richmond

Pursuant to Title 5, M.R.S.A. §13083-H, these nominations are contingent on confirmation by the Maine Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Housing and Economic Development

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:
S.C. 34

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUGUSTA, MAINE**

January 22, 2025

The Honorable Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Re: Nomination to the Maine Community College System Board of Trustees

Dear President Daughtry:

It is my pleasure to nominate Stacey M. Harris of Windham for appointment to the Maine Community College System Board of Trustees:

Pursuant to Title 20-A, M.R.S.A. §12075, this nomination is contingent on confirmation by the Maine Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:
S.C. 37

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUGUSTA, MAINE**

January 14, 2025

Honorable Mattie Daughtry
Senate President
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

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

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

I am honored to accept your invitation to deliver the State of the Budget Address before a Joint Convention of the Legislature on Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

As I recently wrote to the Legislature, with revenues leveling off, maintaining our commitments to Maine people will require us to make difficult choices in the FY 26-27 biennial budget.

Last week, I proposed to you a balanced budget that maintains core commitments to Maine people, including voter-approved health care, 55 percent of education funding, free school meals, free community college, and five percent municipal revenue sharing to stabilize property taxes and support local services. Each of these priorities is adequately funded in my budget proposal.

This proposal also requires difficult choices -including programmatic changes, spending reductions, and targeted revenue enhancements -in order to serve the public's interests and balance the budget as required by the Maine Constitution.

I know that each of you share my commitment to preserving key programs and services that Maine people count on and to enacting a fiscally responsible biennial budget proposal. I look forward to addressing the Joint Convention of the Legislature, and I am confident that-as we have done before -Republicans, Democrats, and Independents can come together to do what is right for Maine people.

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:
S.C. 40

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUGUSTA, MAINE**

January 27, 2025

The Honorable Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME. 04333

Re: Nomination of Judges to the Maine District Court

Dear President Daughtry:

I am pleased to nominate the following individuals as Judges of the Maine District Court:

- The Honorable Brent Davis of Skowhegan for reappointment

- The Honorable Tammy Ham-Thompson of Hallowell for reappointment
- The Honorable Lea-Anne Sutton of Hallowell for reappointment

Pursuant to Article V, Part First, §8, of the Maine Constitution, these nominations are contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:
S.C. 41

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUGUSTA, MAINE**

January 23, 2025

The Honorable Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME. 04333

Re: Nominations of Maine Superior Court Justices

Dear President Daughtry:

I am pleased to inform you that I am nominating The Honorable Ann M. Murray of Bangor for reappointment as a Justice of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court.

Pursuant to Article V, Part First, §8, of the Maine Constitution, these nominations are contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication:
S.C. 32

MAINE VENTURE FUND

January 22, 2025

Honorable Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

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

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A., Section 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the attached Report to Legislature for 2024 on behalf of the quasi-independent state entity, Small Enterprise Growth Board, due February 1, 2025.

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:
S.C. 39

MAINE PORT AUTHORITY

January 24, 2025

Honorable Matthea Daughtry
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 Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau,

Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A., Section 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required FY 2024 report from the Maine Port Authority due by February 1, 2025.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

S/Chelsea Pettengill
Interim Executive Director

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

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Provide Support for Certain Maine Discovery Museum Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Educational Programming Throughout the State"
S.P. 131 L.D. 281

Presented by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Senators: RAFFERTY of York, TIPPING of Penobscot, Representative: OSHER of Orono.

On motion by Senator **RAFFERTY** of York, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Address the Shortage of Direct Care Workers for Children with Disabilities in Maine" (EMERGENCY)
S.P. 129 L.D. 279

Presented by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Senators: GROHOSKI of Hancock, INGWERSEN of York, RAFFERTY of York.

On motion by Senator **INGWERSEN** of York, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Establish the Criminal Records Review Commission in Statute"
S.P. 126 L.D. 259

Presented by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Senator: BAILEY of York, Representative: ABDI of Lewiston.

On motion by Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Eliminate the Tobacco Products Tax on Certain Products That Contain Nicotine"
S.P. 128 L.D. 278

Presented by Senator HARRINGTON of York.
Cosponsored by Senators: MARTIN of Oxford, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, Representatives: DUCHARME of Madison, LIBBY of Auburn, MORRIS of Turner.

On motion by Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TAXATION** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Establish Lifetime Ferry Passes for Retired Maine State Ferry Service Employees"
S.P. 130 L.D. 280

Presented by Senator BEEBE-CENTER of Knox.
Cosponsored by Senator: CURRY of Waldo.

On motion by Senator **NANGLE** of Cumberland, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

ORDERS

Joint Orders

On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland, the following Joint Order:
S.P. 132

ORDERED, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, February 4, 2025, at 10:00 in the morning, or until the call of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, respectively.

READ and PASSED.

Sent down for concurrence.

All matters thus acted upon were ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

Expressions of Legislative Sentiment recognizing:

The Gardiner Area High School Varsity Golf Team, which won the Class B State Championship, the team's first state title in 60 years. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 33

Sponsored by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Representative: MONTELL of Gardiner.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

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

Senator **HICKMAN:** Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, Women and Men of the Senate, I rise proudly to recognize the Gardiner High School golf team for winning the Class B Golf State Championship this past October. They're the first Gardiner golf team to win the State Championship in 60 years. The last time was in 1964. This year, they won with a team total of 347, beating Morse, Belfast, Yarmouth, and York. The team is led by Maine State Champion Jack Quinn, who went on to win the New England Championship at Mohegan Sun later in the fall. Jack has also been recognized as the Portland Press Herald Golfer of the Year. A talented young man, to be sure. I look forward to seeing what he does this coming fall in his senior season.

The Tigers faced some literal headwinds on the day of the championship. Winds gusted up to 50 miles per hour, with Jack describing it as "insane". But the team persevered and came out victorious, nonetheless. They are a competitive bunch of young men who peaked at just the right time, even if they did not expect to win the State Championship.

A couple of other interesting tidbits about the team is Brady Peacock and Logan Cote were two-sport athletes this fall, succeeding on the links while also playing strong on the soccer field. Jack Quinn and Austin Gould were top ten in the State Championship and selected for First Team KVAC All-Conference. In short, this team had great leadership to bring them through the season, and an exciting finale. Coach Ian Gould was named Portland Press Herald Golf Coach of the Year in his first year as coach of the team. Talk about getting off -- starting off the year, his coaching staff, with the bar high enough for the new era of Tiger golf.

So, Madam President, Women and Men of the Senate, I stand proudly to recognize this talented team of young men and their coach for this unexpected and historic accomplishment. Please join me in congratulating them in the Senate here today. Thank you, Madam President.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the chamber: Austin Gould, Jack Quinn, Hunter Stark, Connor Tibbits, Brady Peacock, Brady Atwater, Ewan Barnicoat, Logan Cote, Dana Roberts, and coach Ian Gould, of the town of Gardiner. They are the guests today of the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Hickman. Would they please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate?

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Unfinished Business

The following matters in the consideration of which the Senate was engaged at the time of Adjournment have preference in the Orders of the Day and continue with such preference until disposed of as provided by Senate Rule 516.

NOMINATION - of the Honorable Heather Sanborn, Esq. of Portland for appointment as the Public Advocate
S.C. 27

Tabled - January 21, 2025 by Senator **GROHOSKI** of Hancock

Pending - **CONSIDERATION**

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** be overridden?"

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from York, Senator Lawrence.

Senator **LAWRENCE:** Thank you, Madam President. It's a pleasure to rise today to encourage you to vote no to approve the recommendation and accept the recommendation of the committee, Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology for the nomination of Heather Sanborn to be our new Public Advocate.

I cannot think of anyone more qualified to serve in this role than Heather. She has an incredible sense of ethics, she is a true polymath - somebody who has a deep understanding of a variety of subjects - and she is somebody who can provide an independent voice on behalf of consumers in Maine, especially low-income consumers of electricity in Maine for advocating for them before the PUC.

I served in this Legislature with Heather, I served - we were Members of the House, and I chaired the - what is now the insurance committee, and I remember what a great mind she had in digging into insurance issues and advocating on behalf of small businesses and consumers. That is the quality we need in a Public Advocate. Too often, we have people coming out of the utility industry who have preconceived notions about what needs to be done in the field of energy. Heather comes in with an open mind and an incredible sense of ethics, and she will be a strong advocate for low-income consumers of electricity in the State of Maine, and I hope you'll vote -- join with me in voting no on overturning this nomination, the recommendation. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from York, Senator Harrington.

Senator **HARRINGTON:** Thank you, Madam President. I rise in opposition to this nomination today. I think the people of Maine and Maine ratepayers deserve a Public Advocate that are going to be looking out for their best interests, and I do not think that we have the most qualified, most ambitious nominee for this office in front of us today.

With regards to qualifications, one term on the Energy, Utilities and Technology Committee is the qualifications that we have

before you today. That would make me qualified, that would make Leader Stewart qualified, that would make Senator Lawrence overly qualified for this office. I can speak for me, personally, as someone who spent one term on that committee, I do not believe I have the subject matter expertise to be the Public Advocate, to be the expert who is looking after the ratepayers of Maine. And a basic understanding that, you know, she voted for a policy that is costing Maine ratepayers \$220 million a year. Now, I'll understand that there are many Republicans who voted for that as well, but at least those Republicans will acknowledge that that was a mistake and can rescind back. That is not what we have before us today.

But all that to say I can count, and I would encourage the nominee once confirmed today, to look past the Governor's Energy Office and the Climate Council and to really take this job seriously, look after Maine's ratepayers who are getting absolutely crushed. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Oxford, Senator Bennett.

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Madam President, Fellow Members of the Senate. You know, in Maine, we rely on our public utilities to provide our electricity, and because they don't always act in the public interest, we have the Public Utilities Commission. But we're unhappy with the Public Utilities Commission because we don't necessarily think they act in the public interest sometimes, and so, we have the Public Advocate, the position for which we are considering this nominee today. The electrification of our economy - indeed, of our entire way of life - over the coming decades will determine much. How we go about it and pay for it will make future opportunities and future challenges for generations of Mainers to come. So, this is indeed one of the most important positions in state government. We need a Public Advocate who is smart, judicious, legally schooled and politically savvy, independently minded. Someone who understands the needs of the whole range of Mainers, from rural to urban, from wage payers to wage earners. Such a person, in my belief, is Heather Sanborn.

Heather has a proven commitment of service pro bono publico. Her service in the Legislature is well known to us. Like the Senator from York, I've served beside her in this Body, I saw her amazing passion and her incisive mind at work. And I observed her forceful and effective advocacy, indeed having been bested by her many times in debate on the floor of this Body.

In my experience, Heather always exhibits a ferocious independence of thinking, questioning assumptions, and probing for the truth, never just bowing to what others say to do. One example where I saw this on full display, this passion, this professionalism, this public spirit firsthand was in her handling of a bill of mine to rein in payday lending that was before the committee she chaired. This was a consumer protection bill at its essence, and I saw her passion for consumer advocacy foremost. She mastered the subject, as she always does, the complexity, with -- and all of its nuances with clarity. She understood the positions of the various interest groups affected, and she quickly found a solution, weaving a path toward making that legislation work and ushering that bill into law.

Finally, I have to note that it's refreshing, in my view, to have nominated for this office someone who's not just a lawyer. Heather Sanborn has real experience building and operating a business here in Maine. And with small businesses being forced

to bear much of the pain and expense of the stranded costs of the solar subsidies, Heather's small business background will bring an important lens - and a rare lens, indeed - to the Office of Public Advocate.

I have spoken with the nominee about this issue in particular, as I believe it's one that demands revisiting and fresh solutions. I know that she will work tirelessly and collaboratively with Members of this Body and the Other Chamber, with the PUC, and with all stakeholders to bring about needed reforms to net energy billing. I encourage your support for this nominee.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Brenner.

Senator **BRENNER:** Good morning, Madam President, and Colleagues of the Senate. I'm delighted to be in front of you today to support the nomination of my friend, the Honorable Heather Sanborn, for the position of Public Advocate. And I'm going to share my perspective on Heather's character and her ambition. I'm going to tell you how two women held each other up through the years, of personal and professional growth, because I believe it provides a strong sketch of why Heather is the ideal choice to advocate on behalf of our ratepayers.

Heather and I met in 2002, when I was a nurse midwife in an independent practice in Portland, delivering babies at Mercy Hospital. She became a client of mine during the pregnancy of her son, Gavin. I had the opportunity over the course of nine months to develop a deep understanding of Heather by showing up, to listen, and be present as she journeyed to motherhood. At that time, she was a Social Studies teacher. We stayed friends after her birth, I followed her story through law school and her time in corporate practice in Boston. Our lives and our families overlapped. I fed her from my farm, and she helped me start a nonprofit and plant a hundred trees. I would drop half a pig off in her garage, and her husband, Nathan, would host my company's website. And then one day in that garage, they started brewing beer and Rising Tide was born.

Heather shows up fully for everything she agrees to do. She never dials it in, and her homework is always done. And she has a complete grasp of the subject matter. She is just and thoughtful, and there have been times over the years when I'm contemplating something and my husband will say well, "what would Heather do? Just give her a call and see what she says." And you should know that when you call her, her phone is always on, Madam President, and when you ask for advice, she'll drop what she's doing to make sure that she can answer your question. She will always provide you with an informed, honest answer.

Years back, when I heard that Heather was running for office, to me, it was a no-brainer, and she won her first seat in office handily and went on to serve Maine in both the House and the Senate. And then, on one frosty December morning six years ago, she showed up at my house before COVID to ask me to run for office. Who, me? I said. She said it would fit nicely with my farming schedule, being a citizen legislator - and jury is out on that one, still, we know how that worked out - but Heather opened the door to another woman, another mother, another small business owner, a long-time friend. She noticed something in me that I did not see in myself. I had no political ambition and Heather saw a path before me before I saw that path. She is skilled at lifting others up.

Heather has an -- was an unending source of support for me as a

new Senator. As the second Democratic Senator on HCIFS in the 130th, I have -- I had the distinct pleasure of watching her magic in committee. With a number of freshmen legislators on the committee, Heather presented an amazing show of patience. She has the capacity to read the room and direct the conversation effectively by building respect around the table with complex material. Heather's grasp of health-related policy matters is unrivaled. Affecting change, my friends, in the healthcare system is inherently challenging given the profit to be made by the players involved and the tendency for obfuscation as a tool to avoid regulatory framework - very much like energy policy. Heather's ability to grasp and understand this complexity and find small and large ways to push against it to gain the best outcomes, for reducing the cost of service and increasing the incidence of access for individuals here in Maine is an example of her ability to learn fast, unlock puzzles, notice opportunities for strategic improvement, and bring others along with her.

Her committee members appreciated her personable nature, her kind and patient approach. She shows this all to them by slowing down to speed up, knowing that the value of building relationships as a long-term investment in those relationships and learning is what needs to happen to make good policy. When Heather digs her heels in, she's making things happen. She leads in a small business community. During the start of the pandemic, Heather started writing a daily letter on Substack. Small business owners in the hospitality industry and beyond read her letters daily and received dissected and distilled information about unemployment, financial relief, and community programs. This letter for many, including my business, functioned as a lifeline. It helped people feel connected and informed at what was a scary time for small businesses. Heather, in a time of crisis, stayed level and used her platform to bring clarity to the chaos, and to help make things better. That letter came daily between six or seven a.m.

I see Heather taking a collective effort of building her professional resume, her small business acumen, her experience in -- her experience advocating for the Maine Brewers' Guild, and her legal and legislative experience, her early career years as a teacher, as the set of characteristics and skills needed to support our ratepayers. She's ready, capable, excited, and most of all, she's openhearted about the opportunity to lead in this most difficult time for ratepayers. She's approachable, kind, honest, and really one of the hardest workers that I know. She has the depth of character and the grit to deliver for Maine ratepayers in the face of an energy landscape that is complex, mutable, and full of roadblocks.

It is with the fullest heart and the keenest sense of joy that I support the nomination of my friend and former Senate colleague, Heather Sanborn, and I encourage you to join me.

At this point a message was received from the House of Representatives, borne by Representative MOONEN of Portland, informing the Senate that the House concurred with the proposition for a Convention of the two 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, and invitation to attend the Joint Convention and to make such communication as pleases her.

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 131st Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#8)

YEAS: Senators: BERNARD, BICKFORD, BLACK, BRADSTREET, CYRWAY, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, HAGGAN, HARRINGTON, LIBBY, MARTIN, MOORE, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, DUSON, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAWRENCE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENEY, ROTUNDO, TALBOT ROSS, TEPLER, PRESIDENT DAUGHTRY

EXCUSED: Senators: FARRIN

15 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 19 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, and 15 being less than two-thirds of the Membership present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the Committee's recommendation be **ACCEPTED** and the nomination of the Honorable **Heather Sanborn, Esq** of Portland for appointment as the Public Advocate was **CONFIRMED**.

The Secretary has so informed the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

The Senate Considered the following additional papers:

Expressions of Legislative Sentiment recognizing:

Robert Weymouth, of Charleston, for his bravery and quick action on January 1, 2025. While passing a house on the Stagecoach Road in Atkinson, he and two companions noticed that the house and a barn were on fire. They immediately stopped and woke the sleeping occupants of the house, ensuring that they exited to safety. Mr. Weymouth's actions were in keeping with the traditions of Maine people looking out and caring for their neighbors. We commend him and offer our best wishes;

HLS 18

Presented by Representative PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft. Cosponsored by Senator GUERIN of Penobscot, Representative FOSTER of Dexter.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is excited to now announce that the Senator from Penobscot should have a live mic, and the floor is hers.

Senator **GUERIN:** Thank you. I am excited and honored to welcome three real-life heroes here today. They are Kaleb Weymouth and Robert Weymouth of Charleston, and Colby Simmons of Dover-Foxcroft. Recently, they were passing by a house that they noticed was on fire at night, the barn was on fire and was moving towards the house, and they had the presence of mind to call 9-1-1 and go knock on the door. No one came to the door, so they went in and rescued the couple that was asleep and saved them from certain disaster. So, I'm happy to recognize them here today.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the chamber: Robert Weymouth, Colby Weymouth and Colby Simmons, who bravely rescued a couple from their burning home in Atkinson. They are the guests of the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Guerin and the entire Maine State Senate. Would they please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate?

Off Record Remarks

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

House Papers

Bill "An Act to Raise the Limit on the Total Number of Public Charter Schools"
H.P. 182 L.D. 282

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **RAFFERTY** of York, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Repeal the Law Prohibiting Places of Business from Being Open to the Public on Sunday"
H.P. 181 L.D. 277

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **CURRY** of Waldo, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding Inland Fisheries and Wildlife"
H.P. 180 L.D. 276

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Update Major Policy-influencing Positions Within the Maine Human Rights Commission"
H.P. 184 L.D. 284

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Preserve Legislative Authority over Investigating Committees"
H.P. 176 L.D. 273

Bill "An Act to Allow County Commissioners Greater Flexibility When Establishing a Payment Schedule for Municipalities to Pay County Tax Bills"
H.P. 186 L.D. 286

Come from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Expand Local Revenues by Including Meals and Lodging Sales Tax Revenue Under the State-Municipal Revenue Sharing Program"
H.P. 183 L.D. 283

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TAXATION** and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TAXATION** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act Making Unified Allocations from the Highway Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027" (EMERGENCY)
H.P. 178 L.D. 274

Bill "An Act to Make Supplemental Allocations from the Highway Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025" (EMERGENCY)
H.P. 179 L.D. 275

Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation to Amend Its Rules Regarding Seasonal Load Restrictions on Certain State and State Aid Highways (EMERGENCY)
H.P. 185 L.D. 285

Come from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **NANGLE** of Cumberland, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

All matters thus acted upon were ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

RECESSED until the sound of the bell.

After Recess the Senate was called to order by the President.

At this point the Senate retired to the Hall of the House where a Joint Convention was formed.

Following the Joint Convention the Senate was called to order in the Senate Chamber by the President.

On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland, **ADJOURNED**, pursuant to the Joint Order, until Tuesday, February 4th, 2025 at 10:00 in the morning.