

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

In Senate Chamber
Tuesday
March 25, 2025

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

Prayer by Pastor Kelly Harvell of Oakland-Sidney United Methodist Church.

PASTOR KELLY HARVELL: Source of wisdom and justice, we pause in gratitude for the opportunity to serve the people of this state. As these leaders gather today, may they be guided by wisdom, integrity, and a deep sense of responsibility. Grant them patience in listening, clarity in speaking, and courage in decision making. May their deliberations be marked by respect, fairness, and a shared commitment to the common good. Help them to seek justice, uphold dignity, and work for the wellbeing of all. May they be ever mindful of those they serve, especially those whose voices are not always heard. Strengthen their resolve to lead with compassion and purpose, that their efforts may bring peace, prosperity, and greater opportunity to all. With gratitude for their service and for this time together, I offer this prayer on their behalf. Amen.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator Scott W. Cyrway of Kennebec County.

Off Record Remarks

The Following Communication:

S.C. 170

**STATE OF MAINE
PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, there exists in the State of Maine an extraordinary occasion arising out of the need to resolve many legislative matters pending at the time of the adjournment of the First Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature of the State of Maine; and

WHEREAS, the public health, safety and welfare requires that the Legislature resolve these pending matters as soon as possible, and in any event prior to the date of the Second Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature of the State of Maine, including but not limited to the state budget, pending legislation, pending nominations of state board and commission members, and

pending nominations of judicial officers by the Governor requiring legislative confirmation;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, JANET T. MILLS, Governor of the State of Maine, by virtue of the constitutional power vested in me as Governor pursuant to Article V, Part I, Section 13 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, do convene the Legislature of this State, and hereby request the Representatives and Senators to assemble at ten o'clock in the morning in their respective chambers at the Capitol in Augusta on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, in order to receive communications, resolve pending legislation carried over from the First Regular Session of the 132nd Legislature and act upon pending nominations and whatever other business may come before the Legislature.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this twenty-first day of March Two Thousand Twenty-Five

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

S/Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State

READ.

The Chair noted the absence of the Senator from Penobscot, Senator **BALDACCI**, and further excused the same Senators from today's Roll Call votes.

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 (#68)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BEEBE-CENTER, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAWRENCE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TALBOT ROSS, TEPLER, TIPPING, PRESIDENT DAUGHTRY

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, BERNARD, BICKFORD, BLACK, BRADSTREET, CYRWAY, FARRIN, GUERIN, HAGGAN, HARRINGTON, LIBBY, MARTIN, MOORE, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: BALDACCI

19 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 15 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senators being excused, the proclamation was **PLACED ON FILE**.

QUORUM CALL

34 Senators having answered the Roll with 1 Senator being excused, the Chair declared a quorum present.

On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland, the following Senate Order:

S.O. 18

ORDERED, that a message be sent to Governor Janet T. Mills informing her that in accordance with Article V, Part First, Section 13 of the Constitution of Maine, a quorum of Senators is assembled in the Senate Chamber for the consideration of such business as may come before the Senate.

READ.

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 (#69)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BEEBE-CENTER, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAWRENCE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TALBOT ROSS, TEPLER, TIPPING, PRESIDENT DAUGHTRY

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, BERNARD, BICKFORD, BLACK, BRADSTREET, CYRWAY, FARRIN, GUERIN, HAGGAN, HARRINGTON, LIBBY, MARTIN, MOORE, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: BALDACCI

19 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 15 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senators being excused, the Order was **PASSED**.

The Chair appointed the Senator from Cumberland, Senator **PIERCE**, to deliver the message to the Governor. The Senator was escorted to the Governor's Office.

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

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

On motion by Senator **DUSON** of Cumberland, the following Senate Order:

S.O. 19

ORDERED, that a message be sent to House of Representatives informing that body that in accordance with Article V, Part First, Section 13 of the Constitution of Maine, a quorum of Senators is assembled in the Senate Chamber for the consideration of such business as may come before the Senate.

READ.

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 (#70)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BEEBE-CENTER, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAWRENCE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TALBOT ROSS, TEPLER, TIPPING, PRESIDENT DAUGHTRY

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, BERNARD, BICKFORD, BLACK, BRADSTREET, CYRWAY, FARRIN, GUERIN, HAGGAN, HARRINGTON, LIBBY, MARTIN, MOORE, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: BALDACCI

19 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 15 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senators being excused, the Order was **PASSED**.

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

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication:

S.C. 167

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

March 20, 2025

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

RE: Nominations to the Maine Retirement Savings Board

Dear President Daughtry:

I am pleased to nominate the following individuals for reappointment to the Maine Retirement Savings Board:

- Gigi Guyton Thompson of Peaks Island
- Deborah Neuman of Hampden
- Daniel Piltch of Freeport

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

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

Off Record Remarks

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Unfinished Business

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

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (2/11/25) matter:

JOINT ORDER - Expression of Legislative Sentiment Recognizing the Gray-New Gloucester High School Cheer Team, of Gray
SLS 101

Tabled - February 11, 2025 by Senator **BICKFORD** of Androscoggin

Pending - **PASSAGE**

The Joint Order was **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Bickford.

Senator **BICKFORD:** Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate, I stand today to recognize the remarkable achievements of the Gray-New Gloucester Cheer Team. Many people don't fully appreciate the commitment it takes to be on a cheerleading team. Not only do they have to lead the crowd during athletic events, they also must learn an extensive floor routine for their own competition. The routine combines elements of dance, stunts, and they must lead the crowd in a cheer. Their choreography must be in sync, and they must act as one unit to impress the judges. This season, the Gray-New Gloucester Cheer Team claimed the Western Maine Conference title, the Class B South title, and finished as runners-up for the State title, an outstanding accomplishment. These successes reflect the dedication, hard work, and collaboration that define the team. It's clear that they've put in the effort, supported one another through challenges, and continually raise the bar. Their commitment has paid off and the results speak for themselves. Congratulations to the members of the team - Marissa Rowe, Brooklyn Gould, Hannah Gordon, Piper Aube, Charlotte Testa, Valerie Karp, Madelyn Patrick, JoLee Coggins, Maeve Lewis, and Julianna Brown. You've made your school, families, and communities incredibly proud. Congratulations to each and every one of you. As we look to the future, we're all excited to see how the underclassmen will continue to build on this success for years to come.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the Chamber the Gray-New Gloucester High School Cheer Team. They are the guests today of the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Bickford. Would they please rise and accept the greetings of the Senate.

Off Record Remarks

The Following Communication:

S.C. 168

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SECOND LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

March 20, 2025

The Honorable Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate of Maine
132nd Maine State Legislature
State House
Augusta, Maine 04333-0003

Dear Madam President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary has had under consideration the nomination of Amy Dieterich, Esq. of Auburn, for appointment as a District Court Judge.

After public hearing and discussion on this nomination, the Committee proceeded to vote on the motion to recommend to the Senate that this nomination be confirmed. The Committee Clerk called the roll with the following result:

YEAS	Senators	2	Carney, A. of Cumberland, Haggan, D. of Penobscot
	Representatives	8	Kuhn, A. of Falmouth, Babin, M. of Fort Fairfield, Henderson, R. of Rumford, Lee, A. of Auburn, O'Halloran, D. of Brewer, Pugh, D. of Portland, Sato, E. of Gorham, Sinclair, D. of Bath
NAYS		0	
ABSENT		3	Sen. Talbot Ross, R. of Cumberland, Rep. Caruso, E. of Caratunk, Rep. Poirier, J. of Skowhegan

Rep. Dana of Passamaquoddy Tribe was absent.

Ten members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of Amy Dieterich, Esq. of Auburn, for appointment as a District Court Judge be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Anne Carney
Senate Chair

S/Amy D. Kuhn
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

On motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **CONSIDERATION**.

The Following Communication:

S.C. 169

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SECOND LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**

March 20, 2025

The Honorable Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate of Maine
132nd Maine State Legislature
State House
Augusta, Maine 04333-0003

Dear Madam President:

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary has had under consideration the nomination of the Honorable Matthew G. Tice of Scarborough, for reappointment as a District Court Judge.

After public hearing and discussion on this nomination, the Committee proceeded to vote on the motion to recommend to the Senate that this nomination be confirmed. The Committee Clerk called the roll with the following result:

YEAS	Senators	1	Carney, A. of Cumberland
	Representatives	7	Kuhn, A. of Falmouth, Babin, M. of Fort Fairfield, Lee, A. of Auburn, O'Halloran, D. of Brewer, Pugh, D. of Portland, Sato, E. of Gorham, Sinclair, D. of Bath
NAYS		0	
ABSENT		5	Sen. Haggan, D. of Penobscot, Sen. Talbot Ross, R. of Cumberland, Rep. Caruso, E. of Caratunk, Rep. Henderson, R. of Rumford, Rep. Poirier, J. of Skowhegan

Rep. Dana of Passamaquoddy Tribe was absent.

Eight members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of the Honorable Matthew G. Tice of Scarborough, for reappointment as a District Court Judge be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Anne Carney
Senate Chair

S/Amy D. Kuhn
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

On motion by Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **CONSIDERATION.**

The Following Communication:

H.P. 754

**STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0148**

March 14, 2025

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

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Enclosed please find my official certification to the 132nd Legislature of the citizen initiative petition entitled "An Act to Require an Individual to Present Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting".

Sincerely,

S/Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State

**STATE OF MAINE
SECRETARY OF STATE**

I, Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State, hereby certify that written petitions bearing valid signatures of 86,904 electors of this State were addressed to the Legislature of the State of Maine and were filed in the office of the Secretary of State on January 6, 2025, requesting that the Legislature consider an act entitled, "An Act to Require an Individual to Present Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting".

I further certify that the number of signatures submitted is in excess of ten percent of the total votes cast in the last gubernatorial election preceding the filing of such petitions, as required by Article IV, Part Third, Section 18 of the Constitution of Maine, that number being 67,682.

I further certify this initiative petition to be valid and attach herewith the text of the legislation circulated on the petition's behalf.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State of Maine to be hereunto affixed. Given under my hand at Augusta on the fourteenth day of March in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-five.

S/Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The accompanying bill:

Bill "An Act to Require an Individual to Present Photographic Identification for the Purpose of Voting"
I.B. 1 L.D. 1149

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

On motion by Senator **HICKMAN** of Kennebec, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Amend Certain Provisions of Maine's Drug Laws Regarding Heroin, Fentanyl and Cocaine"
S.P. 517 L.D. 1288

Presented by Senator HAGGAN of Penobscot. Cosponsored by Representative PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft and Senator: CYRWAY of Kennebec, Representative: NUTTING of Oakland.

Bill "An Act to Waive Basic Law Enforcement Training Requirements for Full-time Law Enforcement Officers Who Have Successfully Completed Equivalent Courses in Other Jurisdictions"
S.P. 525 L.D. 1295

Presented by Senator MOORE of Washington. Cosponsored by Representative BOYER of Poland and Senators: BERNARD of Aroostook, BLACK of Franklin, CYRWAY of Kennebec, MARTIN of Oxford, STEWART of Aroostook, Representatives: MINGO of Calais, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, TUELL of East Machias.

On motion by Senator **BEEBE-CENTER** of Knox, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding Eligibility for Historic Preservation Bond Proceeds"
S.P. 510 L.D. 1282

Presented by Senator HICKMAN of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Representative GREENWOOD of Wales and Senators: GROHOSKI of Hancock, RAFFERTY of York, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, Representatives: FREDERICKS of Sanford, HASENFUS of Readfield, LEMELIN of Chelsea, MALON of Biddeford, MORRIS of Turner.

Bill "An Act to Prohibit the Consideration of Legacy Preferences or Donor Preferences in Postsecondary Educational Institution Admissions"
S.P. 513 L.D. 1285

Presented by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Senators: CURRY of Waldo, DUSON of Cumberland, RAFFERTY of York, TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland, Representatives: GOLEK of Harpswell, RANA of Bangor, SATO of Gorham.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Resolve, to Establish the Committee to Study the Use of Sunflower Crops to Produce Biofuels
S.P. 527 L.D. 1297

Presented by Senator STEWART of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Representative QUINT of Hodgdon and Senator: BERNARD of Aroostook, Representatives: ALBERT of Madawaska, ARDELL of Monticello, BABIN of Fort Fairfield, DAIGLE of Fort Kent, GUERRETTE of Caribou, SWALLOW of Houlton, UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle.

On motion by Senator **LAWRENCE** of York, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **REFERENCE**.

Bill "An Act to Address the Safety of Nurses and Improve Patient Care by Enacting the Maine Quality Care Act"
S.P. 509 L.D. 1281

Presented by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Senator: President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, Representatives: BECK of South Portland, FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor, GEIGER of Rockland, ROEDER of Bangor, WEBB of Durham.

On motion by Senator **INGWERSEN** of York, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **REFERENCE**.

Bill "An Act to Allow Employees Covered Under the Maine Retirement Savings Program to Elect to Enroll and Unenroll in a Payroll Deduction for an Individual Retirement Account"
S.P. 511 L.D. 1283

Presented by Senator STEWART of Aroostook. (BY REQUEST)

Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study Fostering a Positive Economic Environment for Blockchain Technology and Cryptocurrency
S.P. 515 L.D. 1286

Presented by Senator BRADSTREET of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Representative FOLEY of Wells and Senator: HAGGAN of Penobscot, Representatives: ARCHER of Saco, COLLINS of Sidney, FLYNN of Albion.

Bill "An Act to Update the Laws Regarding Athletic Trainers"
S.P. 520 L.D. 1290

Presented by Senator BAILEY of York.
Cosponsored by Speaker FECTION of Biddeford and Senators: RAFFERTY of York, STEWART of Aroostook, Representative: FOLEY of Wells.

Bill "An Act Establishing Alternative Pathways to Social Worker Licensing"
S.P. 528 L.D. 1298

Presented by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative CRAFTS of Newcastle and Senators: BAILEY of York, BALDACC I of Penobscot, BENNETT of Oxford, MOORE of Washington, Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, DHALAC of South Portland, MORRIS of Turner, STOVER of Boothbay.

Bill "An Act to Prohibit the Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Denial of Health Insurance Claims"
S.P. 531 L.D. 1301

Presented by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach and Senators: BAILEY of York, President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, MARTIN of Oxford, RENY of Lincoln, Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, DODGE of Belfast, ZAGER of Portland.

On motion by Senator **BAILEY** of York, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Support Workforce Development by Establishing the Housing Stability Fund"
S.P. 516 L.D. 1287

Presented by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative GATTINE of Westbrook and Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, DUSON of Cumberland, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland, Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, DHALAC of South Portland, RANA of Bangor, YUSUF of Portland.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Law Governing Watercraft Franchisor Warranty Reimbursements"
S.P. 526 L.D. 1296

Presented by Senator RENY of Lincoln.
Cosponsored by Representative STROUT of Harrington and Senators: CURRY of Waldo, INGWERSEN of York, MOORE of Washington, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, TIPPING of Penobscot, Representatives: HEPLER of Woolwich, PARRY of Arundel, WOOD of Norway.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Strengthen Maine's Implied Warranty Laws"
S.P. 530 L.D. 1300

Presented by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representative BECK of South Portland and Senators: BALDACCI of Penobscot, BICKFORD of Androscoggin, LAWRENCE of York, RENY of Lincoln, Representatives: BOYER of Poland, DHALAC of South Portland, MACIAS of Topsham, ROEDER of Bangor.

Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** suggested and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **CURRY** of Waldo, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Coyote-killing Contests in Maine"
S.P. 523 L.D. 1293

Presented by Senator BEEBE-CENTER of Knox.
Cosponsored by Representative DODGE of Belfast and Senators: BRENNER of Cumberland, LAWRENCE of York, RAFFERTY of York, Representatives: BOYER of Cape Elizabeth, FRIEDMANN of Bar Harbor, KUHN of Falmouth, PUGH of Portland.

On motion by Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Repeal Provisions of Law Governing the Privacy of Broadband Internet Customer Personal Information"
S.P. 512 L.D. 1284

Presented by Senator STEWART of Aroostook.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Prohibit the Unsecured Storage of Handguns in Motor Vehicles"
S.P. 529 L.D. 1299

Presented by Senator TALBOT ROSS of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative DOUDERA of Camden and Senators: CARNEY of Cumberland, President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, KUHN of Falmouth, LEE of Auburn.

Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland moved to **REFER** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**.

On motion by Senator **HARRINGTON** of York, 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 (#71)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BEEBE-CENTER, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAWRENCE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TALBOT ROSS, TEPLER, TIPPING, PRESIDENT DAUGHTRY

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, BERNARD, BICKFORD, BLACK, BRADSTREET, CYRWAY, FARRIN, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, LIBBY, MARTIN, MOORE, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

ABSENT: Senators: HAGGAN

EXCUSED: Senators: BALDACCI

19 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 14 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland to **REFER** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY, PREVAILED.**

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding the Number of Voters of a Municipality Required to Petition for Consideration of Deorganization of That Municipality"
S.P. 532 L.D. 1302

Presented by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Qualifications for the State Auditor"
S.P. 533 L.D. 1303

Presented by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot.

On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Study the Apportionment of Service Revenue
S.P. 521 L.D. 1291

Presented by Senator BICKFORD of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Representative PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft.

Bill "An Act to Expand the Dependent Exemption Tax Credit"
S.P. 524 L.D. 1294

Presented by President DAUGHTRY of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative GATTINE of Westbrook and Senators: DUSON of Cumberland, LIBBY of Cumberland,

MOORE of Washington, PIERCE of Cumberland, RENY of Lincoln, TIPPING of Penobscot, Representative: GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach.

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Limit Property Tax Increases for Individuals 65 Years of Age or Older and Shift the Tax Burden to State Gaming Revenues
S.P. 534 L.D. 1304

Presented by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representative O'HALLORAN of Brewer and Senator: NANGLE of Cumberland, Representatives: ROEDER of Bangor, SUPICA of Bangor.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Codify the Maine Turnpike Authority's Contributions to the Highway Fund with Regard to the Sensible Transportation Policy Act"
S.P. 522 L.D. 1292

Presented by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative DUCHARME of Madison and Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, BLACK of Franklin, Representatives: CARLOW of Buxton, DILL of Old Town, EATON of Deer Isle, HEPLER of Woolwich, MONTELL of Gardiner, RAY of Lincolnville.

Bill "An Act to Improve Access to Transportation to Work for Forestry Workers and Migrant and Seasonal Farm Workers"
S.P. 535 L.D. 1305

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Election Recount Process"
S.P. 518 L.D. 1289

Presented by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Senators: DUSON of Cumberland, HICKMAN of Kennebec, Representative: SUPICA of Bangor.

On motion by Senator **HICKMAN** of Kennebec, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

ORDERS

Joint Resolutions

On motion by Senator **TALBOT ROSS** of Cumberland (Cosponsored by Representative **GUERRETTE** of Caribou and Senators: **BLACK** of Franklin, **INGWERSEN** of York, Representatives: **CRAY** of Palmyra, **DILL** of Old Town, **FROST** of Belgrade, **HEPLER** of Woolwich, **JACKSON** of Oxford, **PLUECKER** of Warren), the following Joint Resolution: S.P. 514

**JOINT RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING THE MAINE FOREST SERVICE
FOR ITS 2024 OUT-OF-STATE MOBILIZATIONS**

WHEREAS, regionally and nationally, the Maine Forest Service, as part of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, works within mutual aid agreements to assist state and federal partners, including during the recent 2024 mobilization season; and

WHEREAS, through the Northeast Forest Fire Protection Compact and National Stafford Act Master Agreement, the Maine Forest Service had 30 mobilizations in 2024, sending resources to other parts of the country to respond to 25 incidents, including Hurricane Helene in the Town of Black Mountain in North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, in 2024 the Maine Forest Service also sent personnel and equipment to California, New Mexico, Washington, Nevada, Oregon, Georgia, Alabama, Connecticut and Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS, forty-one rangers, one forester and one entomologist from the Maine Forest Service participated in the 2024 mobilization season, as did staff from the Maine Land Use Planning Commission and other state agencies and 24 call-when-needed firefighters; and

WHEREAS, the Maine Forest Service sent these personnel and resources to other states to respond to wildfires and natural disasters, but because of our mutual aid agreements, Maine can rely on help from other states when natural disasters occur here; and

WHEREAS, while Maine forest rangers and Maine Forest Service staff, other state staff and the call-when-needed firefighters are highly trained, by mobilizing across the country, they gained invaluable additional training and experience that they can apply to the protection of Maine's natural resources; and

WHEREAS, wildfire suppression and emergency response missions are inherently dangerous, but through training, having reliable equipment, using proper personal protective equipment, conducting medical screenings and relying on peer support systems, the Maine Forest Service was successful operationally and in protecting all personnel both here and away in 2024; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, take this opportunity to recognize the Maine Forest Service for its 2024 mobilization season and express our appreciation for and pride in the personnel of the Maine Forest Service and all who answered the call.

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

On motion by Senator **TALBOT ROSS** of Cumberland, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **ADOPTION**.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Eliminate Ranked-choice Voting" H.P. 157 L.D. 234

Reported that the same **Ought Not to Pass**.

Signed:

Senators:

HICKMAN of Kennebec
DUSON of Cumberland

Representatives:

SUPICA of Bangor
FAIRCLOTH of Bangor
FROST of Belgrade
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth
MALON of Biddeford
TERRY of Gorham

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass**.

Signed:

Senator:

TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin

Representatives:

BOYER of Poland
CHAPMAN of Auburn
FREDERICKS of Sanford
HYMES of Waldo

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Reports **READ**.

Senator **HICKMAN** of Kennebec moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report, in concurrence.

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 Bradstreet.

Senator **BRADSTREET:** Thank you, Madam President. I rise in opposition to the pending motion for a couple reasons here. Ranked-choice voting was originally introduced with the understanding that it would decrease the rancor in our elections. I think we can all agree that that hasn't happened. It still remains very confusing for many voters. When they go to the voting booth, they see all this, and they're just first, second, third, or fourth choice, they are still confused. And that's something we don't want when people go to the polls. I also want to point out that I have a problem when my -- when somebody has a third or fourth choice, even, that that counts just as much as my first choice. And we all ought to keep in mind, too, that a person choosing the least popular person on the ballot maybe shouldn't get another shot at it. Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Madam President. Request permission to pose a question through the Chair?

THE PRESIDENT: The Senator from Oxford, Senator Bennett, has requested permission to pose a question through the Chair. The Senator may proceed.

Senator **BENNETT:** I'm wondering if a Member of this Body could inform me or inform my recollection about how many times the people of Maine have approved ranked choice voting in public votes. Thank you, Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Senator from Oxford, Senator Bennett, has posed a question to the Body to any Member who may wish to respond. Seeing none.

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

Senator **HICKMAN:** Thank you, Madam President. I rise to attempt to answer the question. At least twice the people have decided that ranked-choice voting is the way that we would like to elect people for our state and local offices. Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator **LIBBY:** Thank you, Madam President. Ranked-choice voting involves some strategy at the polls, and the strategy is complex. And I think the reason that ranked-choice voting should be an issue that the Legislature decides and not necessarily the people in a statewide vote is because it is that complex. When you go to the polls, you can vote for one candidate straight across, you can rank order your votes, and some people don't necessarily have the ability to determine what the outcome of that

might be, depending on the strategy. Most people obviously do. But the concern is that it's confusing. So, I have to agree with the Senator from Kennebec -- the Senator from Kennebec that because of that confusion, it deserves our review, and it would be an excellent idea to reject the Majority Ought Not to Pass and accept an Ought to Pass at a later time.

Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Madam President, Fellow Members of the Senate. I have not supported ranked-choice voting, I think it's a solution in search of a problem, and it has not lived up to all of the promises that its advocates have suggested that it would.

However, I think that when the people tell us how they want the elections conducted, it's really not our business to second guess them and tell them we know better than they do. And so -- and I believe this to be the case not only on election matters, but particularly on election matters, anything that goes to the heart of deciding how power is distributed in this state, we should listen to the people first. And for the same reason, I have resisted any attempts, and there are lots of them in this Body over many, many years, to change the peoples' will on term limits and a host of other issues. So, I believe that if we're going to change ranked choice voting at this point, since the people have spoken multiple times in this issue, that we should let them do it and not us. For that reason, I'll be voting for the Ought Not to Pass Report.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would recognize the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Cyrway.

Senator **CYRWAY:** Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I was here during the debate on ranked-choice voting, and I will say that most of the Senators did not understand how it worked, and including both parties. So, if I even asked you right now, is it better to push -- to check off all five positions, Madam President, or is it better to check the one, two, and three and four vote or five, how does it work, you probably couldn't answer it. And that's what we found with talking to the Senate, and both sides were very confused. And so, we expect our population to understand this when our Senate couldn't even understand it. So, it really is very confusing, and I just feel that this should be vetted in a proper way. So, thank you, Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Bickford.

Senator **BICKFORD:** Thank you, Madam President. The Constitution says that it must be a plurality. So, where we get ranked-choice voting out of a plurality baffles me. I'd like to pose a question to anyone that can answer how a plurality equals a majority. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Bickford, has posed a question to the Body to any Member who may wish to respond. Going once. Going twice.

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

Senator **HICKMAN:** Thank you, Madam President. I rise to attempt to answer the question from the Senator from Androscoggin. A majority is a super-plurality. Thank you, Madam President.

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

Senator **LIBBY:** Thank you very much, Madam President. I rise for a second time to also remind the Members of this Chamber of the cost involved and the delay that is required to be able to process ranked-choice voting. In the last election, I remember seeing the day after the presidential election an Electoral College map on a local television station. And on that map, it was, you know, had completed results. And Maine stood alone with incomplete results.

So, I don't think that the voters were aware when they voted that it would take this much time to process ranked-choice votes, especially if there's a lot of different parties and unenrolled people on the ballot itself. And for that very reason, I -- and similar to my comments earlier, I would encourage the Body to vote against the pending motion. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Acceptance of the Majority Ought Not to Pass report. 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 (#72)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAWRENCE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TALBOT ROSS, TEPLER, TIPPING, PRESIDENT DAUGHTRY

NAYS: Senators: BERNARD, BICKFORD, BLACK, BRADSTREET, CYRWAY, FARRIN, GUERIN, HAGGAN, HARRINGTON, LIBBY, MARTIN, MOORE, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: BALDACCI

20 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 14 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **HICKMAN** of Kennebec to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report, **PREVAILED**.

Senate

Change of Committee

Senator CURRY for the Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** on Bill "An Act to Fund the Doctors for Maine's Future Scholarship Program" S.P. 264 L.D. 581

Reported that the same be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Ought to Pass

Senator LAWRENCE for the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Bill "An Act to Extend the Law Governing Electric Power and Service Residential Rates for Military Veterans' Organizations" (EMERGENCY) S.P. 201 L.D. 466

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ TWICE** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Senator BALDACCI for the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act to Designate November as Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month" S.P. 120 L.D. 254

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ TWICE** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Senator HICKMAN for the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Clarify the Law Governing the Minimum Indirect Financial Interest Disclosure Requirement for Liquor Licenses"
S.P. 299 L.D. 683

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

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ TWICE** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

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

Senator **BRENNER:** Thank you, Madam President. Good morning, and good morning, colleagues. I rise to recognize and celebrate the extraordinary life and legacy of Mabel Wadsworth, a true champion for reproductive healthcare, women's rights, and public health in Maine.

Mabel's story is one of courage, compassion, and unwavering commitment to justice. She was born in 1910 in Rochester, New Hampshire, and grew up at a time when women had only recently gained the right to vote. From an early age, she understood the challenges that women faced, not just in their homes and workplaces, but in something even more fundamental - access to healthcare and the right to make decisions about their own bodies. She pursued a career in nursing, earning her degree in public health from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. From there, she embarked on a lifelong mission to improve women's health, advocating for education and services that were often overlooked or denied. Her work in Maine began in earnest in the 1960s when she became the state's first family planning nurse. She saw firsthand the struggles women faced, especially those in rural areas, who had nowhere to turn for birth control, sexual health information, or safe and supportive reproductive healthcare. But Mabel wasn't one to accept injustice. She knew that access to healthcare was not a privilege, but a fundamental right, and she made it her life's work to ensure that every woman, regardless of income, background, or circumstances, had control over her own reproductive health.

In 1984, at a time when reproductive rights were under attack across the country, Mabel founded the Mabel Wadsworth Center in Bangor. It was the first and remains the only private nonprofit health center in Maine dedicated entirely to reproductive and sexual health. This was more than just a clinic, it was a bold statement that women deserved care, compassion, and the right to make their own choices about their bodies. Her work was not always easy. She faced resistance from those who sought to limit access to contraception and abortion services, but Mabel was never deterred. She understood that knowledge is power, and she made it her mission to provide women with the information and resources they needed to make informed decisions. Today, Mabel Wadsworth Center stands as a testament to her vision. Thousands of individuals - women and men alike - have received care there, benefitting from Mabel's belief that healthcare should be free from judgment, shame, and political interference. Mabel Wadsworth's legacy is not just in the institution that bears her name, but in the lives she touched, the policies she influenced, and the generations of women she empowered. She taught us that the fight for reproductive freedom is never over. It requires vigilance, courage, and a steadfast commitment to justice.

As we honor Mabel's life today, let us commit to carrying forward her work. Let us continue to fight for access to healthcare, for reproductive rights, and for the belief that every individual has the right to make their own choices about their body and the future.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act to Prohibit the Governor from Relocating Illegal Immigrants to This State"
S.P. 168 L.D. 387

Reported that the same **Ought Not to Pass**.

Signed:

Senators:

- BALDACCI of Penobscot
- MARTIN of Oxford

Representatives:

- SALISBURY of Westbrook
- COPELAND of Saco
- FARRIN of Jefferson
- MATLACK of St. George
- POMERLEAU of Standish
- ROLLINS of Augusta
- TUELL of East Machias

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass**.

Signed:

Representative:

- ADAMS of Lebanon

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland, the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **ACCEPTED**

Sent down for concurrence.

Mabel once said women must have control over their own bodies, there is no equality without it. Let's never forget that truth. Thank you, Madam President.

At this point a message was received from the House of Representatives, borne by Representative MOONEN of Portland, informing the Senate that a quorum of Representatives was assembled for the consideration of such business as may come before that Body.

THE PRESIDENT: Seeing no objection, so moved.

Senator **BAILEY:** Thank you. Men and Women of the Senate, today I am honored to rise and speak about my great aunt Hilda Brungot in recognition of Women's History Month. For many years, my Aunt Hilda, or Tante Hilda, as we called her, held the record for longest female legislative service, not just in New Hampshire, but in the entire world. Now, don't worry, I don't plan on breaking that record any time soon. Aunt Hilda was the first woman to follow her father into legislative service. In doing so, she served 19 terms in the New Hampshire State Legislature from 1931 to 1937 and from 1941 to 1975. In 1931, she was 44 years old and had six children. As she entered politics, she worked as a cook to help her family. And just as an aside, to remind folks that since 1889, New Hampshire has paid its 400 State Representatives and 24 State Senators an annual stipend of just \$100 a year. So, no wonder Aunt Hilda had to work as a cook while she was serving. For the history buffs among us, that second span of service began with the Second World War and ended with the Vietnam War. It goes without saying that she served during decades of change, conflict, and turmoil. Tante Hilda was born in 1886 and lived until 1982. During her time as a legislator, Tante Hilda served 14 terms on the House Judiciary Committee, and giving my service on that same committee here in the Maine Legislature just goes to prove that old adage about an apple not falling far from its tree. I like to think that maybe it's in our family DNA. She had a reputation in the Legislature as being peppery and argumentative - that doesn't describe me at all - but also the Member who regularly made the motion to allow Members to remove their suit coats in the summer heat, joking that improving the comfort of her male colleagues also improved their dispositions and they were more likely to vote with her. And I'm wondering if the Good Senator from Washington has the same thoughts about making her motion regularly. In addition to this legislative service, Aunt Hilda served in five Constitutional Conventions held in that same time period, which is another record for women. When she was finally defeated in 1974, at age 88, being the oldest female legislator and working towards her equivalency of a high school diploma in her 80s, a drive began for a portrait of Aunt Hilda to be installed at the New Hampshire State House. A statewide campaign raised the funds to create this portrait, and in 1978, she was present for the unveiling of the portrait, located right outside the New Hampshire State Senate Chamber. And you all received a copy of the portrait on your desk this morning. At the time, Aunt Hilda was the only woman legislator so honored. At the time of her last campaign, on July 17, 1974, U.S. Congressman from New

Hampshire James C. Cleveland read into the congressional record the following tribute to Aunt Hilda, and I'd like to now read it into the record here in Maine. Mr. Speaker, as some of my colleagues in the House may know, the General Court of the State of New Hampshire is the third-largest English-speaking Representative body in the world. Within this distinguished body of public servants are some truly remarkable and nearly legendary figures. One such person is Mrs. Hilda Brungot of Berlin, New Hampshire. Mrs. Brungot is 87 years young and is running for her 20th term as a state legislator. During each of her 19 terms as a Representative, she has served her constituents and her state with distinction. During these times when the public's confidence in their national political leaders and institution has reached a new low, Mrs. Brungot should serve as an inspiration to all public officials. Her sincerity, judgment, and compassion as a Representative are exemplary. I commend to my colleagues the following article from the front page of the Boston Globe on July 10, 1974, by James Stark, Dateline, Berlin, New Hampshire. Hilda Constance Fredericka Brungot, Grand Dame of the New Hampshire General Court, had to interrupt her campaign for reelection the other day. It was really too bad because Mrs. Brungot, 87, running for her 20th term in the Legislature and facing the strongest opposition of her career, needs all the campaign time she can get. Still, she brought her telephone solicitation and voters to a standstill to deal with a crisis involving a secondhand power lawn mower she bought last year. The venerable machine came to grief when the boys who cut the grass around her home on Main Street ran out of gas and refilled the fuel tank with turpentine by mistake. So, I went out to an auction and picked up an old-fashioned hand mower that runs on elbow grease, she said, no way to pour turpentine into that one. It cost her all of \$2. Thrift has always been the name of the game with me, whether I'm spending my own or the public's money, said the peppery great-grandmother, it's something I learned the hard way by working as a cook to bring up ten children - six of my own, and four state wards. So, I know the value of money. Maybe that's how I've managed to get sent down to Legislature for so long, she said. This will be my 20th term if I'm lucky enough to make it. To tell you the truth, I'm running scared. Mrs. Brungot's political beginning was back in 1930 when she served as a delegate to a Constitutional Convention at the age of 44. According to Leon W. Anderson, the political columnist for the Concord Monitor, Mrs. Brungot's length of service as a lawmaker is unequaled in the state's history. It's not how long you serve, argues Hilda, who prefers the informality of the first name exchange, it's what you do while you're there. As you know from my record, I'm a hellion against new or increased taxes because I had to work until I was 75 and I know the working man's problems. But I'm not there just because I'm a no-tax advocate, she said. I've been on the Judiciary Committee, one of the most important of them all, for 14 terms. For the first time, I've got opposition on all sides, she said. The Democrats used to leave a place on the slate open so that all of my Democratic friends could write me in, and I'd get both nominations. Now, I've got two Republican opponents in the primary and, if I should win, one of three Democrats to face. This could be my last hoorah, Mrs. Brungot said, but I hope it won't be. I want to go back to Concord because I feel I have a lot of experience to offer the younger ones. Has Watergate affected her reelection? No, she said, the State Representative contests in New Hampshire are beyond the touching of things like Watergate. Every voter is practically a neighbor. There are so many of us, they vote on

personalities, not big issues. I think all the opposition I'm getting is probably because they think it's about time I quit. But now that I filed, I'm going to fight, and I'm good at that. Mrs. Brungot agrees with the late General Douglas MacArthur who said age was not a time of life but a state of mind. That was a nice way of saying you're as young as you feel. Except for a touch of arthritis, I've never felt better or sharper in my whole life. Mrs. Brungot, a product of sturdy Scandinavian stock, her father, Hans Christian Johanson, a native of Oslo, Norway, preceded her in the Legislature, believes firmly that determination, not age, is the key to achievement. I got my high school diploma when I was 80, she said, not because I needed it, but because I wanted to prove I could get it. I just didn't have time before.

Hilda Brungot has no patience for those who constantly push for reduction of the size of the New Hampshire Legislature, said to be the third largest in the English-speaking world. The special interests and selfish lobbyists can sometimes fool 400 legislators, or a majority of them, but they can never buy them, she said. She said the size of the New Hampshire legislature permits representation of all levels of society and all spheres of life in the state. Other places you want to see your legislator, you ask for an appointment and don't always get it, she said. Here in New Hampshire, you knock on his door and when he opens it, you tell him what you think and he has to listen.

Of course, I knew Tante Hilda as a looming and intimidating figure in our family. Hers was the house where you visited in your best clothes and you washed up beforehand. You sat up straight and you said please and thank you, and I never dared to touch anything for fear I would break something. But she would also sit with me over tea and Norwegian pastries and discuss politics. She encouraged me to speak my mind and was proud when I wrote letters to the editor, even though she did not necessarily agree with the views I expressed. Behind the outward gruff formality, she was also kind and caring and you knew that she would give you the shirt off her back if you needed it. Thank you, Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Washington, Senator Moore.

Senator **MOORE:** Thank you, Madam President. Continuing on with the Women's History Month, I thought it most appropriate since we watched the astronauts return from the space center last week to talk a little bit about Christa McAuliffe.

In 1986, Christa stepped from the classroom into history. As part of a radical new approach by NASA, she was to be the first civilian in space. While her mission on the shuttle ended tragically, her mission as a teacher continues. By 1984, space shuttle flights had become ordinary occurrences to many Americans. NASA wanted to rekindle the excitement that had once surrounded the space program. They thought that if an ordinary citizen were involved, a good talker who could communicate the excitement of travel in space, the public might once again become enthusiastic. Taking this into consideration, President Reagan made the decision that the first ordinary American to travel onboard a space shuttle would be one of America's finest, a teacher. After all, good teachers have the ability to get people interested and excited.

NASA's media coordinator said we're not looking for Superman, we're looking for the person who can do the best job of describing his/her experiences on the shuttle to the most people on earth. The search finally led to Christa McAuliffe, a social studies

teacher from Concord High School in Concord, New Hampshire. Her students considered her an inspirational human being, a marvelous teacher who made their lessons come alive. Often called the field trip teacher, Christa believed it was the hands-on experience that made the most valuable teaching tool. In fact, she called her impending trip on the Challenger the ultimate field trip.

Sharon Christa McAuliffe, the eldest of Edward and Grace Corrigan's five children, was born on September 2, 1948, in Framingham, Massachusetts. While in high school, Christa met Steve McAuliffe, and then she attended Framingham State College, majored in history, and received her degree in 1970. That year, she and Steve were married. Soon after, they moved to Washington DC where Steve attended law school. Christa taught school until the birth of her first child, Scott, then she attended Bowie State College and earned a master's degree in school administration in 1978. Shortly thereafter, Steve, Christa, and Scott moved to Concord, New Hampshire, and Christa's second child, Caroline, was born.

The McAuliffes settled into an old three-story house, Steve began his law practice, and Christa stayed home with the children. Her love of teaching soon led her back to the classroom. First, Christa taught at Bow Memorial School and then moved to Concord High School. She was also actively involved in the community, church, a tennis club, the local playhouse, the YMCA, and the Concord Hospital. In addition, she was a Girl Scout leader, a jogger, and a swimmer.

When the opportunity came to apply to be the first teacher in space, everyone who knew Christa told her to go for it. She completed the 11-page application, mailed it at the last minute, and hoped for the best. After becoming a finalist, Christa did not think she would be chosen. Some of the other teachers were doctors and authors and scholars, she was just an ordinary person. However, she was chosen out of 11,500 applicants. An ordinary person to whom ordinary people could relate doing the extraordinary. Christa's presence in the space program helped boost public interest and curiosity, and through her participation, she became an inspiration to the teaching profession as well. She felt her exposure as the teacher in space reflected well on all teachers. Regarding the space program, she said, a lot of people thought it was over when we reached the moon, they put space on the backburner. But people have a connection with teachers. Now that a teacher has been selected, they have been starting to watch the launches again.

Christa began her training at NASA's facility in Houston in September of 1985. At first, she was worried that the other astronauts might think she was just along for the ride. She wanted to prove she could work just as hard as they could. But when they met, the other members of the crew treated her as part of the team. Christa trained with them for 114 hours, and when launch time came, she was ready.

Just 73 seconds after liftoff, the Space Shuttle Challenger exploded, killing all seven of the astronauts aboard. While aboard the shuttle, Christa was to have taught two lessons from space. In one, she would've introduced each flight member, explained their roles, shown the cockpit with its 1300 switches and dials, and explain how crew members ate, slept, and exercised in microgravity. Her second lesson would've explained how the shuttle flew, discussed why people explore space, and report on technology advances created by the space program. Throughout her voyage, she was to have kept a journal, inspired by the journals of the pioneer women who left their homes in search of a

new frontier. Christa said that's our new frontier out there, and it's everybody's business to know about space.

Grace Corrigan, Christa's mother, said in her book, A Journal for Christa; Christa lived, she never just sat back and existed.

Christa always accomplished everything that she was capable of accomplishing, she extended her own limitations. She cared about her fellow human beings. She did the ordinary, but she did it well and unflinchingly.

On January 28, 1986, her mission in space ended in tragedy, as we know. However, her mission continues to speak to us today.

Christa's motto was I touch the future, I teach. And she's teaching us still. Her mission continues there with the Christa McAuliffe Planetarium which was erected in her memory. The idea for a planetarium was suggested by Lois Wiley, a teacher from Northwood, New Hampshire, and was chosen from among other ideas because it combined her dream of traveling through space with her dedication to teaching. In April 1988, the New Hampshire Legislature appropriated funds to build a planetarium and groundbreaking took place on October 26, 1988.

Construction was completed in a little more than a year, and on June 21, 1990, the planetarium began its mission to educate, incite, and entertain learners of all ages in the science and humanities by actively engaging them in the exploration of astronomy and space science. Since then, nearly 30,000 school children a year and thousands of others have passed through the doors to participate in the ultimate field trip.

Thank you, Madam President.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

House Papers

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing the Maine Agriculture, Food System and Forest Products Infrastructure Investment Advisory Board"

H.P. 827 L.D. 1252

Bill "An Act Regarding Labeling of Genetically Engineered Food Products"

H.P. 832 L.D. 1257

Resolve, Requiring the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands in the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry to Modify the Deed That Conveyed Montpelier, the General Henry Knox Museum in Thomaston, to the Friends of Montpelier

H.P. 839 L.D. 1264

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

On motion by Senator **TALBOT ROSS** of Cumberland, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Enhance Public Safety in Maine by Defining the Relationship Between Local and Federal Law Enforcement"

H.P. 834 L.D. 1259

Bill "An Act Regarding Penalties for Fentanyl Trafficking When That Trafficking Results in an Overdose Causing Serious Bodily Injury of a Person"

H.P. 838 L.D. 1263

Come from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **BEEBE-CENTER** of Knox, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Nursing Education Loan Repayment Program"

H.P. 800 L.D. 1225

Bill "An Act to Ban Cellular Telephones from Public School Classrooms"

H.P. 809 L.D. 1234

Bill "An Act Regarding Physical Escort and Restraint and Seclusion of Students in Schools"

H.P. 823 L.D. 1248

Bill "An Act to Ensure In-state Tuition for Postsecondary Students Who Are Registered to Vote in the State and to Amend Eligibility Requirements for the Free Community College Tuition Program"

H.P. 830 L.D. 1255

Bill "An Act to Support Healthy Meal Programs in Maine Schools by Allowing the School Revolving Renovation Fund to Make Loans to Repair and Renovate School Kitchens and Cafeterias"

H.P. 831 L.D. 1256

Bill "An Act to Make Permanent the Law Allowing School Boards to Accept the Volunteer Services of Immediate Family Members of Superintendents or School Board Members"

H.P. 846 L.D. 1271

Come 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 Lower Electric Rates for Maine Ratepayers by Requiring the Payment of Certain Costs from the General Fund"
H.P. 798 L.D. 1223

Bill "An Act to Align the Schedules for Climate Change Protection Plans and Grid-enhancing Technology Reviews with the Integrated Grid Planning Process"
H.P. 815 L.D. 1240

Bill "An Act to Provide That Portfolio Requirements for Renewable Electricity Resources Apply Only to Actual Retail Sales"
H.P. 825 L.D. 1250

Resolve, to Reduce the Cost of Energy in Maine and Further Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions Through Energy Contracts
H.P. 826 L.D. 1251

Bill "An Act to Include Qualified Out-of-state Electric Vehicle Providers and Clarify Provisions Regarding Electric Bicycles Under the Electric Vehicle Fund"
H.P. 833 L.D. 1258

Bill "An Act to Establish the Department of Energy Resources"
H.P. 845 L.D. 1270

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

On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Modify Confidentiality Laws to Protect Children Being Placed into Custody by the Department of Health and Human Services"
H.P. 808 L.D. 1233

Bill "An Act to Support Adult Family Care Homes and Residential Care Facilities That Are Small or Located in Rural and Isolated Areas of the State"
H.P. 812 L.D. 1237

Bill "An Act to Require Data Collection on and Reporting of Psychiatric Hospital Resources and Transparency in Denials of Emergency Involuntary Admissions to Psychiatric Hospitals"
H.P. 814 L.D. 1239

Bill "An Act Regarding the Licensing of Assisted Living Facilities" (EMERGENCY)
H.P. 818 L.D. 1243

Bill "An Act to Support At-risk Families by Establishing the Community Navigator Pilot Program"
H.P. 836 L.D. 1261

Bill "An Act to Cap State General Assistance Reimbursement to Municipalities"
H.P. 849 L.D. 1274

Bill "An Act Regarding Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Activities"
H.P. 852 L.D. 1277

Resolve, to Create Pilot Programs to Provide Tuition Assistance and Grants for Rural Child Care Providers
H.P. 855 L.D. 1280

Come from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** and ordered printed.

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

Resolve, to Study the Costs and Funding of a Universal Health Care Plan for Maine
H.P. 844 L.D. 1269

Bill "An Act to Align Intrastate Commercial Motor Vehicle Insurance Requirements with Federal Standards"
H.P. 851 L.D. 1276

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

On motion by Senator **BAILEY** of York, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Protect Consumers by Licensing Residential Building Contractors"
H.P. 801 L.D. 1226

Bill "An Act to Repeal the Requirement That Motor Vehicle Manufacturers Equip Vehicles with a Standardized Data Access Platform"
H.P. 802 L.D. 1227

Bill "An Act to Clarify Certain Terms in the Automotive Right to Repair Laws"
H.P. 803 L.D. 1228

Bill "An Act to Require Radon Testing for Certain Commercial and Residential Construction"
H.P. 807 L.D. 1232

Bill "An Act to Establish a Small-cap Loan Guarantee Program for Affordable Housing Investments"
H.P. 813 L.D. 1238

Bill "An Act to Create a Fund to Spread Awareness of Maine's Working Waterfronts"
H.P. 820 L.D. 1245

Resolve, Directing the Department of Economic and Community Development to Convene a Working Group to Review the Process of Setting Impact Fees

H.P. 821 L.D. 1246

Bill "An Act to Restrict Municipal Ordinance Requirements Regarding Housing Developments"
H.P. 822 L.D. 1247

Bill "An Act to Address the Housing Crisis by Reducing Barriers to Building More Accessory Dwelling Units"
H.P. 847 L.D. 1272

Come 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 to Establish the Make Change for Wildlife Program to Support the Maine Endangered and Nongame Wildlife Fund"
H.P. 816 L.D. 1241

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

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

Bill "An Act to Comprehensively Protect Consumer Privacy"
H.P. 799 L.D. 1224

Bill "An Act to Improve Government Transparency and Accountability by Establishing a Process to Allow a Person to Require the State to Enforce Certain Laws and Rules"
H.P. 837 L.D. 1262

Resolve, Directing the Attorney General to Convene a Working Group to Propose a Plan for Expanding the Reach of Treatment Courts
H.P. 841 L.D. 1266

Come 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 Abolish the 72-hour Waiting Period for a Gun Purchase"
H.P. 805 L.D. 1230

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

On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **REFERENCE**.

Bill "An Act to Address Employee Retention of State Employees Who Are Firefighters at Bangor International Airport"
H.P. 811 L.D. 1236

Bill "An Act to Delay Payment of Benefits Under the Paid Family and Medical Leave Benefits Program" (EMERGENCY)
H.P. 824 L.D. 1249

Resolve, Directing the Department of Labor to Convene a Task Force to Examine and Study Issues Relating to the Gap Between the Economic Output and Wages of Workers in the State
H.P. 842 L.D. 1267

Bill "An Act to Make Paid Family and Medical Leave Voluntary" (EMERGENCY)
H.P. 848 L.D. 1273

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

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

Bill "An Act to Authorize the Commissioner of Marine Resources to Add Limited-access Area Fishing Days During the Scallop Season" (EMERGENCY)
H.P. 828 L.D. 1253

Bill "An Act to Require the Department of Marine Resources to Conduct Biotoxin Testing of Cultured Scallops"
H.P. 854 L.D. 1279

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

On motion by Senator **TEPLER** of Sagadahoc, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Establish Requirements for Warming Shelters"
H.P. 819 L.D. 1244

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Public Employee Market Pay Studies and Comprehensive Reviews of the Classification Plan for State Service Positions"
H.P. 840 L.D. 1265

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

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

Bill "An Act to Revise the Tax Laws Regarding the Mi'kmaq Nation"
H.P. 835 L.D. 1260

Bill "An Act to Promote the Production of Natural Resources Bioproducts by Amending the Renewable Chemicals Tax Credit"
H.P. 850 L.D. 1275

Bill "An Act to Change the Property Tax Appeal Process"
H.P. 853 L.D. 1278

Come 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 Requiring Ferries to Dock Overnight on Certain Islands for Emergency Purposes"
H.P. 806 L.D. 1231

Bill "An Act to Incentivize the Construction of Solar Carport Canopies and Solar Chargers at Highway Picnic Areas"
H.P. 817 L.D. 1242

Bill "An Act to Address Employee Recruitment and Retention Issues Within the Maine State Ferry Service by Providing a Yearly Stipend"
H.P. 843 L.D. 1268

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.

Bill "An Act to Create Equity in Maine's Campaign Finance Laws Between Enrolled and Unenrolled Candidates"
H.P. 804 L.D. 1229

Come from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

On motion by Senator **HICKMAN** of Kennebec, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

House Papers

Bill "An Act to Expand the Licensing of Outpatient Surgical Facilities"
H.P. 829 L.D. 1254

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

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

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

Bill "An Act to Establish Transparency in Opioid Settlement Funds Allocated to Municipalities or Counties"
H.P. 810 L.D. 1235

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

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**.

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

The Senate considered the following additional papers:

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Report of the Chair - Pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2

The Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Bill "An Act to Clarify the Tax Treatment of Prepaid Wireless Telecommunications Service in Maine"
H.P. 685 L.D. 1056

Reported a recommendation for a **CHANGE OF COMMITTEE**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TAXATION**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

On motion by Senator **GROHOSKI** of Hancock, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TAXATION**, in concurrence.

Change of Committee

The Committee on **HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT** on Bill "An Act to Fund the Maine Health Care Provider Loan Repayment Program"
H.P. 419 L.D. 651

Reported that the same be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**.

Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**, in concurrence.

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

On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland **ADJOURNED**, until Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 10:00 in the morning, or to the call of the President of the Senate and Speaker of the House, respectively.