

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

ORDERS

Joint Orders

In Senate Chamber
Thursday
March 30, 2023

Senate called to order by President Troy D. Jackson of Aroostook County.

Prayer by Pastor Justin Thacker, Praise Assembly of God Church in Rumford.

PASTOR THACKER: It is an honor to be here today on behalf of Praise Assembly, the town of Rumford, the guest of Senator Keim. It's also an honor to be here as the teacher of Oxford Hills Christian Academy, my students are with me and a few of our pages are here, and as the newly elected Selectman in the town of Andover, it is my honor to be here today to open this session in prayer. The President - sorry, Benjamin Franklin once said, 'I beg to move that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven and its blessings on our deliberations be held in this assembly every morning before we proceed with business and that one of more of the clergy of this city be requested to officiate in that service,' and for us, in the state of Maine, it is truly an honor to be here to open this session with prayer.

Father, God, we thank You, Lord, for this day that You have given us. This is the day that You have made and we will rejoice and be glad in it. Lord, I thank You for each person here, Lord, God, and the district and town that they represent. I pray that You bless this Body with Your wisdom. I pray that You bless this Body, Lord, God, with the insight of Heaven and I pray, Lord, that You will also administer to each Senator here for, Lord, they are ordinary people doing extraordinary things and, Lord, they have lives back home and families and different needs and they are public servants. They are representatives of You, Lord, and this place, the peoples' house, and I ask that Your guidance and good health and blessing be upon them today. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator Mark W. Lawrence of York County.

Reading of the Journal of Tuesday, March 28, 2023.

Off Record Remarks

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

Expressions of Legislative Sentiment recognizing:

The Brewer High School Boys Basketball Team, which won the Class A State Championship. Members of the team include Evan Nadeau, Braden Carr, Charles Brydges, Cayen Philbrick, Brady Saunders, Aiden Davis, Owen Fullerton, Cole Harriman, Ryder Goodwin, Brock Flagg, Cameron Hughes, Jake Perry, Titus Philbrick and Steven Youngs; manager Hunter MacDonald; head coach Ben Goodwin; and assistant coaches Scott Flagg, Phil Pushard, Tyler Smith and Trevor Pearson. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 322

Sponsored by Senator LYFORD of Penobscot. Cosponsored by Representatives: O'CONNELL of Brewer, PERRY of Bangor.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Lyford.

Senator **LYFORD:** Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, it is my honor to rise today to recognize the 2023 Class A State Boys Basketball Championship team, the Brewer Witches with Coach Ben Goodwin and Coach Pushard. As we know, champions are not made overnight and success rarely comes without years of dedicated time and hard work. As a Brewer High School graduate, I can tell you that winning the gold ball was a long time coming for Brewer but this team of talented young men put in the time and practice of success. Over the past three years they have attained a 52-6 record, each year inching closer to the gold of a State Championship. I believe much of this success can be attributed to the skills and the lessons they have been taught in the classroom and on the basketball court, lessons such as communication, discipline, teamwork that have served them incredibly well this season and will continue to serve them throughout their life. Playing together for several years, they have an opportunity to learn each other's strengths and weaknesses on the court and, just as an iron sharpens iron, these young men have been able to sharpen their skills playing styles both as individuals and as a team. As the championship game neared, it became clear that Brewer had a strong shot of going all the way. They absolutely dominated their opponent in the Class A North Regional game, leading Skowhegan 32-13 at halftime and winning the game 70-33. Going into the championship they had a season record of 20-1, quite impressive by all counts. With a score flip-flopping back and forth, they were down by 1. Fortunately, Falmouth, who was leading the game 41-40 with 16 seconds remaining, missed the free throws. Brewer did what they'd done all season, working together to quickly take possession of the ball and make their way down the court. Brock Flagg, who had the ball, was pressured by opponents on all sides and tossed the ball behind him to teammate Cam Hughes who was open and perfectly positioned under the net. Cam took the shot and, with 2.7 seconds remaining, Brewer was back in the lead 42-41, a score that these

athletes and coaches likely will remember for the rest of their life. I am incredibly proud of this team, the coaching staff, for all their efforts made by them to win Brewer's first State Championship. They made history and will be remembered for generations to come as the team brought home Brewer's very first gold ball. I want to applaud you on your tremendous success. I also want to take a minute to recognize Coach Ben Goodwin, whom I've known since he was knee high to a grasshopper, who has dedicated many years to this program and has made the decision to step down as head coach. You have been instrumental in the lives of many young players who have come through Brewer High School basketball program, coaching some as early as the third grade. During that time, you have taught them the game and helped them to improve as individual athletes. You have helped them build strong relationships and installed lifetime lessons in these young men. I can only imagine how it must have felt to drive - deliver Brewer's first gold ball along side your son and I wish you fun in watching your son and daughter compete in their sports at Brewer High School and college. On behalf of the Senate and all those in the greater Brewer community, I congratulate you again on the Class A State Championship. Thank you.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is very pleased to thank in the rear of the Chamber the Brewer Boys Basketball team and their coaches. They're all from the city of Brewer and the guests today of the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Lyford. Would they all please rise and accept the congratulations of the Maine Senate.

Phil Polk, of Princeton, on his retirement from Woodland Pulp LLC after 37 years of work, where he also served as President of USW 27 and was a champion of all his fellow workers. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 320

Sponsored by President JACKSON of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Senator: MOORE of Washington,
Representative: DAVIS of East Machias.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

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

Senator **MOORE:** Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I would like to offer my congratulations to Phil Polk on his retirement from Woodland Pulp LLC after 37 years of service to the mill. As was mentioned, he served - he also served in the past as President of USW 27 and I understand was a very tough negotiator, always working for the betterment of the members. In fact, I understand he was given the nickname Junk Yard Dog in recognition of his tenacity. Polk's dedication was unwavering. During layoffs he would drive to Brewer and volunteer with the food and medicine solidarity harvest and deliver 125 meals to laid-off workers back in Baileyville. Serving as President was not just a job to Phil. It was a commitment to help his fellow workers through the good times and the bad. Phil will be dearly missed at

the mill and I wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement. Thank you, Mr. President.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is very pleased to recognize in the rear of the Chamber Phil Polk of Princeton, the guest today of the Senator from Washington, Senator Moore. Someone I've known for a long time, the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Jackson. Would he please rise and accept the greetings and congratulations of the Maine Senate.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Knox, Senator Beebe-Center.

Senator **BEEBE-CENTER:** Thank you, Mr. President. It is my privilege to have the Camden Hills Girls Class A State Swim Champions to Augusta today. Despite having a small roster this year, the team banded together and successfully defended their State title from the previous year. The team finished with 280 points at the Championship, just two points shy of their total from last season. I'm also pleased that the Camden Hills Boys Varsity Swim Team is here today. They also had a great showing this season. Camden Hills has demonstrated incredible fortitude, dedication, and teamwork that has served to remind me of the positive power that teamwork and encouragement can have. You have certainly inspired me and have no doubt inspired countless young athletes to follow in your footsteps, or may swim strokes, in the future. Thank you all for traveling to the State House today. We're happy to have you here and I can't wait to hear more about your future accomplishments. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the Chamber the Camden Hills Regional High School Girls Varsity and the Boys Varsity Swim Teams. As Senator Beebe-Center said, the girls are the Class A State champs. They are from the town of Rockport. They are the guests today of the Senator from Knox, Senator Beebe-Center. We have with us today Adella Brainerd, Mackenzie Dillon, Calder Meil, Jake Roux, Autumn Hill, Miranda Yarosis, Rana Abess, Violet Born, Sally Vannini, Lola Black, Lily Mott, Emma Deetjen, Chloe Root, Sara Van Lonkhuyzen, and Lucy Vannini. Would they all please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate.

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

ORDERS

Joint Resolution

On motion by Senator **MOORE** of Washington, under unanimous consent on behalf of Senator **GUERIN** of Penobscot (Cosponsored by Senators: HARRINGTON of York, LYFORD of Penobscot, MOORE of Washington, RENY of Lincoln), the following Joint Resolution:

S.P. 582

**JOINT RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING MARCH 2023
AS BLEEDING DISORDERS AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, bleeding disorders, which are distinguished by the inability to form a proper blood clot, are characterized by extended bleeding after injury, surgery, trauma or menstruation and can lead to significant morbidity and can be fatal if not treated effectively; and

WHEREAS, many individuals with hemophilia became infected with HIV and hepatitis C in the 1980s due to the contamination of the blood supply and blood products; and

WHEREAS, Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month generates greater awareness and understanding of not only hemophilia but all inheritable bleeding disorders, including von Willebrand disease, which alone affects an estimated one percent of the United States population, or more than 3.2 million individuals; and

WHEREAS, Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month fosters a greater sense of community and shared purpose among all individuals with inheritable bleeding disorders; and

WHEREAS, Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month elevates awareness of and engagement in the inheritable bleeding disorders journey for the general public, enabling the prevention of illness, unnecessary procedures and disability; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize March 2023 as Bleeding Disorders Awareness Month.

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

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

Senator **MOORE**: Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, in 1941 a boy by the name of Lee Henry was born. Just 14 months later he was diagnosed with hemophilia, a condition where the ability for blood to clot is greatly reduced and even just a small cut can lead to significant bleeding. Eight years later his father, Robert Lee Henry, began the Hemophilia Foundation in the state of New York. In 1975, Senator Ed Kennedy introduced the creation of hemophilia treatment centers through legislation. While many years of research had been conducted, legislation passed, and vaccinations for bleeding disorder diseases introduced, in 1986 President Ronald Reagan designated the month of March as Hemophilia Awareness Month. According to the U.S. CDC, there are around three million people nationwide affected by bleeding disorders. Through ongoing research, medical advancements, and greater public awareness, Hemophilia Awareness Month has been expanded and recognized since 2016 as Bleeding Disorder Awareness Month. In doing so, it promotes greater education and awareness amongst the public and policy makers of

hemophilia, von Willebrand disease factor disorders, and more. While it's fresh on our minds, I encourage everyone to take this opportunity to do a little more research on a topic that impacts the lives of many. Thank you for the opportunity to speak on this important issue, Mr. President.

The Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is very pleased to recognize in the rear of the Chamber Tracey Gideon of Eddington; Nancy and Peter Edwards of Brunswick; Heidi Blanchette and Elijah Blanchette; and Helena Richardson of Topsham. They are members of the Hemophilia Alliance of Maine and they are the guests today of the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Lyford; the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Daughtry; the Senator from Sagadahoc, Senator Vitelli; and the entire Maine Senate. Would they please rise and accept the thanks of the Maine Senate.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Non-Concurrent Matter

An Act to Update the Maine State Grant Program (EMERGENCY)
S.P. 24 L.D. 32

In Senate, March 21, 2023, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**.

Comes from the House, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-11)**, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

On motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, the Senate **RECEDED** and **CONCURRED**.

House Papers

Bill "An Act to Ensure the Rights of Survivors of Sexual Assault"
H.P. 876 L.D. 1362

Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** suggested and ordered printed.

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

On motion by Senator **BEEBE-CENTER** of Knox, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Improve State Oversight of Proposed Health Care Entity Transactions"

H.P. 894 L.D. 1399

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

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**.

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

Bill "An Act to Protect Officials and Participants at Sporting Events"

H.P. 896 L.D. 1401

Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** suggested and ordered printed.

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**.

On motion by Senator **CURRY** of Waldo, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Workers' Compensation Self-insurance Laws to Allow for the Use of Fronting Companies"

H.P. 886 L.D. 1372

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

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES**.

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

Joint Resolution

The following Joint Resolution:

H.P. 844

**JOINT RESOLUTION
TO RECOGNIZE MARCH 2023
AS AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH**

WHEREAS, American Red Cross Month is a special time to honor the kindness of those persons who aid families in need every day in Maine, across the United States and around the world, their dedication touching millions of lives each year as they carry out the organization's 142-year mission of preventing and alleviating suffering in the face of emergencies; and

WHEREAS, the American Red Cross aspires to turn compassion into action, and Maine residents who are American Red Cross volunteers are an important part of the people of Maine helping one another when there is need; and

WHEREAS, Maine residents, in supporting the American Red Cross, have helped others to get back on their feet after devastating home fires and have assisted communities across the country facing record-breaking hurricanes, floods and wildfires; and

WHEREAS, thanks to the American Red Cross's statewide community of volunteers and partners, people in Maine facing a disaster can meet their basic emergency needs, including having access to safe shelter, food and critical health and mental health services, for free, day and night; and

WHEREAS, because of the American Red Cross's work, children and youth in Maine know how to prepare for and stay safe during a disaster, people have working smoke alarms and emergency escape plans and there are always trained individuals nearby ready to use their skills to save lives; and

WHEREAS, due to the American Red Cross's efforts and local communities hosting blood drives and donating lifesaving blood, anyone can access blood and blood products and the State has a healthy and plentiful blood supply that helps to extend or save lives; and

WHEREAS, military personnel, veterans and their families have access to global emergency communication services and the support they need to cope with deployments and reintegrating into the community because of the American Red Cross; and

WHEREAS, the American Red Cross's Restoring Family Links program helps reconnect families separated by international crises such as armed conflicts, international disasters and migration and displacement; and

WHEREAS, the lifesaving work of the American Red Cross is vital to strengthening resilience in our communities; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize March 2023 as American Red Cross Month, dedicated to all those who continue to advance the noble legacy of the American Red Cross, and ask others to join in the commitment to care for people in need.

Comes from the House, **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

READ and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: S.C. 250

**STATE OF MAINE
131st LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
AUGUSTA, MAINE**

March 27, 2023

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

**STATE OF MAINE
131st LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
AUGUSTA, MAINE**

Dear Secretary Grant,

March 28, 2023

Pursuant to my authority under Title 20, Ch. 5, Part 679, Subpart A, §679.110 (b)(2) of federal law, I am pleased to appoint Senator Mike Tipping to the State Workforce Board, effective the date of this letter.

The Honorable Darek Grant
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

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

Dear Secretary Grant:

Sincerely,

Pursuant to my authority under Title 38, MRSA, Ch. 3-A, §577-A, I am pleased to appoint Senator Stacy Brenner to the Maine Climate Council, representing the party holding the most seats in the Senate. This appointment is effective the date of this letter.

S/Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate

If you have any questions regarding this appointment, please let me know.

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

Sincerely,

The Following Communication: S.C. 257

S/Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate

**STATE OF MAINE
131st LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
AUGUSTA, MAINE**

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

March 28, 2023

The Following Communication: S.C. 259

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

**STATE OF MAINE
131st LEGISLATURE
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
AUGUSTA, MAINE**

Dear Secretary Grant:

March 28, 2023

Pursuant to my authority under Title 7, MRSA, Chapter 5, Section 125, I am pleased to appoint Senator Henry Ingwersen to the Board of Agriculture, representing a Senator serving on the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee.

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

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

Dear Secretary Grant:

Sincerely,

Pursuant to my authority under Title 38, MRS 420-B, I am pleased to appoint Senator Brenner to the technical advisory group for the Surface Water Ambient Toxic monitoring program. She will serve as the Senator on the committee having jurisdiction over natural resource matters.

S/Troy D. Jackson
Senate President

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

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

Sincerely,

The Following Communication: S.C. 258

S/Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 249

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

March 28, 2023

The Honorable Troy Jackson
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Re: Appointment of Carolyn C. Gilbert of Cape Elizabeth to the
Maine Public Utilities Commission

Dear President Jackson:

I am pleased to nominate Carolyn C. Gilbert of Cape Elizabeth for
appointment to the Maine Public Utilities Commission.

Pursuant to Title 35-A, MRSA §105, this appointment is
contingent on the Maine State Senate's confirmation after review
by the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and
Technology.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 241

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT,
ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS**

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson
President of the Senate of Maine
131st Maine State Legislature
State House
Augusta, Maine 04333-0003

Dear Mr. 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
Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business
has had under consideration the nomination of Robert C. Bryant
of Hartland, for appointment to the Maine Redevelopment Land
Bank Authority.

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	Guerin, S. of Penobscot, Rafferty, J. of York
	Representatives	8	Roberts, T. of South Berwick, Collamore, A. of Pittsfield, Crockett, E. of Portland, Lanigan, L. of Sanford, LaRochelle, R. of Augusta, Sayre, D. of Kennebunk, Smith, K. of Palermo, Walker, M. of Naples
NAYS		0	
ABSENT		3	Sen. Curry, C. of Waldo, Rep. Ness, C. of Fryeburg, Rep. White, B. of Waterville

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 Robert C. Bryant of Hartland, for appointment to the
Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Chip Curry
Senate Chair

S/Tiffany Danielle Roberts
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the
recommendation of the Committee on **INNOVATION,
DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND
BUSINESS** be overridden?"

The Chair noted the absence of the Senator from Penobscot,
Senator **GUERIN**, the Senator from Kennebec, Senator
POULIOT, and the Senator from York, Senator **HARRINGTON**,
and further excused the same Senators from today's Roll Call
votes.

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 (#52)

YEAS: Senators: None

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, FARRIN, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, KEIM, LAFOUNTAIN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

EXCUSED: Senators: GUERIN, HARRINGTON, POULIOT

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 32 Senators having voted in the negative, with 3 Senators being excused, and none 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 **Robert C. Bryant** of Hartland for appointment to the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority was **CONFIRMED**.

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

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the Chamber Robert C. Bryant of Hartland. Would he please rise and accept the congratulations of the Maine Senate.

The Following Communication: S.C. 242

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT,
ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS**

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson
President of the Senate of Maine
131st Maine State Legislature
State House
Augusta, Maine 04333-0003

Dear Mr. 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 Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business has had under consideration the nomination of Robert Patten of Scarborough, for appointment to the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority.

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 Guerin, S. of Penobscot, Rafferty, J. of York

Representatives 8 Roberts, T. of South Berwick, Collamore, A. of Pittsfield, Crockett, E. of Portland, Lanigan, L. of Sanford, LaRochelle, R. of Augusta, Sayre, D. of Kennebunk, Smith, K. of Palermo, Walker, M. of Naples

NAYS 0

ABSENT 3 Sen. Curry, C. of Waldo, Rep. Ness, C. of Fryeburg, Rep. White, B. of Waterville

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 Robert Patten of Scarborough, for appointment to the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Chip Curry Senate Chair S/Tiffany Danielle Roberts House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** be overridden?"

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 (#53)

YEAS: Senators: None

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, FARRIN, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, KEIM, LAFOUNTAIN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

EXCUSED: Senators: GUERIN, HARRINGTON, POULIOT

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 32 Senators having voted in the negative, with 3 Senators being excused, and none 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 **Robert Patten** of Scarborough for appointment to the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority was **CONFIRMED**.

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

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the Chamber Robert "Rip" Patten of Scarborough and his wife, Theresa. They are the guests today of the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Brenner. Would they please rise and accept the congratulations of the Maine Senate.

The Following Communication: S.C. 243

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT,
ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS**

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson
President of the Senate of Maine
131st Maine State Legislature
State House
Augusta, Maine 04333-0003

Dear Mr. 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 Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business has had under consideration the nomination of Lee Jay Feldman of Lisbon, for appointment to the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority.

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	Guerin, S. of Penobscot, Rafferty, J. of York
	Representatives	8	Roberts, T. of South Berwick, Collamore, A. of Pittsfield, Crockett, E. of Portland, Lanigan, L. of Sanford, LaRochelle, R. of Augusta, Sayre, D. of Kennebunk, Smith, K. of Palermo, Walker, M. of Naples
NAYS		0	
ABSENT		3	Sen. Curry, C. of Waldo, Rep. Ness, C. of Fryeburg, Rep. White, B. of Waterville

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 Lee Jay Feldman of Lisbon, for appointment to the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Chip Curry
Senate Chair

S/Tiffany Danielle Roberts
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** be overridden?"

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 (#54)

YEAS: Senators: None

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, FARRIN, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, KEIM, LAFOUNTAIN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENEY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

EXCUSED: Senators: GUERIN, HARRINGTON, POULIOT

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 32 Senators having voted in the negative, with 3 Senators being excused, and none 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 **Lee Jay Feldman** of Lisbon for appointment to the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority was **CONFIRMED**.

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

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is very pleased to recognize in the rear of the Chamber Lee Jay Feldman of Lisbon. He's the guest today of the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Timberlake. Would he please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate.

The Following Communication: S.C. 244

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT,
ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS**

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson
President of the Senate of Maine
131st Maine State Legislature
State House
Augusta, Maine 04333-0003

Dear Mr. 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 Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business has had under consideration the nomination of Laura S. Burden of Portland, for appointment to the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority.

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	Guerin, S. of Penobscot, Rafferty, J. of York
	Representatives	8	Roberts, T. of South Berwick, Collamore, A. of Pittsfield, Crockett, E. of Portland, Lanigan, L. of Sanford, LaRochelle, R. of Augusta, Sayre, D. of Kennebunk, Smith, K. of Palermo, Walker, M. of Naples
NAYS		0	
ABSENT		3	Sen. Curry, C. of Waldo, Rep. Ness, C. of Fryeburg, Rep. White, B. of Waterville

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 Laura S. Burden of Portland, for appointment to the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Chip Curry
Senate Chair

S/Tiffany Danielle Roberts
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** be overridden?"

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 (#55)

YEAS: Senators: None

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, FARRIN, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, KEIM, LAFOUNTAIN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

EXCUSED: Senators: GUERIN, HARRINGTON

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 33 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, and none 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 **Laura S. Burden** of Portland for appointment to the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority was **CONFIRMED**.

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

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the Chamber Laura S. Burden of Portland. She's here today with her daughter, Bella. Would they please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate.

The Following Communication: S.C. 245

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT,
ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS**

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson
President of the Senate of Maine
131st Maine State Legislature
State House
Augusta, Maine 04333-0003

Dear Mr. 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 Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business has had under consideration the nomination of Alexa Plotkin of Biddeford, for appointment to the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority.

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	Guerin, S. of Penobscot, Rafferty, J. of York
	Representatives	8	Roberts, T. of South Berwick, Collamore, A. of Pittsfield, Crockett, E. of Portland, Lanigan, L. of Sanford, LaRochelle, R. of Augusta, Sayre, D. of Kennebunk, Smith, K. of Palermo, Walker, M. of Naples
NAYS		0	
ABSENT		3	Sen. Curry, C. of Waldo, Rep. Ness, C. of Fryeburg, Rep. White, B. of Waterville

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 Alexa Plotkin of Biddeford, for appointment to the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Chip Curry
Senate Chair

S/Tiffany Danielle Roberts
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** be overridden?"

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 (#56)

YEAS: Senators: None

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, FARRIN, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, KEIM, LAFOUNTAIN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, RENEY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

EXCUSED: Senators: GUERIN, HARRINGTON

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 33 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, and none 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 **Alexa Plotkin** of Biddeford for appointment to the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority was **CONFIRMED**.

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 246

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT,
ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS**

March 24, 2023

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson
President of the Senate of Maine
131st Maine State Legislature
State House
Augusta, Maine 04333-0003

Dear Mr. 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 Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business has had under consideration the nomination of John W. Egan of Freeport, for appointment to the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority.

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 Guerin, S. of Penobscot,
Rafferty, J. of York

Representatives 7 Roberts, T. of South Berwick,
Collamore, A. of Pittsfield,
Crockett, E. of Portland,
LaRochelle, R. of Augusta,
Sayre, D. of Kennebunk,
Smith, K. of Palermo, Walker,
M. of Naples

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 33 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, and none 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 **John W. Egan** of Freeport for appointment to the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority was **CONFIRMED**.

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

NAYS 0

ABSENT 4 Sen. Curry, C. of Waldo,
Rep. Lanigan, L. of Sanford,
Rep. Ness, C. of Fryeburg,
Rep. White, B. of Waterville

The Following Communication: S.C. 247

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT,
ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS**

Nine 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 John W. Egan of Freeport, for appointment to the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority be confirmed.

March 24, 2023

Signed,

S/Chip Curry
Senate Chair

S/Tiffany Danielle Roberts
House Chair

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson
President of the Senate of Maine
131st Maine State Legislature
State House
Augusta, Maine 04333-0003

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

Dear Mr. President:

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business has had under consideration the nomination of Janice de Lima of Falmouth, for appointment to the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority.

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.

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:

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#57)

YEAS: Senators: None

YEAS	Senators	1	Rafferty, J. of York
	Representatives	8	Roberts, T. of South Berwick, Collamore, A. of Pittsfield, Crockett, E. of Portland, Lanigan, L. of Sanford, LaRochelle, R. of Augusta, Sayre, D. of Kennebunk, Smith, K. of Palermo, Walker, M. of Naples

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, FARRIN, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, KEIM, LAFOUNTAIN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS 0

EXCUSED: Senators: GUERIN, HARRINGTON

ABSENT 4 Sen. Curry, C. of Waldo, Sen. Guerin, S. of Penobscot, Rep. Ness, C. of Fryeburg, Rep. White, B. of Waterville

Nine 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 Janice de Lima of Falmouth, for appointment to the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority be confirmed.

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT,
ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS**

Signed,

March 24, 2023

S/Chip Curry
Senate Chair

S/Tiffany Danielle Roberts
House Chair

The Honorable Troy Dale Jackson
President of the Senate of Maine
131st Maine State Legislature
State House
Augusta, Maine 04333-0003

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** be overridden?"

Dear Mr. President:

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.

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Section 157, and with Joint Rule 505 of the Maine Legislature, the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business has had under consideration the nomination of Ian Houseal of Portland, for appointment to the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

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:

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#58)

YEAS: Senators: None

YEAS Senators 2 Guerin, S. of Penobscot, Rafferty, J. of York

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, FARRIN, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, KEIM, LAFOUNTAIN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

Representatives 8 Roberts, T. of South Berwick, Collamore, A. of Pittsfield, Crockett, E. of Portland, Lanigan, L. of Sanford, LaRochelle, R. of Augusta, Sayre, D. of Kennebunk, Smith, K. of Palermo, Walker, M. of Naples

EXCUSED: Senators: GUERIN, HARRINGTON

NAYS 0

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 33 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, and none 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 **Janice de Lima** of Falmouth for appointment to the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority was **CONFIRMED**.

ABSENT 3 Sen. Curry, C. of Waldo, Rep. Ness, C. of Fryeburg, Rep. White, B. of Waterville

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

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 Ian Houseal of Portland, for appointment to the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority be confirmed.

Signed,

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased recognize in the rear of the Chamber Janice de Lima of Falmouth. Would she please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate.

S/Chip Curry Senate Chair S/Tiffany Danielle Roberts House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 248

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT, ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS** be overridden?"

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 (#59)

YEAS: Senators: None

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, FARRIN, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, KEIM, LAFOUNTAIN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

EXCUSED: Senators: GUERIN, HARRINGTON

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 33 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, and none 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 **Ian Houseal** of Portland for appointment to the Maine Redevelopment Land Bank Authority was **CONFIRMED**.

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

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would like to recognize in the rear of the Chamber Ian Houseal of Portland. He's the guest today of the entire Maine Senate. Would he please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate.

The Following Communication: S.C. 251

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON HOUSING**

March 24, 2023

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

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross,

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, we are writing to notify you that we have approved the request by the bill sponsor Rep. Malon of Biddeford, to report the following bill Leave to Withdraw:

L.D. 638 Resolve, Directing the Maine State Housing Authority to Study Strategies for Improving Abandoned Properties and Developing Housing Infrastructure

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Teresa S. Pierce Senate Chair

S/Rep. Traci Gere
House Chair

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 253

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND
FINANCIAL SERVICES**

March 27, 2023

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

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, we are writing to notify you that the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 278 An Act to Require Health Plans to Cover an Annual Mental Health Wellness Examination

L.D. 350 An Act to Prevent Dog Breed Discrimination by Insurance Companies

L.D. 706 An Act to Improve Access to Specialty Health Care Providers by Reducing Copayments

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Donna Bailey
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Anne C. Perry
House Chair

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 256

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

March 23, 2023

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

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, we are writing to notify you that the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 434 An Act to Protect Landowners and Increase Safety on All-terrain Vehicle Trails by Increasing Funding to the ATV Recreational Management Fund

L.D. 929 An Act to Allow Lifetime Hunting and Fishing License Holders to Hunt Any Deer as a Part of Their Lifetime License

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. David P. LaFountain S/Rep. Scott Landry
Senate Chair House Chair

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 254

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON INNOVATION, DEVELOPMENT,
ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT AND BUSINESS**

March 23, 2023

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

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, we are writing to notify you that the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 65 An Act to Require That Printing Services Provided to the General Public by the University of Maine System Be Provided at Market Rates

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Chip Curry S/Rep. Tiffany Danielle Roberts
Senate Chair House Chair

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 252

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

March 24, 2023

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

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, we are writing to notify you that the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

L.D. 506 An Act to Improve the Child and Family Court Process by Increasing the Number and Duties of Family Law Magistrates

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Anne Carney S/Rep. Matt Moonen
Senate Chair House Chair

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 255

ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

March 24, 2023

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

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

Pursuant to Joint Rule 310, we are writing to notify you that the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs has voted unanimously to report the following bill(s) out "Ought Not to Pass":

- L.D. 26 An Act to Provide Postage Prepaid Return Envelopes to Voters Who Send Absentee Ballots by Mail
- L.D. 737 An Act to Prohibit Government Contracting Organizations from Influencing Elections
- L.D. 812 An Act to Assist Clerks in Facilitating Elections and to Improve Access to In-person Absentee Voting for Working People by Increasing Time for Absentee Ballot Processing and In-person Voting
- L.D. 845 An Act to Require Labeling and Signs to Warn Consumers About the Harmful Effects of Cannabis on Animals

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Craig V. Hickman
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Laura Supica
House Chair

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

Senator **MOORE** of Washington requested and received leave of the Senate that members and staff be allowed to remove their jackets for the remainder of this Legislative Day.

Off Record Remarks

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Senate considered the following Tabled and Later Assigned Matters:

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (3/21/23) matter:

NOMINATION - of Dr. Fernande Desjardins of Saint Agatha for reappointment to the State Board of Education
S.C. 198

Tabled - March 21, 2023 by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc

Pending - **CONSIDERATION**

(In Senate, March 21, 2023, Communication (S.C. 198) from the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS, READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**)

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

Senator **RAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I rise today to speak to the reappointment of Dr. Fern Desjardins of Saint Agatha to the State Board of Education. Prior to this session, I only knew Dr. Desjardins through Zoom. Fortunately, this session I've got a chance to actually meet her and work with her along with our committee. I'd like to read a response she had to a question on her application when asked 'Why you seek this appointment?' and her response was 'Education has always been my passion in life. I do not consider it work as it's what I love to do on a daily basis. It's always been a priority in my life. I love to be with children and do things that will benefit their education. I have a lot of experience in many aspects of education.' I am confident in her abilities and feel we, our education system, and the students are fortunate to have her, and I would recommend and fully support her reappointment. I believe this will be her fifth. Thank you.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 151, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 130th Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#60)

YEAS: Senators: None

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, FARRIN, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, KEIM, LAFOUNTAIN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

EXCUSED: Senators: GUERIN, HARRINGTON

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 33 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, and none 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 Dr. **Fernande Desjardins** of Saint Agatha for reappointment to the State Board of Education was **CONFIRMED**.

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

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is very pleased to recognize in the rear of the Chamber Dr. Fern Desjardins; her husband, Frank Desjardins; her son, David Desjardins; daughter-in-law, Kim Desjardins, Assistant Principal at Guy E. Rowe Elementary School; Emily Desjardins, her granddaughter; and Ryan Desjardins, her grandson. Would they all please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine State Senate.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (3/21/23) matter:

Bill "An Act to Provide Rural Sober Living Housing for Mothers"
H.P. 712 L.D. 1116

Tabled - March 21, 2023 by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc

Pending - **FURTHER CONSIDERATION**

(In Senate, March 9, 2023, on motion by Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot, **REFERRED** to the Joint Select Committee on **HOUSING**, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.)

(In House, March 16, 2023, that Body **INSISTED** on its former action whereby the Bill was **REFERRED** to the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** and ordered printed.)

On motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, the Senate **RECEDED** and **CONCURRED**.

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

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for a Jail in Caribou"

S.P. 575 L.D. 1457

Presented by President JACKSON of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Representative GUERRETTE of Caribou and Senator: STEWART of Aroostook, Representatives: ALBERT of Madawaska, BABIN of Fort Fairfield, THERIAULT of Fort Kent.

On motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Prohibit State and Local Enforcement of Federal Firearms Laws"

S.P. 569 L.D. 1451

Presented by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Representative PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft and Representatives: ANDREWS of Paris, BAGSHAW of Windham, BOYER of Poland, GIFFORD of Lincoln, GUERRETTE of Caribou, LAVIGNE of Berwick, QUINT of Hodgdon, SMITH of Palermo.

On motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Increase Funding for the Maine School of Science and Mathematics"

S.P. 576 L.D. 1458

Presented by President JACKSON of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Representative BABIN of Fort Fairfield and Senators: DUSON of Cumberland, GROHOSKI of Hancock, RAFFERTY of York, STEWART of Aroostook, Representative: MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth.

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 Require the Commissioners of the Public Utilities Commission to Be Popularly Elected"

S.P. 570 L.D. 1452

Presented by Senator BENNETT of Oxford.

Bill "An Act to Facilitate the Expansion of Broadband"
S.P. 574 L.D. 1456

Presented by Senator GROHOSKI of Hancock.
Cosponsored by Senator: BENNETT of Oxford, Representative:
ZEIGLER of Montville.

On motion by Senator **LAWRENCE** of York, **REFERRED** to the
Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** and
ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Change the Temporary Assistance for Needy
Families Program Requirements by Reducing Benefits
Commensurate with a Recipient's Salary, Reducing the Special
Housing Allowance and Limiting Eligibility for 2-parent Families"
S.P. 566 L.D. 1448

Presented by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Resolve, to Authorize the Training of Nursing Assistants by
Certified Nursing Assistants
S.P. 565 L.D. 1447

Presented by Senator BALDACCI of Penobscot.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Physical Therapist Practice Laws"
S.P. 571 L.D. 1453

Presented by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative MATHIESON of Kittery and
Senators: BAILEY of York, HICKMAN of Kennebec,
Representatives: ARFORD of Brunswick, CAMPBELL of
Orrington, FAY of Raymond, GATTINE of Westbrook,
MASTRACCIO of Sanford, MEYER of Eliot.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Certificates of Deposit"
S.P. 578 L.D. 1460

Presented by Senator POULIOT of Kennebec.

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 Amend the Laws Regarding Violations of Condition
of Release"

S.P. 567 L.D. 1449

Presented by Senator BEEBE-CENTER of Knox.
Cosponsored by Representative PLUECKER of Warren and
Senator: DUSON of Cumberland, Representative: RECKITT of
South Portland.

Bill "An Act to Reduce Abuse of the Civil Ex Parte Attachment
and Trustee Processes"

S.P. 577 L.D. 1459

Presented by Senator LIBBY of Cumberland.

Bill "An Act to Prevent Dating Partner Abuse by Including Dating
Partners in the Scope of Domestic Violence Crimes"
S.P. 579 L.D. 1461

Presented by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth.

Bill "An Act to Provide Financial Incentives for Attorneys to
Provide Indigent Legal Services"

S.P. 580 L.D. 1462

Presented by Senator POULIOT of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Representative HENDERSON of Rumford and
Senators: BLACK of Franklin, KEIM of Oxford, MOORE of
Washington, 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 Regarding the Distribution of Revenue from the Real
Estate Transfer Tax" (EMERGENCY)
S.P. 572 L.D. 1454

Presented by Senator CHIPMAN of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative PERRY of Bangor and Senator:
DUSON of Cumberland, Representatives: CARMICHAEL of
Greenbush, CROCKETT of Portland, HASENFUS of Readfield,
MATLACK of St. George, RANA of Bangor, RIELLY of
Westbrook.

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

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

Bill "An Act Regarding Equines and the Raising and Keeping of Livestock in Certain Motor Vehicle and Tax Laws"
S.P. 581 L.D. 1463

Presented by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Senators: CHIPMAN of Cumberland,
GROHOSKI of Hancock, MOORE of Washington.

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

On motion by Senator **GROHOSKI** of Hancock, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Fund the Recommendations of the Mountain Division Rail Use Advisory Council"
S.P. 568 L.D. 1450

Presented by Senator BENNETT of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Representative KESSLER of South Portland and Senator: BRENNER of Cumberland, Representatives: BLIER of Buxton, PRINGLE of Windham, TERRY of Gorham.

Bill "An Act to Establish the Weighing Point Preclearance Program"
S.P. 573 L.D. 1455

Presented by Senator FARRIN of Somerset.
Cosponsored by Representative PARRY of Arundel.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Resolve, to Establish the Task Force on Cannabis Hospitality Establishments
S.P. 564 L.D. 1446

Presented by Senator CHIPMAN of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative RISEMAN of Harrison and Senator: BRENNER of Cumberland, Representatives: COLLINGS of Portland, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, 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.

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Pursuant to Statute

The Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right To Know Advisory Committee Concerning Records of Disciplinary Actions Against Public Employees"

H.P. 892 L.D. 1397

Reported that the same be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**, pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 1, section 411, subsection 6, paragraph G.

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

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

Bill and accompanying papers **REFERRED** to the Committee on **JUDICIARY**, in concurrence.

Ought to Pass

The Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Improve Family Economic Security Under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program"

H.P. 50 L.D. 80

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

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

The Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Allow the Department of Health and Human Services to Authorize Standing Orders"

H.P. 180 L.D. 282

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

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

The Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act to Amend the Law Regarding Foreign Subpoenas"

H.P. 264 L.D. 431

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

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Ought to Pass As Amended

The Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** on Bill "An Act to Provide Free Admission to State Parks and Historic Sites for the Spouses and Children of Veterans Holding Free Day Use Passes"

H.P. 31 L.D. 56

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-9)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-9)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-9) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **TAXATION** on Bill "An Act to Expand the List of Persons Exempt from the Real Estate Transfer Tax"

H.P. 131 L.D. 210

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-10)**.

Signed:

Senators:

GROHOSKI of Hancock
CHIPMAN of Cumberland
LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

PERRY of Bangor
CARMICHAEL of Greenbush
CROCKETT of Portland
HASENFUS of Readfield
LAVIGNE of Berwick
MATLACK of St. George
QUINT of Hodgdon
RANA of Bangor
RUDNICKI of Fairfield

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought Not To Pass**.

Signed:

Representative:

LIBBY of Auburn

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-10)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-10)**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **GROHOSKI** of Hancock, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-10) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Senate

Ought to Pass

Senator **BRENNER** for the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** on Bill "An Act to Align Maine's Lead Abatement Law with Federal Definitions and to Clarify Lead Abatement Licensing and Certification Requirements"

S.P. 19 L.D. 27

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

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Ought to Pass As Amended

Senator INGWERSEN for the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** on Bill "An Act to Provide Funding for the Fund to Address Food Insecurity and Provide Nutrition Incentives" (EMERGENCY)

S.P. 239 L.D. 568

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-11)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-11) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Senator BAILEY for the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Make Technical Amendments to Banking Laws"

S.P. 53 L.D. 114

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-12)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-12) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Senator HICKMAN for the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Allow the Adjutant General to Sell the Houlton Armory"

S.P. 240 L.D. 569

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-10)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-10) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

SECOND READERS

The Committee on **Bills in the Second Reading** reported the following:

House

Bill "An Act to Clarify MaineCare Program Requirements Regarding Certain High-risk Health Care Providers"

H.P. 265 L.D. 432

READ A SECOND TIME and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**, in concurrence.

House As Amended

Bill "An Act to Increase Support for the Modernization of the Board of Pesticides Control by Increasing the Annual Pesticide Registration Fee"

H.P. 12 L.D. 8
(C "A" H-7)

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 25: Standards for Placing Wood into Stream Channels to Enhance Cold Water Fisheries Habitat, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, Bureau of Forestry (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 241 L.D. 390
(C "A" H-8)

READ A SECOND TIME and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

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

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Off Record Remarks

RECESSED until the sound of the bell.

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

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act Making Certain Appropriations and Allocations and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government" (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 257 L.D. 424

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-12)**.

Signed:

Senators:

- ROTUNDO of Androscoggin
- DUSON of Cumberland

Representatives:

- SACHS of Freeport
- COLLINGS of Portland
- FAY of Raymond
- GATTINE of Westbrook
- MATLACK of St. George
- MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought Not To Pass**.

Signed:

Senator:

- BENNETT of Oxford

Representatives:

- BLIER of Buxton
- CARLOW of Buxton
- DUCHARME of Madison
- MILLETT of Waterford

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-12)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-12) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENTS "A" (H-14) AND "D" (H-18)** thereto.

Reports **READ**.

Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence.

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

Senator **ROTUNDO:** Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues of the Senate, I rise today to speak in support of L.D. 424, part one of the biennial budget. It's a common-sense current services budget that will keep the lights on, the government running, and critical services available for state fiscal years '24-'25. Before I delve into the contents of this targeted common-sense proposal I want to take a step back to talk a little about this two-part approach to the biennial budget and where we go from here. Until about 17 years ago, a two-part approach to the State budget was considered the norm in Augusta. The idea is that the Legislature begins with current services, the base-line budget, and initiatives authorized in law and then dives into the initiatives with the left-over revenue. At times this approach has garnered strong bipartisan support. It's not a radical idea. We do a continuing services budget to provide predictability and stability to providers and municipalities who are in the process of putting together budgets for their own town services and schools. The continuing services budget is about keeping our promise to those who depend upon State funding to balance their budgets. Taking the two-step approach to the biennial budget ensures that the State pays its bills and fulfills its obligations to the people of Maine. I think of it like a family budget where you first take care of the family's necessities like food, mortgage payments, car payments, and if you have additional money when you're done paying for the family necessities and basics you can think about new spending, which is the second part of the budget. The Appropriations Committee worked well together up until the final vote last Friday. We voted in more than 250 lines unanimously in the budget before you. Many of the funded items in this budget were initiatives that were voted into law in the 130th legislative session with a bipartisan two-thirds vote. These were excellent initiatives and they continue to be funded in this common-sense continuing services budget. The initiatives include: meeting the 55% threshold for education; funding for behavioral health; rate increases for healthcare providers; funding for long-term care facilities; funding to reduce the wait lists for Medicaid waiver programs that serve vulnerable Mainers; free school meals to ensure that children do not learn on an empty stomach; wage supplements for child care workers who desperately needed to remain paid so they can stay in the industry; tuition assistance for our brave veterans who have served this country. At the end of the day, this common-sense continuing services budget is about keeping the lights on and ensuring that there won't be a government shutdown on July 1st. Having lived through a government shutdown and having witnessed how it impacts the people of Maine, as well as small businesses and communities of the state, I believe a shutdown should be avoided at all costs. Taking the risk of a government shutdown should be taken off the table. This is about providing stability and governing responsibly. This budget will allow us to work together and take the time necessary to try and reach a consensus on a part two budget without the threat of a shut down looming over us. In closing, I want to thank the Senators who serve on the Legislature's Appropriations Committee; the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Duson, and the Senator from Oxford, Senator Bennett, who bring everything they have to the committee's work. Both advocate for their respective caucuses' values and priorities with clarity and passion. I have great respect for them both. I also want to thank our AFA colleagues in the other Chamber,

Republicans and Democrats; as well as the committee's principle analysis, Maureen Dawson; the incredible non-partisan professional staff in the Office of Fiscal and Program Review; and the Revisor's Office. These are extraordinarily talented and dedicated public servants. The work we do in this Body for the people of the state would not be possible without them. With that, I hope you will join me in voting for Part One of the biennial budget. Let's pass this common-sense current services budget so we can get to work taking up new initiatives for Part Two. Thank you.

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 Aroostook, Senator Stewart.

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you very much, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I know the hour is late but, of course, that was the other Body's fault. I rise in strong opposition to the pending motion and I have to make a few points here. You know, as a member of leadership, back when the dynamics here were actually the same when I was in the other Body, this wasn't actually a problem then. This specter of a shut down was never brought up then and I'm not sure why it's being brought up now except for my friends on the other side of the aisle simply aren't interested in allowing the minority party to have any sort of meaningful seat at the negotiation table, which is precisely what's happened in the last two cycles. If the shut down was really a problem you would have thought it would have been a problem two budget cycles ago. But that didn't happen. In fact, Republicans and my colleagues then, and many of who are still here now, worked hard, and together, to come up with a product that best served the state of Maine and got the opinions of everybody sitting around the table that should, and deserved, to be there. I also take issue with this idea that there's some amount of certainty in this document when as early as last night I was still getting updates in our office about the uncertainty of this document and all the problems that this document was creating for folks back home in terms of education funding. Magically \$42 million literally appeared overnight. What the heck happened there and why are we forced to go down this road without certainty because some folks don't want to deal with the Republicans? That's the long and short of it, Mr. President. I'm not sure if I can capture it any other way. I know you're not one of them because you and I get along just great, being from the County together. But, you know, County families are struggling, just like every other family across this state and I couldn't help but make note of the fact that my good friend from, I believe it's Androscoggin County, Androscoggin County, brought up family budgets and notably missing from family budgets is the money that families have to set aside to pay their taxes. We are in the top three in the country for the tax burden that we put on Maine families. All that Republicans had asked for throughout this entire process was to address that problem and make us just a touch more competitive. Just take a little bit of that burden off of working Maine families. In fact, the last offer that we put forth, that was flatly rejected by the Democrats, would have done just that. A \$200 million proposal, which represents less than 2% of the entire \$10 plus billion revenue stream, that I'm positive is now going to be spent entirely by this Legislature, would have gone

towards lowering taxes for Maine families. Apparently, that's off the table. Apparently, that's one straw too many on the camel's back of this Legislature. Apparently, the people's house and the people's money is not going to be treated like it belongs to them. It's going to be treated like it belongs to a bunch of politicians who aren't interested in about half the state of Maine's voice having a seat at that table. Now the good news is, Mr. President, there is still time to change course. There is still time to change course in this Body, the other Body has made its' choice for the evening, and there's still time for the Chief Executive to make up her mind one way or the other as well. I would implore you, think about the impact that meaningful tax relief could have for working Maine families. Think about the impact of pure uncertainty, which is what we're about to vote on. Think about the impact that this choice will have on this institution, which we all took an oath to uphold and defend at the beginning of this session. That shouldn't be lost on anyone and I would implore you all to reject this motion in favor of going back to the negotiating table. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Mr. President. Fellow members of the Senate, I rise today with extraordinary amounts of sadness and disappointment that we're here tonight in this position and we don't have to be. When I decided to run for reelection to this Body after 16 years I made a commitment to myself and to my constituents that I was not going to do business in politics like it's being done too many places, particularly in our nation's capital, that I would put partisan politics to the back burner. and that it would be the last prism at which - through which I would look at issues, and I've tried to be faithful to that pledge to myself and my constituents. The last time I served on the Appropriations Committee was 25 years ago. I was appointed by my seatmate, the Senator from York, Senator Lawrence, when he was President of the Senate and we had a two part budget then. We had the current services budget and we had a part two budget. This bill that's before us today was not heard as a current services budget. The testimony was not about a current services budget. It was all about the new initiatives and so if we're now to dig in to a part one current services budget I feel that this Legislature has failed the people of Maine because we have not undertaken the work in that fashion. Our budget process is broken. It is terribly broken. This Legislature does not take the time to use the talent and the experience of our members, our colleagues, in reflecting on our budget and its priorities. It's all a show. We had the commissioners of the various departments and agency heads coming before the Appropriations Committee. Did they talk about the baseline budget? Hardly any. We listened for more than an hour and a half, actually it was about two hours, of the Deputy Commissioner of Education reading to us from a 51 page script, all about the new initiatives which are being pushed to the part two. The Administration had months to work on this budget. They had months to prepare testimony and the Appropriations Committee got their testimony the day of the hearings and then they were given the opportunity to read 50 pages of testimony and then what happened when the advocates, the people who deal with the programs, the people who live under these regulations and programs and policies that they agencies overlook, they were each given three minutes each to talk about what they were concerned about, and they focused on the new

initiatives. How many committees actually looked at the current services part of the budget in their reviews? Darn few. We should have had the Administration's input a week in advance so that we could have read it, given them 15 minutes to present, and then ask them questions, and then given members of the public, advocates, community longer than three minutes, maybe ten minutes each or more, to talk about really what works. If you're going to do a current services budget, you focus your hearing on the current services piece. You do proper review and vetting about what's working and what isn't working in state government, and then you pass a current services budget. It's not a bad idea but that's not what this budget was organized to be and it is not the way that it was heard and worked. Ninety-five percent of this budget was essentially baseline. \$9.4 billion, 95% of the budget, basically not looked at all and yet the Legislature can come in here and we can pretend that we're doing the people's work because we're inspecting \$400 million in new spending, maybe. It is a broken, broken process and I have to say talk about shutting down state government is deeply offensive to me. I have never suggested that that should be an alternative ever and, in fact, the only shutting down of state government that is going to occur tonight is this Legislature is going to adjourn in an extra Constitutional move and be called back into session by the Chief Executive because we didn't do our jobs and because people weren't willing to compromise and work together across the aisle and that's deeply disappointing, saddening, and upsetting to me. I encourage you to vote no so we can actually do the work that the people sent us to do.

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

Senator **DUSON:** Thank you, Mr. President. I rise to speak in support of L.D. 424. It is, as noted by my Committee Chair, the Senator from Androskoggin, Senator Rotundo, a common-sense current services budget that honors the state of Maine's commitment to our communities and provides local governments with much needed stability. Now, I may be new to the Legislature but I'm not new to government and I think I was in the same room over the last numbers of weeks with my colleague from Oxford, the good Senator Bennett, and I observed this process very closely. I'm fascinated by the process. This committee went through this entire budget, hundreds of lines, line-by-line with both parties. So, I may be new to the Legislature but, again, I'm not new to government or to public services and I have observed my Committee Chairs, my committee leadership, go time and time again in the room with my colleagues from the other party to discuss how we could move forward with this current services budget. So, from my perspective as a former Mayor, a long-term councilor, and a former school board chair, a return to a two-part biennial budget process is long overdue. This approach insures the State can prioritize ongoing commitments before taking on new initiatives. Though there are no new initiatives in this proposal, I would urge the members of this Body and the public not to overlook what this part one budget will mean for our municipalities. The proposal before this Body honors the State's commitment to municipal revenue sharing. It will be the first two-year budget to do so since the program was eliminated in 2015. The proposal honors the State's commitment to municipalities on education funding, funding K-12 public education at the 55% threshold will alleviate the pressure on municipal budgets and property tax payers. This proposal reimburses municipalities for

75% of loss revenue on the homestead exemption program. Municipalities are in the process of crafting local budgets as we speak, budgets that are greatly impacted by funding, or lack thereof, from the State. These local officials deserve to know what to expect in terms of revenue sharing and school funding so they can budget for the upcoming year appropriately and, hopefully, avoid raising property taxes. Too often local officials are forced to make these decisions in the dark while the debate plays out in the Legislature or rush to finalize a budget hours before the deadline on July 1st. After the turbulence caused by the pandemic in recent years, providing communities stability seems like the lease we can do. I urge the members of this Body to join me in voting to pass a common-sense current services budget that honors the State of Maine's commitment to our communities and I thank you.

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

Senator **MOORE:** Thank you, Mr. President. I rise today to oppose this motion. It's not that I don't want to fulfill my constitutional duty to determine a balanced budget for our great state of Maine. I sincerely do. My constituents expect that. It's simply because I, and I suspect other fellow colleagues, don't really even know what's in it. Do we even know how much the budget is really costing us? That's because the way we do budgets here in Maine is backward. Here it seems we're automatically taking whatever we spent last year, whether it was right, whether it did or didn't work, or whether it was even needed, and choosing to spend it again. The fast track of this continuing services budget took is, ironically, a disservice to Maine's people. It's a 411 page document. I ask rhetorically, has anyone really had a chance to read it? I know I haven't. It only came out about 36 hours ago and, sorry, I don't read that fast and I didn't even have time to print it. I'm one of the ones that needs to print something to read it. We are an equal branch of government. We are the voice of the people, yet we're not exercising any of the powers of the pen granted to us in our Constitution. It seems we've abdicated that role. If that's the case, again I ask rhetorically, why are we even here? I'd like to take just a minute and read an e-mail that I received from one of my constituents, and I have received several of them very similar. He writes: 'Please vote no on the Majority budget. It is irresponsible to pass a biennial budget that does not include tax relief for hardworking Mainers like me. Any budget approved by Legislators should include tax cuts for all Mainers struggling to make ends meet and persistent inflation and high prices. State government has never been more flush with cash. Meanwhile, Mainers are just barely getting by. It is irresponsible to not extend relief to us at this time when we need it the most. Please vote no and go back to the negotiating table to find a solution that works for all Mainers. Thank you.' And for that reason, and the way leadership has brought this bill to our floor here today, I'm voting against it. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Baldacci.

Senator **BALDACCI:** Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues of the Senate, I rise today to speak in support of L.D. 424 because this really is just a commonsense continuing service budget. Like my good honorable colleague from Cumberland, I served as

Mayor and Counselor in Bangor for years during the 2010s. Every year that the Legislature was in session was a test of will, a test of fortitude about what public services we were going to be able to maintain, what layoffs we were going to have to have, what cut-backs we were going to have to have for teacher retirement or school districts. People forget that there was a whole bunch of cuts and reductions and layoffs. The public health sector for the State of Maine was, fortunately, at least partially rebuilt in the last four years while we had a pandemic. But for municipalities and public schools, this is a welcome budget. This provides certainty and stability to municipalities all over the state and schools all over the state. As Chair of the Health and Human Services Committee, I know just how important this proposal is to the health and wellbeing of Maine people and I worry that that message is getting lost in this debate. It is a budget that provides health insurance for more than 128,000 Maine children so their parents can afford to take them to the doctor when they're sick or injured; it is a budget that improves access to prenatal and postpartum care for expectant mothers to boost health outcomes for newborns of parents; it is a budget that provides critical funding for nursing homes, residential care facilities, hospitals, and other long-term care providers. It also continues funding to support the wages for direct-care workers who provide quality, compassionate care for Mainers in long-term care. Last year, the Maine Legislature reduced the wait list for older Mainers eligible and waiting to receive in-home services to assist with day-to-day tasks. The continuing services budget honors that commitment and continues funding this program at the same levels. The continuing services budget funds the low-cost drugs program for Maine's elderly, providing relief for thousands of Maine seniors. The high cost of prescription drugs is harming our seniors who need this medicine to survive. There are much needed investments in the health and wellbeing of Maine people. I know there is a lot of work that we still need to do but this budget puts us in the position to address new initiatives in the Part 2 of the budget. It provides our healthcare providers with stability that they deserve and that we all need to continue serving our communities. Let's pass this commonsense current services budget today so we can roll up our sleeves and get to work on all the new initiatives that we want to include in Part 2 tomorrow. Let's show people that this not Washington D.C. This is Maine and we can work together and govern responsibly and we have done it many times before. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator **PIERCE:** Thank you, Mr. President. I rise in support of L.D. 424 and to speak to the good work that has gone into crafting this commonsense current service budget, much of which began in the early days of the 130th Maine Legislature. As the former House Chair of the Legislature's Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee in the 130th, I had the honor of working with my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, on a two-part biennial budget and subsequent supplemental budget over the past two years. I'm proud of the investments we made in Maine people, communities, small businesses, while balancing the State's books and putting aside funds for savings. We made history by funding education at 55%, a threshold mandated by the voters. We restored revenue sharing to 5% as spelled out in statute. We invested in public health, supported our nursing

homes, our direct care workers, our rural hospitals, and we increased property tax relief through the Property Tax Fairness Credit and the Homestead Exemption Program, and we also helped to feed our kids in our schools. I could go on but my point is that we achieved a lot for Maine people over the past two years. The proposal before us today, the commonsense continuing service budget, simply continues our good work. A vote against this budget is a vote against these important services. I suggest that this commonsense current services budget has not - to suggest this commonsense current services budget has not been properly vetted is an odd argument. We vetted it, the Republican and the Democrats lawmakers who served in the 131st Legislature, many of whom are in this room today. To suggest this commonsense current service budget has been rushed or haphazardly put together is not true. It reflects hours and weeks and months of public hearings, work sessions, and debate. It reflects the voices of the Maine people, recommendations from Joint Standing Committees, the priorities of Republicans and Democrats. It reflects the thoughtfulness and the hard work of those of us who serves on the Appropriations Committee over the past two years, not only those who served on Appropriations Committee over the past two years but the entire 130th Maine Legislature, again many of whom continue to serve in this room. For me, this is about providing Maine people, our small businesses, our communities, our schools with stability and certainty. This commonsense continuing service budget insures that the bills will be paid on time, that our commitments will be kept. It how good government operates. I want to thank Senator Bailey, whom I served with in the 130th on the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee; current AFA member, Senator Duson, for the work that has been accomplished so far, and, of course, Senator Peggy Rotundo for her leadership as the 131st Chair of AFA, in addition to all the people on both sides of the aisle that we worked with in the 131st. I hope that you will join me in voting in favor of L.D. 424, a commonsense continuing service budget. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator **TIMBERLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. President. I guess if you say something long enough you begin to believe it. I served four years on the Appropriations Committee, four years in leadership. Kind of an old guy who works on things and made a living talking about commonsense, doing things that I thought was commonsense. If what you were proposing here today that I've heard from the Chair of the Appropriations Committee was a commonsense continuing service budget, then why didn't we talk about that on day one? Why wasn't that the whole thing that we was talked about? That wasn't what was talked about. They talked about running a budget. We heard the Chief Executive Officer no more than three weeks ago say we hope we're going to work together to come out with a good budget. Again, I say if you say it long enough you actually begin to believe what you say. I don't think it's any of those things. I think there was two people from the Republican side sent down to be Chairs or our Leads. The good Senator from Oxford and the Representative Sawin Millett were probably the two most honest, bipartisan people that I've ever run into in my 12 years of serving in this building and for people to stand here today and say that you couldn't work with those two men is absolutely baffling to me. Now, I could say that if you looked at me and you might not be able to work with me

because I'm a stubborn guy, I'd buy into the program, but you've got two honest brokers. I don't believe it. This was decided at the last minute because you wanted what you want. It's your budget. We talk about what's happened. We talk about we don't want a shut-down. Folks, you're about to shut down government tonight before it's over. We're going to go Sine Die. That's shutting down government. Technically, when that happens, we should pack all of our bags up and we should head home because the plan was not a commonsense continuing budget that we were all working on as a group. The plan was to shut down government and come back at a Special Session. I represent approximately 38,000 people. Now, I took a poll at my little country store that I stop into a lot of mornings on my way to Augusta, Bear Pond Variety, to days ago and I says 'What do you think?' and there was 12 people sitting in there. They said, 'I think you're crazy over there. You can't support this. This hasn't had its process.' So, I'm going to go with the poll that I took in my district and the people and I can't support this and I think if you go out and talk to the people of Maine they want us to do our job and if our job was to do the commonsense continuing budget then that's what we should have said we was going to do back in January when we come in. Actually, it was in December when we got sworn in. That should have been our conversation but it wasn't. What we was told was we're going to do a biennial budget and, by gorry, we're not doing that. Now, I've served here when we've done this Majority Budget and then we were going to do the next budget and we was going to all work together. But you know what happened, guys? Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, we voted another Majority Supplemental. We did actually vote one supplemental that was two-thirds but only one. This isn't about including all the people of Maine, it's only including a few people of Maine. I think the people in my district deserve the same respect as those of you on the other side and they're not getting it and, for that reason, I cannot and will not support this budget, and number two reason is it's got abortion in it. At least the last time we took abortion out and made it a separate bill. I don't think taxpayer money should be paying for abortions. People want to have an abortion that's a choice between them, the doctor, the boyfriend, the girlfriend, whatever. I don't care. But taxpayer dollars should not be paying for it. The time has come to do the right thing and that's to vote this down. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator **POULIOT:** I'm under no illusions that anything is going to change anyone's mind but I just need to stand because I'm really frustrated. You know, when I started out in this institution I stood down in the other Body and I said that compromise is not a dirty word as I pushed the button to expand Medicaid and I did so because I believed it was the right thing for Maine people at the time and I still think it was the right thing to do. The reason I did it was because I felt there was a lot of people that just weren't getting the care they needed and it prevented them from having mobility and the freewill that they should have living in this state. And I've seen this slow, progressive degradation, if you will, of the way that we do things around here that's based on a lack of trust and it's really concerning to me because we're being asked, as Legislators, to vote on this this evening when we haven't all collectively had an opportunity to participate in the entire budget process and I'm concerned about the trajectory that we're on as

setting a precedent, one that doesn't instill trust among members to try to get to a common compromise, if you will, something that's not a dirty word. So, I understand that when you stand up and you're like 'hey, I don't like this' the people that do are going vote for it. It's just kind of like 'Sorry, that's just the way it is.' But my concern is deeper than that. It's one of eroding trust in this institution and making it more difficult for us to go about the people's business in a way where we can have speed, the speed of trust, you know, that exists when there is an equilibrium that's been formed by contemplated work that is focused on finding common ground. So, when I get frustrated, that's when I'm frustrated, you know, Mr. President, I expect to get my way. I've been in the Minority for 10 years, okay. But I care about this place and I care about future generations believing in this place, believing in the beautiful thing that is our democracy, and when we do things like this it erodes that trust, Mr. President, and I can't stand for it. Thank you.

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

Senator **LAWRENCE:** Thank you, Mr. President. Men and women of the Senate, I, too, am disappointed and frustrated but, perhaps for different reasons, I will be voting for this continuing service budget, and let me make a point that nearly every other Legislature in the country votes a Majority Budget. We only have to vote a two-thirds because of a fluke in our Constitution and the change of our budget year. That's way we have to get a two-thirds budget. I hear the good Senator from Androscoggin talk about the work that the good Senator from Oxford, Senator Bennett, did on the Appropriations Committee, and I have tremendous respect for him as I do for Representative Millett over on the House side, but I just want to refresh your memory. What has happened so far in this session, we came here in December, tried to pass a heating bill to help Mainers. It needed a two-thirds vote. We couldn't get it. We were told if you do these things then I think we're going to get there. We did all those things and we had to struggle to get a two-thirds vote to get that bill passed, L.D. 3. And then we unanimously passed out of the Appropriations Committee, with the support of Republicans and Democrats, a Supplemental Budget that failed to get a two-thirds vote in both of these Bodies. Failed to get that vote and that's what creates the fear because when I, years ago, appointed the good Senator from Oxford, Senator Bennett, to the Appropriations Committee we had gone through a shut-down of State government. The first time in the history of the state of Maine. Twenty-one days the State was shut down. Two thousand State employees were camped out in Capitol Park. Courts couldn't operate. State parks couldn't operate. Nothing could operate. Tourism was shut down. Everything was shut down in Maine. State parks, everything. And that was the lasting damage to the state of Maine. So, when I appointed the good Representative - the good Senator from Oxford to Appropriations Committee we did - and I engineered the first Majority Budget because we had to disarm that nuclear weapon when 13 members of this Body shut down State government. Thirteen members out of 186 elected Legislators, those 13 shut it down for 21 days and nobody could control what was done for a demand that had nothing to do with the State budget. Nothing to do with the State budget. We have a responsibility as a Majority to see that schools stay open, State parks stay open, the Judiciary continues to run, and everything in this state continues to run, and we have to do that by passing a

Supplemental Budget - a continuing resolution - continuing budget. We have to do that. In fact, that's the way it always was done in the Senate. We had a Part A, a Part B. Part A was passed. We guaranteed that funding in the state went on and we lived on to debate Part B, changing in funding, and it was done by a collaboration of Republicans and Democrats to come to that decision. I've been in the Majority - in the Minority. In the Minority you never get all of what you want. You get a small percentage. Maybe you get 10%. Maybe if you're clever you get 20% or 25%. But you can't get your agenda. You can't get limitations on things that don't have to do with the budget, like abortion and things like that in the budget if you're in the Minority. You have to accept that and when I look back at what happened with the Supplemental Budget that tells me the unanimous committee report coming out of committee and the Republicans on that committee couldn't carry two-thirds in this Body or that Body. We are in the danger of another shut-down of State government and it's our responsibility, as a Majority, to see that there is a continuing budget passed that will keep the State open and prevent that from happening again. So, I hope you will support the motion that's on the floor.

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

Senator **BRAKEY:** Thank you, Mr. President. I'm going to keep the majority of my comments to later on in this process but, very kindly, I need to respond to the accusations made by Senator Lawrence from York County because we were all here for both of those instances that he references and I remember them very differently. On the heating bill, as we all recall, the basic request was a simple one for a public hearing. The public hearing happened and, Mr. President, you may recall I thanked you from where I'm standing right here. I thanked you for holding that public hearing, having a public process, even though there were things I didn't like about it. I didn't like the fact that, you know, there were still problems with that and there were no changes, opportunity for real change to be taken place in that process. But I thanked you for that and you know what, after that public hearing were there not the votes to pass that heating bill with two-thirds of the members of this Body? Yes, there were. It was a basic request for basic process and the bill passed. On the Supplemental Budget, I will remind the members of this Body that there were many members of the majority party who were absent that day. So, if you want to blame Republicans on the Supplemental Budget not passing on the first vote then I would encourage you to make sure that your own members are here when you know that you need two-thirds on a vote like that. So, don't put it all on us. In fact, when that Supplemental Budget did not pass on that first vote it was Republicans who turned around and one Republican, who isn't here with us today, for the sake of moving things forward, changed his vote, covering for a Democrat who were not here that day. So, if it was so important, have your own members here and don't blame it on us. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report, in concurrence. 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 (#61)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: GUERIN, HARRINGTON

22 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 11 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

Bill READ ONCE.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-12) **READ.**

House Amendment "A" (H-14) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-12) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

House Amendment "D" (H-18) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-12) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford moved the Senate **ADOPT** Senate Amendment "B" (S-14) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-12) **READ.**

On motion by Senator **DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland, 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 Oxford, Senator Bennett.

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Mr. President. Fellow members of the Senate, this amendment before you is a little scaled back from the last proposal that we made, the House Lead on the Committee and myself, to the Senate Chair and the House Chair of the Committee in order to get support on a bipartisan basis for this budget. I hope you all had a chance to read it. It's pretty measured. I think fairly modest in its approach and it just speaks to an intentionality going forward into the Part 2 budget which from the very beginning one of the concerns I heard from people on my side of the aisle was about the intentionality of breaking through the spending cap of \$9.88 billion which the budget necessarily requires us to do as it was presented by the Governor. There is - we're right at the spending cap if we pass this budget tonight and there is every intention, as we all know, that that spending cap is going to be violated in the Part 2 budget. Just the Governor's initiatives will spend several \$100 million over it, let alone other measures that may come out in the process. In

exchange for going - that recognition of going through the spending cap, members of my party would like to very much see that some of the re-forecasted revenues, which again may number in the 100s of millions of dollars when they're recognized at the beginning of May, will be reserved for income tax relief targeted to primarily benefit low and middle income individuals. There's no specific plan behind this. If you read the language, it is a statement of intent that we will do this in the Part 2 budget. I would hope that if this passes that we could work collaboratively together to create an income tax plan that works well for those populations of low and middle income individuals. There's plenty of room here for varying opinions on what might entail. But in a time when we have a record amount of revenue coming into the state, we've sent back \$450 checks and \$850 checks because maybe there was some uncertainty that, with the close of the pandemic, how certain would those revenues be going forward. I think we've come to the point where we are over-collecting taxes from Maine people and, as we recognize when we passed L.D. 3, there are a lot of people dealing with inflationary pressures, higher costs on everything, and so this proposal would focus the effort on allocating some of that money in the Part 2, a modest amount considering a \$2 billion growth in spending between two years ago and this biennium proposed, for the purpose of giving some tax relief. It's pretty straightforward. There's another provision that suggests, again no commitments on anything except for a conversation where we ask the Governor to convene a working group of people that she can choose to look at how well our public assistance programs are working. There are 65,000 to 95,000 people who are going to be removed, probably, from the MaineCare roles with the close of the emergency and we need to know the impact of these changes. We need to understand how - why it is that our businesses are having such a hard time finding people to work. It's an appropriate time to have a conversation about this, to inform the Part 2 budget, and this is all this does. It just asks for a conversation. Those are the two - those are the two fairly modest and measured proposals that were rejected, which is why we're here tonight passing a partisan budget. I would ask that you all - that we all think carefully about where we are and this is our opportunity to bridge a divide and come together in a way that, I think, will help us going forward for the rest of this session and forestall the inevitable shutting down of the Legislative Branch. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Stewart.

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you very much, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I am suddenly encouraged after hearing the remarks earlier this evening from my good friend and colleague, the Senator from York, who said that what would be fair in this process is to give the minority party just 10% throughout their budget. Well, I have fantastic news. This amendment represents less than 2%. So, I look forward to seeing a bipartisan vote on that television screen here in just a few moments and I hope you will all follow the good Senator from York's lead here in doing the right thing and providing just 2%, a modest 2%. Thank you.

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

Senator **BRAKEY:** Thank you, Mr. President. I'd actually like to ask the question: since it has been suggested that the minority party should be content with 10%, if the Senator from York, Senator Lawrence, would support increasing the tax increases? If \$200 million accounts for 2% of the budget, he thinks we should have 10%, then perhaps we should - what should we increase that to, well we should increase it quite a bit. It's hard to do math on the spot when the pressure's on. Anyway, I'm glad to hear that Senator Lawrence thinks that we should have even more significant tax cuts for the Maine people. Certainly, I feel that 2% is something. It's scrapes from the table but it's scrapes from the table that we are obligated to, as Legislators here, to ask for the people of Maine. But 2%, that's what the ask is. If 10% is fair I'd be happy to take 10%.

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

Senator **ROTUNDO:** Thank you, Mr. President. Just a few comments. I just want to share that I believe all of us in this Chamber care very much about tax relief for the people that we represent. As a matter of fact, there's over \$250 million in the budget before you of tax relief. Very good work was done in the 130th in this area. I'm glad that it's in the budget before us. We care, all of us care deeply about our workforce in Maine and examining the issues that might be impacting workforce, as well as the effectiveness of our state programing. However, these proposals belong in a Part 2 budget, where we take up new initiatives. There are a variety of bills that will be before us in the coming weeks where there will be public hearings on tax proposals and workforce proposals and I would say that these proposals need a public vetting. We all care about transparency and to suggest that we put things into a Part 1 budget, a continuing services budget, that have not seen the light of day, has not had public vetting, is not right. I also think it's important for us with the Part 2 budget to wait and see what kind of revenue we have when the revenue forecasting committee meets later in the spring so that we know what kind of money we have to spend. It's premature to lock in amounts at this point. We all look forward to working together on a Part 2 budget and addressing the issues that are raised in this proposal. Thank you.

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

Senator **BRAKEY:** I apologize for rising a second time, Mr. President. I will be very brief. For the record, 10% would be a billion, as my colleague notes here. So, we are not being so ambitious as to ask that, thought it would be nice. But, you know, to respond to my colleague and neighbor from Lewiston, who I do have a good deal of respect for, us both representing the people of Androscoggin County. I think the concern is, from the minority party, the concern is the extent to which the minority party is being cut out of the conversation on this proposal right now and after this that there would be no need for two-thirds buy-in in a Part B. So, if the minority party is being cut out of Part A, what reason do we have to believe that the minority party is going to be included in the decisions on Part B? I think it goes to what Senator Pouliot was talking about, of that feeling that trust is being violated here and not a very good sense that there's going to be that trust to have tax cuts a part of the conversation in a

Part B when we have no leverage under the rules to not just be back to a majority decision making process all over again.

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

Senator **LAWRENCE:** Thank you, Mr. President. Men and women of the Senate, I rise to congratulate the good Senator from Aroostook, Senator Stewart, that he is very accomplished in going to law school and coming up with clever arguments. So, 10% of your agenda doesn't translate to 10% of the budget you get to decide. It's 10% of your items that you want to get negotiated into the budget. That's what I'm talking about. Not a percentage of the budget. Let me go back to what Senator - the good Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Brakey, said about the supplemental budget process. This is the difficulty. When the minority appoints a member to Appropriations and, we negotiate in good faith with that member and reach a unanimous agreement, it's expected that the minority caucus is going to support it. Otherwise who are we negotiating with and how can we ever negotiate if that happens? And that's what happened in the Supplemental Budget and that's why we don't know what's going to happen. We could have gotten a unanimous report on this budget and it could be voted down two-thirds in this Legislature because there's no backing up of your own member on the committee who we negotiate in good faith with to get an agreement in the minority caucus. It used to be, I saw many unanimous reports come out of Appropriations Committee and it was almost against all Legislative philosophy to vote against that. But that's not the case any more and we don't know who we're negotiating with. We don't know who we can get an agreement with to get a two-thirds budget if we can't do that with your representative on the Appropriations Committee. That's the point.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Penobscot, Senator Tipping.

Senator **TIPPING:** Thank you, Mr. President. Like some of my colleagues here, I'm deeply offended, not by a budget process. I'm deeply offended that too many Mainers right now can't go to a doctor, too many can't find childcare for their kids, too many can't find a place to live. That's what we should focus on. Not another tax break that predominantly benefits the wealthy, like the first proposal. Not a blank check like this one. We need to focus on problems that people are facing that they sent us here to address. We need to head off a State shut-down so we can do that work and I look forward to getting to work, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Stewart.

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I rise. I've just got a couple of questions I'd like to pose through the Chair, if that would be alright, for my good friend from York County. The first is: where the heck is that rule written anywhere about what, you know, provisions that are allowed to be negotiated by the minority or what percentage is in and what's out? I'm really curious. I look forward to seeing that document where that rule is written somewhere in stone. I'm sure he'll be able to provide that. It's probably in one of his many law books. You know, the second is: I guess - first off, I need to correct some of this revisionist history

that we're hearing right now. To be clear, the only reason that the Supplemental on the first pass, and it did pass I have to add, the only reason it didn't pass on the enactment vote in here is because my colleagues on the other side didn't have their members there. Had we had an accurate count, we provided the requisite votes to get that through because it was the unanimous report, because we did agree to move it forward, and then somebody wasn't counting, it wasn't me, but somebody lost count of how green lights we needed on that board, and as soon as that problem was discovered, by the way, it was corrected. So, this whole notion that we have to somehow - for some reason hide behind that incident is really remarkable to me that that's being held up as the reason why the biennial budget can't be negotiated with the minority party. So, you know, you said it earlier, but if you can't negotiate with Senator Bennett from Oxford in good faith who can you negotiate with in good faith? I'll post that question through the Chair happily.

THE PRESIDENT: The Senator from Aroostook, Senator Stewart, has posed a question through the Chair for anyone who can answer. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Sagadahoc, Senator Vitelli.

Senator **VITELLI:** Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I move to Indefinitely Postpone.

Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc moved to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** Senate Amendment "B" (S-14) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-12).

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 (#62)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: GUERIN, HARRINGTON

22 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 11 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** Senate Amendment "B" (S-14) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-12), **PREVAILED**.

Senator **KEIM** of Oxford moved the Senate **ADOPT** Senate Amendment "C" (S-15) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-12) **READ**.

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

Senator **KEIM:** Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I am privileged to stand here this evening and present this amendment to remove taxpayer funded abortion from this continuing services budget. Taxpayer dollars should not pay for abortion. The majority of Americans agree with this, both Democrats and Republicans. On the federal level, for over 45 years, the Hyde Amendment and similar laws have protected taxpayers from being forced to pay for elective abortion. Let's remember that the Hyde Amendment has been signed into law every year since 1976, whether the Congress and the White House were led by Republicans or Democrats. This action has saved over 2.4 million babies and mothers in difficult circumstances from the tragedy of abortion. Even the pro-abortion Guttmacher Institute acknowledges the Hyde Amendment's impact on reducing abortion because some Medicaid eligible women may not choose to end the life of their child if the government does not incentivize abortion. One of the essential roles of government is to support and protect the family. The family unit is the fundamental institution on which healthy communities and the government are built. Government policies should in no way discourage the formation and preservation of families, nor add momentum to the powerful forces breaking our families apart. Abortion causes the death of a tiny human whose presence is intrinsic to family and the loss of every unborn child is a tragedy, not a behavior that government spending should incentivize because whatever government subsidizes it to escalate. In the 1930s, for instance, when the federal government subsidized pigs the mid-west was up to its hips in pigs. In Maine, the government has subsidized windmills and solar panels and see the effect of that everywhere. Maine is now subsidizing abortion and countless innocent lives have been snuffed out. We will forever miss out on the beauty of those little boys and little girls who are killed in the womb, their heartbeat stopped before they had a chance to take their first breath. A strong majority of Americans, including women and men across a range of income levels and racial diversity, support the Hyde Amendment and laws that prevent government funded abortion. Many people in Maine are fair minded and reasonable. This is reflected in the most recent survey conducted April 29 to May 2, 2019 of registered Maine voters. This survey found the majority of Maine voters oppose taxpayer funding of abortions, 62% are opposed. Additionally, the majority of women oppose taxpayer funded abortion. Taxpayer funded abortion is unprecedented and extreme. Despite this opposition, in 2019 the Maine Legislature passed L.D. 820, a law that forces every taxpayer in Maine to pay for elective, non-medical abortion right up to viability for any reason. This, today, is the first baseline budget that has ever included taxpayer funded abortion. The Guttmacher Institute's own studies also show that very few abortions are performed for any identifiable health reasons. This is a choice to end a life, not a health care issue. One of the greatest tragedies of abortion is the suppression of the mother's feelings. The mental anguish with which many women who have made this decision are tormented is deliberately unrecognized. Every child that dies in the womb is a real death and impacts the mother in her spirit and in her body. When a pregnancy is wanted we all share in the joy of the ultrasound photos shared on Facebook, making congratulatory comments on the little boy or the little girl soon to

be born, and should tragedy befall that expectant mother, we share in her grief at the loss of that precious life. We understand that her spirit is crushed, her mother heart yearns for her child while her arms remain empty. Yet in a perverse manner, as a society we ignore the devastating pain many women feel when they make what we callously term a health care decision. We, as an abortion pushing society, do not allow them the space to feel the loss when the truth is there is no difference between a fetus and a baby. The abortion industry tosses aside the reality that ultrasounds so clearly show us in order to increase their ruthless trade. It is a shameful disregard for women and the creation of life within her. God's view of the unborn as precious and uniquely created by Him can be found throughout His word, the Holy Scriptures. In Psalms we read: For you formed my inward parts, you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works, my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was being made in secret, intricately woven in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed substance, in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me when as yet there was none of them. Ultimately, abortion is an uncompassionate response to a difficult pregnancy, one that ignores the reality of a mother in crisis and pits her against her preborn child. Women and their babies deserve better. They deserve all of us to stand with them and to provide solutions that empower a positive future for them both. We should never force any American or any Mainer to subsidize the taking of an unborn innocent life. Thank you.

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

Senator **DAUGHTRY:** Thank you, Mr. President. Fellow members of the Senate, I rise to say a few things. This amendment would repeal current and existing Maine law. This has been a law since 2019 when L.D. 820 was signed by the Governor. Tonight we've heard a lot about respecting the will of the people and I'd like to point out that this amendment would repeal an existing law with no, absolutely no, public hearing and done over the cover of darkness. With that, I move Indefinite Postponement.

Senator **DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland moved to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** Senate Amendment "C" (S-15) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-12).

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 Cumberland, Senator Brenner.

Senator **BRENNER:** Thank you, Mr. President. I've had a career as a nurse midwife and I've met women on the reproductive spectrum, where they are in all the decisions that they've had to make, whether it's related to choosing to terminate their pregnancy or needing help with fertility treatment. This budget also includes treatment for infertility, which we passed last session and it gets funded in this budget. It is work we've already done. Abortion is health care. It's a woman's right to make that choice as law here in the state of Maine. We've done this work. I

ran to have an opportunity to have a discussion about abortion whenever possible and I'm willing to have that discussion when we see all the bills come forward in committee and then come to this Body. But I can't support this amendment. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Indefinite Postponement of Senate Amendment "C". 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 (#63)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: GUERIN, HARRINGTON

22 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 11 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** Senate Amendment "C" (S-15) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-12), **PREVAILED**.

Senator **BRAKEY** of Androscoggin moved the Senate **ADOPT** Senate Amendment "A" (S-13) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-12) **READ**.

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

Senator **BRAKEY:** Thank you, Mr. President. I bring this amendment forward mostly to make a point. Mr. President, our country was born from a tax rebellion. The Maine people who were among the most fierce and the most rebellious in that fight for independence, who charged British warships in the Battle of Machias, native and colonial Mainers standing together, I wonder if they would recognize us today. Do we all remember Taxachusetts? It used to be at very least we could take some comfort in the relatively high taxes of Maine by deriving our neighbors to the south for their even higher taxes. These days, however, under one party rule, even Taxachusetts is cutting taxes. Why, you might ask. Well, their Democrat governor says it's to keep people from fleeing the state and to keep their state economically competitive. Well, there's some commonsense I can agree with. Where's that commonsense up here today, for all the talk of commonsense that we've heard in the Chamber this evening. And before those tax cuts, their tax climate had already long before grown less onerous than the tax climate we have here in Maine on the Maine people. Mr. President, I'm sorry to report that Taxachusetts is no more and Taxationland is here. Maine is now among the highest taxed states in America. By some recent

accounts, Maine ranks the third worst in the nation. The citizens of Taxationland are hit with high income taxes, high sales taxes, high property taxes. The state is even in the business of grave robbery, believe it or not. You can't die in Taxationland without handing over what you've managed to save for your children off to the taxman. I know that the Chief Executive likes to say that no taxes have been raised on the Maine people during her tenure but that just isn't true. The dirty little secret on top of all of it is that inflation is a tax. The federal government, through their friends at the federal reserve bank, counterfeited \$1.5 trillion out of thin air in recent years and went on a spending spree. Where did that money go? Among other things, they flooded the coffers of state governments like ours. Where did the value for this new funny-money come from? Right out of the savings, retirements, and paychecks of the Maine people and the American people. That's what happens when you counterfeit the currency. So, we can call it whatever we want but the Maine people have been paying higher taxes all along these last few years at the gas tank and the grocery cart, but baked into the price of everything that they buy due to out of control spending in this government. So, Mr. President, Taxachusetts is no more, Taxationland is here. Now members of the minority party have requested and been denied the meagerest of tax cuts, table scraps from the billions in proposed spending, which would have amounted to just \$300 in relief for anyone who pays the lowest income tax bracket and be covered by the surplus revenues generated by the increased sales taxes Maine people are paying due to the rising prices of good and services. We are told this is so unacceptable by the majority party that they broke off negotiations, dropped 400 pages of legislation on our desks accounting for nearly \$10 billion in spending, and giving us only 36 hours to read the bill. And I have to ask: how many people in this Chamber have really had the opportunity to read the bill in 36 hours? Has anyone read all 400 pages?

Senator **HICKMAN:** Point of Order, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would ask why the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Hickman, rises?

Senator **HICKMAN:** I'm not exactly sure that the Senator from Androscoggin is speaking to his own amendment. I'm wondering if the Senator from Androscoggin can actually tell this Body what his amendment does instead of waxing poetic. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would advise the Senator to stay on topic of the Senate Amendment "A".

Senator **BRAKEY:** Right, the topic of Senate Amendment "A" is Taxationland and I'm building the argument for that. So, why is there such opposition to income tax cuts in Taxationland? I hear over and over again from my colleagues on the left that income taxes are noble because they are progressive but it just isn't true. I remember attending a town hall meeting years ago with the former Governor during his second term. Outside that town hall there were activists with signs declaring 'No Tax Cuts for Billionaires'. I remember thinking to myself if only had a billionaire or two that we could tax. The truth is that the richest people of Maine pay zero income taxes because they are rich enough to own a second home in New Hampshire or Florida or Texas or any of the many states with no income tax. So, who does the income

tax hit? Working Maine people who can't afford to spend six months and a day in Florida, and we need working people in Maine. It's no coincidence we are facing dramatic workforce shortages.

Senator **HICKMAN**: Point of Order, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would ask why the Senator from Kennebec rises?

Senator **HICKMAN**: It appears to me that the amendment that Senator Brakey is speaking on has to do with changing our license plates from Vacationland to Taxationland. So, I'm wondering if the Senator could tell us why we would change all of our license plates from Vacationland to Taxationland because that is what the amendment does.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would rule that I believe the good Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Brakey, is leading up to why he believes the title should be on the license plate. I would imagine that he will get around to that.

Senator **BRAKEY**: Mr. President, I believe that explaining how Maine has become Taxationland instead of Vacationland is directly relative to why there's a proposal here to change the license plate. And we need working people in Maine. It's no coincidence we are facing dramatic workforce shortages here when you penalize people with taxes for working in order to pay work-capable people to stay home. It's just obvious what's going to happen. It's gotten so bad that a recent economic analysis in Wall Street Journal found that when you account for tax payments and welfare payments working households are barely breaking even with households that aren't working. Mr. President, Taxachusetts is no more, Taxationland is here. So, why would you work in Taxationland? Why would you break your back just to break even with those who don't break a sweat, especially when there are no work requirements attached to welfare benefits for working age able-bodied adults? That was one of the other modest requests from Republicans, asking for a commitment to seriously study welfare reform and how our broken welfare system is contributing to the ongoing workforce shortage. This, too, appears unacceptable for the majority party. With these policies of wealth distribution from working people to those who choose not to work, some may imagine themselves as Robin Hoods stealing from the rich and giving to the poor. I will remind them that they aren't blocking tax cuts for the rich but tax cuts for everyone who works enough to pay the lowest income tax bracket in the state. And I will further remind them that Robin Hood stole from the government to give back to the taxpayers that the King had robbed from them in the first place. So, blocking tax cuts for working Maine people is not being Robin Hood. It's being King John. This Legislature is transforming Maine from Vacationland into Taxationland. I've brought this amendment forward so this - that this Body we might at least be honest with the Maine people. This amendment is a simple one, changing the slogan of the license plate from Vacationland to Taxationland. To all who would like to be honest with the Maine people about the level of stealing from their paychecks that is taking place in Augusta, you are welcome to vote in favor of the motion. Mr. President, welcome to Taxationland, we are closed for business.

Senator **DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland moved to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** Senate Amendment "A" (S-13) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-12).

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Sagadahoc, Senator Vitelli.

Senator **VITELLI**: I would just pose a Chair, Mr. President - a question through the Chair, Mr. President. I'm just wondering, in all honesty to the Maine people, if anyone can answer the question: how much it would cost the State to change all of our license plates and signs to Taxationland?

THE PRESIDENT: The Senator from Sagadahoc, Senator Vitelli, has posed a question through the Chair to anyone who maybe answer. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Chipman.

Senator **CHIPMAN**: Thank you, Mr. President. As the Chair of the Transportation Committee, we've had a lot of discussion recently about license plates and the cost of producing them and believe it's about \$6 or \$7 million to produce a license plate for every vehicle registered in the state, which is approximately 1 million vehicles that are registered. So that's the cost if we were to do a new issuance of a license plate for every vehicle. I think it's about \$6 or \$7 million total. So, and this proposes to take that from the Highway Fund, which I think would be a huge mistake. So, if anybody's seriously considering this amendment, please think about the cost to the Highway Fund. We'd be taking that money from fixing up roads and bridges to making new license plates and I can't speak to the cost for the signs, but that would be what it would be for license plates. Please vote in favor of postponement.

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

Senator **HICKMAN**: Thank you, Mr. President. I'll be supporting the motion to indefinitely postpone and I will say that the reason why Vacationland is and ought to always remain the slogan on our license plates is because the tourism industry is the biggest industry in the state of Maine. The economic impact of which is \$7.6 billion and I'm a business owner in the tourism industry, Mr. President, and I know we've heard a lot of people offended here today but I would think that the people of the state of Maine would be offended that we would take our slogan, which represents the tourism industry which brings in all sorts of money and employs all sorts of people, just to make a point. Please vote on this motion. Thank you, Mr. President.

On motion by Senator **DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland, 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 Pouliot.

Senator **POULIOT**: Thank you, Mr. President. I wasn't going to speak but now it's going to be a roll call. I've got to let my good friend know why I won't be supporting his amendment and that's because I'm a realtor and real estate transactions represented about 20% of our GDP in 2022, almost \$19 billion, and I'd hate for

the word to get out about the truth about what's going on in Maine with our taxes, Mr. President. Thank you.

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

Senator **BRAKEY:** As I mentioned when I rose to speak, this amendment is to make a point. I think that point has been made and if you feel that this amendment doesn't take the process seriously enough perhaps it's because this process has been a joke. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending motion before the Senate is Indefinite Postponement of Senate Amendment "A". 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 (#64)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, FARRIN, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, KEIM, LAFOUNTAIN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: None

EXCUSED: Senators: GUERIN, HARRINGTON

33 Senators having voted in the affirmative and no Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** Senate Amendment "A" (S-13) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-12), **PREVAILED**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-12) as Amended by House Amendments "A" (H-14) and "D" (H-18) thereto, **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME**.

On motion by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford, 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 Aroostook, Senator Stewart.

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you very much, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I rise to wish you good luck in your efforts. I received an e-mail at 7:15, shortly before any floor amendments were offered, any debate was even had, calling the Republicans different names like obstructionists, that we were playing games, before a single word was uttered on the floor of the Senate, and that was from you, actually, Mr. President. I

don't know how that would have happened if you were up here, of course, unless somebody else is sending e-mails out on your behalf saying you're roughly \$4,000 short of your goal for midnight tomorrow. So, again, I rise to wish you good luck. Apparently, this has all been a farce because the script was written before a word was uttered on this bill and I've got the evidence right here. This is a travesty, Mr. President, what's been taking place here tonight and if anybody's playing games it certainly isn't our caucus and I wish you good luck. We're going to beat ya.

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

Senator **RAFFERTY:** Thank you very much, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I rise to speak in support of L.D. 424. As a teacher and a coach, I've seen over the years the impact of the lack of State financial support has had on our schools. Teachers still need books, supplies, safe buildings for their students, and when the State doesn't meet its commitment on funding local families are left picking up the tab or, even worse, certain programs don't get fully funded or vanish altogether. That's why I was relieved when the Legislature finally voted to meet its 55% funding commitment for Maine public schools. It's been a long time coming. Then, we were able to pass, with strong bipartisan support, universal free lunch - free school meals. I've seen first hand how hunger impacts students. I've seen kids who have qualified for free or reduced lunches go without because they didn't want to get bullied or judged by the peers. To put it simply, hungry kids can't learn. We've heard from teachers all over the state what a game changer this has been already and when all our kids have access to healthy, filling meals they can all reach their full potentials. It's vital that we keep these promises to our schools and educators and this budget does just that. During my short time in the Legislature I've seen, and been part of, any number of debates on how to best support education in Maine but all of us, regardless of our party, have agreed on the need to keep our promise and to make sure teachers and towns can count on us to provide that 55% funding. We can all agree that kids deserve good food. At the end of the day, this is all - this is about more than just money. It's about sending a message to our kids that we believe in them at a time they need us the most. It's about saying loud and clear that, of course, we want you to have a good education, good opportunities, and a great future. There'll be plenty of time later to pick up those other debates I've mentioned earlier, but today I hope you all follow my light and vote in favor of the responsible budget before us. Thank you very much.

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

Senator **CARNEY:** Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues of the Senate, I was really moved by my colleague from York and his statements and especially his focus on how this continuing service budget helps us keep our promises to the people of Maine, it helps us fulfill the trust that Mainers have placed in us. I wanted to remind you that we've made really important progress recently in our state's obligation to uphold the 6th Amendment rights of Mainers. Thanks to the dedication of the members of this Body we've provided essential support to the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services. Our support has

strengthened MCILS, ensuring that it can fulfill its mission to deliver quality legal representation in criminal matters when a defendant cannot afford an attorney. It's required by the 6th Amendment and a vote in favor of the continuing service budget continues our good work to protect the Constitutional rights of Mainers. A vote against this budget destroys the confidence of those who need MCILS services, as well as those who have worked so hard to rebuild the organization and expand public defender services in Maine. It also creates uncertainty about our commitment to support MCILS and the assigned counsel who represent indigent legal - excuse me, it creates uncertainty about our commitment to support MCILS and the assigned counsel who represent indigent legal services. It could drive attorneys out of the system and undo all of the progress we've made this session. I urge you to cast a vote in support of the budget and assure all Mainers that we're committed to continuing the current programs we've put forth and also to work together on the initiatives in Part 2 of the budget. Thank you.

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

Senator **POULIOT:** Thanks, Mr. President. I've seen a lot of things transpire tonight. One thing that I thought was pretty interesting is that the good Senator from York, who we've learned doesn't trust us, made some comments about the good Senator from Oxford which is surprising to me because in 2020 when we were at the Civic Center he was singing the good Senator from Oxford's praises up on there and how they had worked together in the past and were hopeful they could. And this is really, really troubling to me, what's happening tonight and you and I, Mr. President, worked on a lot of good things, a lot of good things like the school food for all kids, you know, and other things, and I think what we're in the midst of now is a narrative creation. It's one that started in January when there was a balloon floated to see what the temperature was like in the Maine Legislature and if we could work together. At that time, we were asked to spend a record amount of money on a swearing in day, which is largely ceremonial. You used your speech to pitch that bill to us, which is your prerogative, and then there were a lot of us who felt like 'Hey, we never even had any voice in this discussion at all,' like this was dropped in our lap yesterday and now we've got to vote on this today. It didn't make much sense. So, I can understand where the lack of trust is coming from because we haven't even had a chance to demonstrate that we're good actors except for these situations where there's like a gun to our head. So, for us to use that as the lens by which we are going to gauge whether or not we can work all together, collectively, is wrong and we're perpetuating that by this vote this evening. So, my concern now is similar to what Senator Brakey mentioned earlier. Where do we go from here? Like this is a done deal. We've heard the e-mail for the fundraising is already out. It fits the narrative. We are the party that can be trusted to make sure that things done get shut down but that's suggesting that we didn't want to work with you. So, where do we go from here? That's my question, Mr. President, because how can we now work for the next coming months thinking that we actually - our voice matters. How many people in this Legislature came here to fight for and stand for minorities? We're a minority, Mr. President. Who's going to be our voice? Thank you.

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

Senator **BAILEY:** Thank you, Mr. President. I just wanted to respond to the good Senator from Kennebec to his, I think he meant it as a rhetorical question, but I'm going to take it as a question posed through the Chair. I believe where we go from here is the same thing that we did last session when we did this and we passed a continuing resolution budget and then, following that, in AFA we worked hard with our colleagues and we came out with the second half of the budget, the Supplemental Budget, and that was passed with two-thirds, and we worked together to find that spot and I can tell you working in AFA that we listened to our colleagues and that that Supplemental Budget had priorities from the Republican side of the aisle. It had things in there that I didn't particularly care about but was important to the Republican side of the aisle. So, if you want to know where we go from here, we do what we did last time and we work together on the second half of the budget. I have complete faith that the current members of AFA in this Chamber and the other Chamber can find a Supplemental Budget that will garner two-thirds support. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Mr. President. I, too, would like to rise and take the question put. For me, where we go from here, I hope, is home. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator **ROTUNDO:** Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to speak to the work of the Appropriations Committee and, in my opinion, we have not been playing games downstairs. We, Democrats and Republicans together, have put in hundreds of hours into our work. It's been sincere and I have no lack of trust in my colleagues. We've worked together in good faith and I look forward to our continuing to do so. Thank you.

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

Senator **HICKMAN:** Thank you, Mr. President. Today was Labor Lobby Day, which means we saw a lot of people who work, work hard, every single day to put food on the table for their families. In the ten towns and two cities in Kennebec County that I'm proud to represent, these communities include many State workers and I have promised to always be their voice in this Body. It's my honor to represent them and their families who keep our state running in ways that many people may not even realize. We know these workers include highway and bridge workers, court workers, unemployment insurance workers, Maine State library workers, environmental protection workers, Health and Human Services workers, along with building maintenance workers, and other. It includes workers in the office of the State Fire Marshal's Office, forest rangers, game wardens, and State Police. These are the people at the center of so much of what we discuss in this building, especially the things I know we agree on, like the need for child protective services and court workers who can ensure the uninterrupted delivery of safety and justice in every corner of

our great state. This budget before us today is an absolutely necessary piece of legislation to ensure that this Legislature supports child protective services and pushes from every angle to clear the backlog of court cases currently dragging down Maine's justice system. I can't imagine the possibility of not passing this budget because it's not about trust, it's about making sure that there's certainty in the lives of the people we represent. The families in my district, undoubtedly in every district across this state, rely on this Body to pay their bills so they can put food on the table for their children and their loved ones, so they can care for sick people and loved ones, so they can have their neighbors backs when they can't take care of themselves. These are not political actors. They're not pawns in whatever game we play here. They are dedicated, talented people who work hard every single day to provide the critical services in return for the ability to care for themselves, their families, and their communities. This isn't up for debate. So, I'll proudly vote yea on this, which quite simply ensures that good work we did here last session, including the promises that we made to State workers, may continue uninterrupted without debate. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Engrossment. 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 (#65)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: GUERIN, HARRINGTON

22 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 11 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-12) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENTS "A" (H-14) AND "D" (H-18)** thereto, in concurrence.

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

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

House Papers

Bill "An Act to Enhance State Oversight of Water Use and Water Resources" H.P. 937 L.D. 1441

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

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

Bill "An Act to Require Standard Procedures to Protect Stalking Victims and Access to Certain Criminal Complaints" H.P. 934 L.D. 1438

Comes 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 Expand Access to School Construction Funding" H.P. 911 L.D. 1415

Bill "An Act to Strengthen Maine's Elementary and Secondary Education System by Clarifying Purposes and Procedures for Reviews of Schools" H.P. 916 L.D. 1420

Bill "An Act to Provide Funds to the Maine Indian Education School District" H.P. 917 L.D. 1421

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 Reduce Maine's Dependence on Fossil Fuels and Carbon Footprint for Energy Production Using Waste Wood Fuel" H.P. 904 L.D. 1408

Bill "An Act to Clarify the Public Utilities Commission's Authority to Consider the Impact on Low-income Residential Ratepayers When Setting Rates" H.P. 923 L.D. 1427

Bill "An Act Requiring the Public Utilities Commission to Adopt Rules Promoting Renewable Energy"

H.P. 927 L.D. 1431

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

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

Bill "An Act to Require the Adoption of Sector-specific Greenhouse Gas Emissions Limits"

H.P. 907 L.D. 1411

Bill "An Act Concerning Single-use Disposable Water Bottles and Water Refill Stations"

H.P. 914 L.D. 1418

Bill "An Act to Exclude Pegmatites from the Definition of 'Metallic Mineral'"

H.P. 929 L.D. 1433

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

On motion by Senator **BRENNER** of Cumberland, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Estate Recovery and Planning for Long-term Care"

H.P. 902 L.D. 1406

Bill "An Act Regarding State Review of Compliance with Licensing Rules of Certain Facilities and Programs Having National Accreditation"

H.P. 913 L.D. 1417

Bill "An Act to Secure Housing for the Most Vulnerable Maine Residents by Amending the Laws Governing Municipal General Assistance"

H.P. 922 L.D. 1426

Bill "An Act to Ensure Treatment for MaineCare Recipients with Serious Mental Illness by Prohibiting the Requirements for Prior Authorization and Step Therapy for Medications" (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 924 L.D. 1428

Bill "An Act to Establish a Navigator Position in the Department of Health and Human Services for Families and Children Involved in the Foster Care System"

H.P. 925 L.D. 1429

Resolve, to Amend the Funding Formula for Reimbursing Nursing Facilities Under the MaineCare Program (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 926 L.D. 1430

Bill "An Act to Promote Family-centered Interventions for Substance Use Disorder Treatment"

H.P. 935 L.D. 1439

Resolve, to Increase the Availability of Community Children's Behavioral Health Services by Providing Training and Career Opportunities for Behavioral Health Professionals

H.P. 936 L.D. 1440

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

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

Bill "An Act Requiring Insurance Companies to Cover the Care of Expectant Mothers in Adoption Cases and Provide Notice of That Coverage to Pregnant Women"

H.P. 900 L.D. 1404

Bill "An Act to Amend the Maine Insurance Code Regarding Payments by Health Insurance Carriers to Providers"

H.P. 903 L.D. 1407

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.

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine Establishing That All Maine Residents Have Equal Rights Under the Law

H.P. 908 L.D. 1412

Bill "An Act to Ensure Involvement of Adopted Youth in the Determination of Continuing Financial Support Under the Adoption Assistance Program"

H.P. 910 L.D. 1414

Bill "An Act to Increase the Limits on Awards for Compensatory and Punitive Damages Under the Maine Human Rights Act"

H.P. 919 L.D. 1423

Bill "An Act to Strengthen Freedom of Access Protections by Allowing Remote Meetings to Be Recorded"

H.P. 921 L.D. 1425

Bill "An Act to Reduce Commercial Sexual Exploitation"

H.P. 931 L.D. 1435

Bill "An Act to Provide Remedies for Survivors of Commercial Sexual Exploitation"

H.P. 932 L.D. 1436

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 Promote Minimum Wage Consistency by Limiting the Authority of Municipalities Regarding Minimum Hourly Pay"
H.P. 899 L.D. 1403

Bill "An Act to Inform Fair Minimum Rates of Wages and Benefits in Bids for Public Contracts Using State and Federal Data"
H.P. 915 L.D. 1419

Bill "An Act to Remove the Age Requirement for Correctional Staff Retirement Under the 1998 Special Plan"
H.P. 920 L.D. 1424

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

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

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Eligibility Restrictions for Commercial Menhaden Fishing Licenses" (EMERGENCY)
H.P. 940 L.D. 1444

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

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

Bill "An Act to Require Reimbursement When a Municipality Hires First Responders Whose Training Costs Were Incurred by Another Municipality"
H.P. 905 L.D. 1409

Bill "An Act to Amend the Law Governing Racial Impact Statements"
H.P. 928 L.D. 1432

Bill "An Act to Recognize an Association of Early Childhood Educators as an Educational Advisory Organization"
H.P. 938 L.D. 1442

Bill "An Act to Establish a Recall Process for Public School Board Members"
H.P. 939 L.D. 1443

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

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

Bill "An Act to Change How Adult Use Cannabis Excise Tax Is Calculated"
H.P. 901 L.D. 1405

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Establishing a Property Tax Stabilization Program for Senior Citizens"
H.P. 909 L.D. 1413

Bill "An Act to Abolish the Maine Income Tax and Establish a Zero-based Budget"
H.P. 930 L.D. 1434

Bill "An Act to Enact a Seasonal Sales Tax to Provide Income Tax Relief to Maine Residents"
H.P. 941 L.D. 1445

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

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

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine to Increase the Percentage of the Population Required to Submit a State Referendum Question
H.P. 912 L.D. 1416

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.

Off Record Remarks

RECESSED until the sound of the bell.

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

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

ORDERS

Joint Order

On motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, the following Joint Order:

S.P. 594

ORDERED, the House concurring, that all matters not finally disposed of at the time of adjournment of the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature in the possession of the Legislature, including working papers and drafts in the possession of nonpartisan staff offices, gubernatorial nominations and all determinations of the Legislative Council regarding after-deadline bill requests and policies, be held over to a subsequent special or regular session of the 131st Legislature in the posture in which they were at the time of adjournment of the First Regular Session of the 131st Legislature; and be it further **ORDERED**, that any public hearing, work session or other meeting to conduct the business of the Legislature that is scheduled at the time this order is passed is hereby authorized to occur.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Stewart.

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you very much, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, rising in opposition to this Joint Order. It necessarily would assume that we are done our work in the First Regular Session, which is not actually the case. We have not adjourned, nor will we be supporting the adjournment order because we have work that still remains on the calendar and, therefore, I'd be urging my colleagues to follow my light on this to, basically, remain in the Regular Session rather than going along with this notion that we're done our work and about to start a new session unnecessarily. With that, I'd request a Roll Call.

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 Chair noted the absence of the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator **BRAKEY**, and the Senator from Somerset, Senator **FARRIN**, and further excused the same Senators from today's Roll Call votes.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#66)

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

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, BLACK, KEIM, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, POULIOT, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: BRAKEY, FARRIN, GUERIN, HARRINGTON

22 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 9 Senators having voted in the negative, with 4 Senators being excused, the Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

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

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

ENACTORS

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

Emergency Resolve

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 305: Natural Resources Protection Act - Permit by Rule, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Environmental Protection
H.P. 243 L.D. 392

Comes from the House, **FAILED FINAL PASSAGE**.

On motion by Senator **BRENNER** of Cumberland, the Senate **SUSPENDED THE RULES**.

On further motion by same Senator, the Senate **RECONSIDERED** whereby the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**, in concurrence.

On further motion by same Senator, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**, in concurrence.

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

ENACTORS

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

Act

An Act Making Certain Appropriations and Allocations and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2023, June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025

H.P. 257 L.D. 424
(H "A" H-14; H "D" H-18
to C "A" H-12)

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Stewart.

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you very much, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I rise one more time tonight with an attempt to try to stop what's happening in this Chamber, this institution, here tonight and the unfortunate precedent that it might send and likely will. And I'm not going to go into all the arguments. You've heard them all but I would ask that you take just a moment and think inwardly about what the right thing is to do here and the precedent that's being set here tonight and attempt to appeal to cooler heads that we can get back to the negotiating table and resolve this the way that it should be garnering bipartisan support. So, with that, Mr. President, I would request a roll call and, hopefully, we can strike down this action and move back to the negotiating table. Thank you.

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 (#67)

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

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, BLACK, KEIM, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, POULIOT, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: BRAKEY, FARRIN, GUERIN, HARRINGTON

22 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 9 Senators having voted in the negative, with 4 Senators being excused, was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** and, having been signed by the President, was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

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

ORDERS

Senate Orders

On motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, the following Senate Order:

S.O. 16

Ordered, that a message be sent to Governor Janet T. Mills informing her that the Senate is ready to Adjourn Without Day.

The Senate Order was **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Stewart.

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you very much, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I would request a Roll Call and just note that, in fact, we are not ready to adjourn without a day. That is not factually the case. Moving forward with this order is, in fact, a mistruth to the people of Maine and we should not be pursuing this order. So, with that, I would request a Roll Call and ask that you follow my light.

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, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAFOUNTAIN, LAWRENCE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, BLACK, KEIM, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, POULIOT, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: BRAKEY, FARRIN, GUERIN, HARRINGTON

22 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 9 Senators having voted in the negative, with 4 Senators being excused, the Senate Order was **PASSED**.

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

Subsequently, the Senator from Sagadahoc, Senator **VITELLI**, 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 **DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland, the following Senate Order:

S.O. 17

Ordered, that a message be sent to the House of Representatives informing that Body that the Senate is ready to Adjourn Without Day.

The Senate Order was **READ**.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Stewart.

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you very much, Mr. President. One more time, I would request a roll call because we are, in fact, not ready to adjourn without a day. Thank you.

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 Chair noted the absence of the Senator from Sagadahoc, Senator **VITELLI**, and further excused the same Senator from today's Roll Call votes.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#69)

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

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, BLACK, KEIM, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, POULIOT, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: BRAKEY, FARRIN, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, VITELLI

21 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 9 Senators having voted in the negative, with 5 Senators being excused, the Senate Order was **PASSED**.

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

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

At this point, a message was received from the House of Representatives, borne by Representative **TERRY** of Gorham, informing the Senate that the House had transacted all business before it and was ready to Adjourn Without Day.

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

The Chair advised the Senate that pursuant to the Maine Constitution, Article IV, Part Third, Section 1, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House polled all members to convene for a Special Session. The results were as follows: 95 Democrats voted Yes (52 were needed) and no Republicans voted Yes (41 were needed).

Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc moved the Senate **ADJOURN WITHOUT DAY**.

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

The Chair noted the absence of the Senator from Penobscot, Senator **LYFORD**, the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator **TIMBERLAKE**, and the Senator from Franklin, Senator **BLACK**, and further excused the same Senators from today's Roll Call votes.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#70)

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

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, KEIM, LIBBY, MOORE, POULIOT, STEWART

EXCUSED: Senators: BLACK, BRAKEY, FARRIN, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, LYFORD, TIMBERLAKE

22 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 6 Senators having voted in the negative, with 7 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc to **ADJOURN WITHOUT DAY PREVAILED**.

The Honorable **TROY D. JACKSON**, President of the Senate, declared the First Regular Session of the 131ST Legislature, **ADJOURNED SINE DIE** at 10:52 in the evening.