9th Legislative Day

In Senate Chamber, Thursday, January 26, 2017.

Senate called to Order by President Michael D. Thibodeau of Waldo County.

Prayer by Reverend Deril Stubenrod of Clinton.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator James M. Hamper of Oxford County.

Reading of the Journals of Thursday, January 19, 2017 and Tuesday, January 24, 2017.

Doctor of the day, Lisa Ryan, D.O. of Naples.

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Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, on motion by Senator MASON of Androscoggin, the following Joint Order:

S.P. 82

Ordered, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, January 31, 2017 at 10:00 in the morning.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

House Papers

(1-1) Bill "An Act To Require the Reporting of Animal Cruelty or Neglect"
H.P. 115 L.D. 157

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

(1-2) Bill "An Act To Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue for Maine's Community Colleges"
H.P. 97 L.D. 139

Comes from the House, REFERRED to the Committee on APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS and ordered printed.

(1-3) Bill "An Act Regarding Bringing Certain Criminal Charges"
H.P. 99 L.D. 141

(1-4) Bill "An Act To Establish a Statewide Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Kit Tracking System"
H.P. 100 L.D. 142

(1-5) Bill "An Act To Support Sexual Assault Survivors"
H.P. 125 L.D. 169

Come from the House, REFERRED to the Committee on CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY and ordered printed.
(1-6) Bill "An Act To Provide Funding for Upgrades of Learning Spaces and Other Projects Funded by the School Revolving Renovation Fund"
H.P. 101  L.D. 143

(1-7) Bill "An Act To Improve the Certification and Evaluation of New Educators and Administrators by Consolidating Standards"
H.P. 116  L.D. 158

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

(1-8) Bill "An Act To Prohibit the Mining of Massive Sulfide Ore Deposits under the Maine Metallic Mineral Mining Act"
H.P. 118  L.D. 160

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

(1-9) Bill "An Act To Create a Pilot Project To Reduce Substance Use Disorders among Youth in Piscataquis County To Be Used as a Model for All Maine Communities"
H.P. 102  L.D. 144

(1-10) Bill "An Act To Remove the Treasurer of State from the Maine Vaccine Board"
H.P. 119  L.D. 161

(1-11) Bill "An Act To Improve Care Provided to Forensic Patients" (EMERGENCY)
H.P. 120  L.D. 162

Come from the House, REFERRED to the Committee on HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES and ordered printed.
(1-12) Bill "An Act Regarding Transportation of Methadone Patients"
          H.P. 111  L.D. 153

Committee on TRANSPORTATION suggested and ordered printed.

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

(1-13) Bill "An Act To Protect Consumers from Closure of Inactive Bank Accounts"
          H.P. 103  L.D. 145

Comes from the House, REFERRED to the Committee on INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL
SERVICES and ordered printed.

(1-14) Bill "An Act To Protect the Confidentiality of Local Government Employees' Private
        Information"
          H.P. 104  L.D. 146

(1-15) Bill "An Act To Amend the Maine Parentage Act"
          H.P. 105  L.D. 147

(1-16) Bill "An Act To Allow and Recognize a Legal Name Change upon Marriage"
          H.P. 126  L.D. 170

Come from the House, REFERRED to the Committee on JUDICIARY and ordered printed.
(1-17) Bill "An Act To Allow Overhead Garage Door Installers To Install and Repair Dumbwaiters"

H.P. 106  L.D. 148

(1-18) Bill "An Act To Strengthen the Enforcement of Maine's Labor Laws"

H.P. 121  L.D. 163

(1-19) Bill "An Act To Provide Matching Funds for Federal Community Development Block Grants"

H.P. 123  L.D. 165

Come from the House, REFERRED to the Committee on LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT and ordered printed.

(1-20) Bill "An Act To Provide Additional Management for Limited-entry Lobster Zones"

H.P. 107  L.D. 149

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

(1-21) Bill "An Act Regarding the Funding of Volunteer Fire Departments"

H.P. 108  L.D. 150

(1-22) Bill "An Act To Strengthen Intragovernment Communication"

H.P. 110  L.D. 152

Come from the House, REFERRED to the Committee on STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT and ordered printed.
(1-23) Bill "An Act To Reform Maine's Motor Vehicle Inspection Guidelines"
   H.P. 112  L.D. 154

(1-24) Bill "An Act To Add the Air Medal as an Option for a Special Commemorative Decal on Special Veterans Registration Plates"
   H.P. 127  L.D. 171

(1-25) Bill "An Act To Improve Officer Safety at Roadside Incidents"
   H.P. 128  L.D. 172

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

(1-26) Bill "An Act To Protect Voting Integrity by Establishing a Residency Verification Requirement for Purposes of Voting"
   H.P. 113  L.D. 155

(1-27) Bill "An Act To Implement the National Popular Vote for President"
   H.P. 114  L.D. 156

Come from the House, REFERRED to the Committee on VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS and ordered printed.
Thursday, January 26, 2017

Joint Orders

(1-28) The following Joint Order:

H.P. 124

JOINT RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

WHEREAS, January 16, 2017 marks the national and state holiday in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., commemorating his birth on January 15, 1929; and

WHEREAS, Martin Luther King, Jr., advocated the furtherance of civil rights for black Americans through nonviolence; and

WHEREAS, this man of powerful voice and spirit showed this country a dream of "an oasis of freedom and justice"; and

WHEREAS, for his tireless work to ensure equality and justice, Dr. King was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, a high and honorable distinction, in 1964; and

WHEREAS, his eloquence, his perseverance and his faith moved mountains and brought about sweeping changes by appealing to the better instincts and consciences of his fellow human beings; and

WHEREAS, the life of Martin Luther King, Jr., which ended so tragically on April 4, 1968, is a shining example to Americans and citizens of the world at large of uncompromising dedication to the highest ideals; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-eighth Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to acknowledge the extraordinary life and works of this teacher, reformer and humanitarian, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and pause in our deliberations to recognize and commemorate the occasion of his birth.

Comes from the House, READ and ADOPTED.
Expressions of Legislative Sentiment recognizing:

(1-29) the Pride of Madawaska Marching Band, of Madawaska, which has been selected to perform at the Presidential Inaugural Concert at the Lincoln Memorial on January 19, 2017. The band is one of only a dozen performers from across the country selected for the event and the only band from Maine. We congratulate everyone in the Pride of Madawaska Marching Band and send them our best wishes;

HLS 30

(1-30) Scott, Lola and Brianna Davis, of Canaan, whose actions saved the life of a 5-year-old girl. Brianna Davis noticed the child in trouble in a Bangor swimming pool and notified her parents, who pulled the child out of the pool and performed CPR until she was breathing again. We extend to the Davises our appreciation for their heroism and offer them our best wishes;

HLS 31

Come from the House, READ and PASSED.
COMMUNICATIONS

(2-1) The Following Communication:

S.C. 53

STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

January 19, 2017

The Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau
President of the Senate of Maine
128th 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 Transportation has had under consideration the nomination of John G. Melrose of Vassalboro, for reappointment to the Northern New England Passenger Rail 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 3  Collins of York, Miramant of Knox, Rosen of Hancock

Representatives 8  McLean of Gorham, Austin of Skowhegan, Bryant of Windham, Cebra of Naples, Gillway of Searsport, Parry of Arundel, Perkins of Oakland, Sheats of Auburn

NAYS 0


Eleven 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 G. Melrose of Vassalboro, for reappointment to the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Ronald F. Collins  S/Andrew J. McLean
Senate Chair  House Chair
January 18, 2017

Honorable Michael Thibodeau  
President of the Senate  
3 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Thibodeau,

This is to inform you that, pursuant to Title 3 M.R.S.A., §154, I am withdrawing my nomination of The Honorable Richard A. Nass of Acton for appointment as a member of the Maine Board of Tax Appeals.

This nomination is currently pending before the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation. I am withdrawing my nomination pending enactment of the FY '18-'19 Biennial Budget. As you know, my biennial budget proposal eliminates the Maine Board of Tax Appeals and related administrative structure as of October 1, 2017. Pursuant to this proposal, starting July 1, 2017, all Maine Revenue Services reconsideration decisions may be appealed directly to Superior Court. Because the budget initiative eliminates the Board and provides that the terms of its members expire on October 1, 2017, I feel that it is premature to move forward with this nomination until the biennial budget is enacted.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

S/Paul R. LePage  
Governor
January 23, 2017

Honorable Heather J.R. Priest
Secretary of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Secretary Priest:

Pursuant to my authority under Senate Rule 201.3, I am pleased to appoint the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Katz to serve as President Pro Tempore. With this appointment Senator Katz will serve as President Pro Tempore for the scheduled session on January 24, 2017.

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

Sincerely,

S/Michael D. Thibodeau
President of the Senate
January 18, 2017

Honorable Sara Gideon
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Gideon and President Thibodeau:

Pursuant to 5 MRSA, §12023, please consider this letter of transmittal for the required report from the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority due by February 1, 2017.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

S/ Jeffrey K. Jordan
Deputy Director
January 17, 2017

Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau, President of the Senate
Honorable Sara Gideon, Speaker of the House
128th Maine Legislature
State House
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Thibodeau and Speaker Gideon:

In accordance with Title 9-B MRSA §217, as amended, enclosed please find a copy of the Annual Report from the Superintendent of the Bureau of Financial Institutions to the Legislature. This Annual Report contains statistical information for financial institutions doing business in Maine.

In the event that you may have any questions regarding the information contained in this Report, the Bureau would be pleased to respond. This Report will also be available in electronic format at www.maine.gov/pfr/financialinstitutions.

Very truly yours,

S/Lloyd P. LaFountain III
Superintendent
January 19, 2017

Honorable Sara Gideon Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Speaker Gideon and President Thibodeau:

Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A., Section 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required report from Maine Maritime Academy due by February 1, 2017.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

S/Petra Carver
Vice President for Financial and Institutional Services for Maine Maritime Academy
January 25, 2017

Honorable Sara Gideon
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Honorable Michael D. Thibodeau
President of the Senate
3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Speaker Gideon and President Thibodeau:

Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A. §12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required report from the Maine Human Rights Commission due by February 1, 2017.

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

Sincerely,

S/Amy M. Sneirson
Executive Director
SENATE PAPERS

(3-1) Bill "An Act Regarding the Place of Imprisonment of Certain Prisoners"

S.P. 63  L.D. 217

Presented by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Senators: LIBBY of Androscoggin, MASON of Androscoggin, Representative:
GOLDEN of Lewiston.

(3-2) Bill "An Act To Curb Drunk Driving by Prohibiting a Person Convicted of Operating
Under the Influence from Purchasing Alcohol"

S.P. 71  L.D. 225

Presented by Senator BREEN of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Senator: LIBBY of Androscoggin, Representatives: McLEAN of Gorham,
TUCKER of Brunswick.

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

(3-3) Bill "An Act To Amend the Mathematics Requirements for High School Graduation"

S.P. 74  L.D. 228

Presented by Senator LANGLEY of Hancock.
Cosponsored by Representative MALABY of Hancock and Representative: McCREA of Fort
Fairfield.

Committee on EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS suggested and ordered printed.
(3-4) Bill "An Act To Prohibit an Electric Utility from Charging a Customer for Using an Electromechanical Meter"

S.P. 75  L.D. 229

Presented by Senator MIRAMANT of Knox.
Cosponsored by Representative SIROCKI of Scarborough and Senators: BELLOWS of Kennebec, CARSON of Cumberland, MILLETT of Cumberland, Representatives: O'CONNOR of Berwick, PARRY of Arundel, WADSWORTH of Hiram, WARREN of Hallowell.

(3-5) Bill "An Act To Increase Transparency in Maine's Electricity Market"

S.P. 86  L.D. 240

Presented by Senator HAMPER of Oxford. (BY REQUEST)
Cosponsored by Representative WADSWORTH of Hiram.

Committee on ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY suggested and ordered printed.

(3-6) Bill "An Act To Exclude Cardboard Beverage Containers from the Laws Governing Returnable Beverage Containers"

S.P. 73  L.D. 227

Presented by Senator SAVIELLO of Franklin.
Cosponsored by Representative BLACK of Wilton.

Committee on ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES suggested and ordered printed.
(3-7) Bill "An Act To Prioritize Use of Available Resources in General Assistance Programs"
S.P. 65  L.D. 219
Presented by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Senator: MASON of Androscoggin, Representative: SANDERSON of Chelsea.

(3-8) Bill "An Act To Align Time Limits in the Municipal General Assistance Program and
Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Program"
S.P. 66  L.D. 220
Presented by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Senator: MASON of Androscoggin, Representative: SANDERSON of Chelsea.

(3-9) Bill "An Act To Amend the Laws Regarding the Municipality of Responsibility for
General Assistance Applicants Released from a State Correctional Facility or County Jail Facility"
S.P. 67  L.D. 221
Presented by Senator GRATWICK of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representative PIERCE of Dresden and Senators: DILL of Penobscot, DION of
Cumberland, KATZ of Kennebec, ROSEN of Hancock, VOLK of Cumberland, Representative:
ZEIGLER of Montville.

(3-10) Bill "An Act To Determine When the Remains of Deceased Persons May Be Considered
Abandoned"
S.P. 69  L.D. 223
Presented by Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis.
Cosponsored by Senators: BELLOWS of Kennebec, CYRWAY of Kennebec,
DESCHAMBAULT of York, WOODSOME of York.

(3-11) Bill "An Act To Protect and Improve the Health of Maine Citizens and the Economy of
Maine" (EMERGENCY)
S.P. 72  L.D. 226
Presented by Senator SAVIELLO of Franklin.

(3-12) Bill "An Act To Increase Access to Head Start"
S.P. 76  L.D. 230
Presented by Senator MILLETT of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative McELWEE of Caribou and Senators: BREEN of Cumberland,
CARPENTER of Aroostook, MAKER of Washington, WOODSOME of York, Representatives:
FARNSWORTH of Portland, FREY of Bangor, HERBIG of Belfast, POULIOT of Augusta.
(3-13) Bill "An Act To Establish an Exemption to the 30-day Supply Limitation on Certain Pain Medication"

S.P. 78  L.D. 232

Presented by Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis.

(3-14) Bill "An Act To Amend the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act"

S.P. 84  L.D. 238

Presented by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin.

(3-15) Bill "An Act To Require National Banks To Cooperate in the Administration of the General Assistance Program"

S.P. 85  L.D. 239

Presented by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Senator: LIBBY of Androscoggin.

Committee on HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES suggested and ordered printed.

(3-16) Bill "An Act Regarding Maine's Moose Lottery"

S.P. 68  L.D. 222

Presented by Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis.
Cosponsored by Senators: CARPENTER of Aroostook, CYRWAY of Kennebec, DESCHAMBAULT of York, SAVIELLO of Franklin.

Committee on INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE suggested and ordered printed.
(3-17) Bill "An Act To Establish a State Bank"

Presented by Senator MIRAMANT of Knox.
Cosponsored by Representative CASÁS of Rockport, Representative MOONEN of Portland and Senators: CARPENTER of Aroostook, CYRWAY of Kennebec, DAVIS of Piscataquis, DESCHAMBAULT of York, Representatives: SCHNECK of Bangor, SPEAR of South Thomaston.

Committee on INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES suggested and ordered printed.

(3-18) Bill "An Act To Reduce Criminal Justice System Costs by Allowing Arraignments and Hearings in the Unified Criminal Docket To Be Held by Means of Audiovisual Telecommunications"

Presented by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin.
Cosponsored by Senators: LIBBY of Androscoggin, MASON of Androscoggin, Representative: GOLDEN of Lewiston.

(3-19) Bill "An Act Regarding Actions for Failure To Follow Condominium Association Requirements"

Presented by Senator COLLINS of York.

Committee on JUDICIARY suggested and ordered printed.
(3-20) Bill "An Act To Allow Municipalities To Regulate the Growing of Marijuana"

S.P. 77  L.D. 231

Presented by Senator DAVIS of Piscataquis.
Cosponsored by Representative HANDY of Lewiston, Representative NADEAU of Winslow and Senators: CYRWAY of Kennebec, DILL of Penobscot.

Committee on STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT suggested and ordered printed.

(3-21) Bill "An Act To Repeal the Service Provider Tax"

S.P. 79  L.D. 235

Presented by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin. (BY REQUEST)
Cosponsored by Senators: BELLOWS of Kennebec, LIBBY of Androscoggin.

Committee on TAXATION suggested and ordered printed.

(3-22) Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation To Erect Signs on Interstate 95 Directing Motorists to Lincoln

S.P. 62  L.D. 216

Presented by Senator ROSEN of Hancock.

(3-23) Bill "An Act To Update Accessibility Requirements on Highways"

S.P. 80  L.D. 236

Presented by Senator COLLINS of York.
Cosponsored by Representative McLEAN of Gorham and Senator: ROSEN of Hancock, Representative: PARRY of Arundel.
Submitted by the Department of Transportation pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Committee on TRANSPORTATION suggested and ordered printed.
ORDERS

Joint Orders

Expressions of Legislative Sentiment recognizing:

(4-1) Emery's Meat and Produce, of Gardiner, which has won the 2017 Small Business of the Year Award from the Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce. The business is operated by Leon Emery and his family and was rated highly for community involvement and economic impact. We extend to everyone at Emery's Meat and Produce our congratulations and best wishes;

Sponsored by Senator BELLOWS of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Representative: GRANT of Gardiner.

(4-2) the Cape Elizabeth High School Mock Trial Team, of Cape Elizabeth, which has won the 2016 Maine State High School Mock Trial Championship, its 7th championship victory in a row. The team will represent Maine at the National High School Mock Trial Championship. Members of the team are Maggie Pierce, Kinnon McGrath, Rose Baillie, Grace Roberts, Emelie Jarquin Manegold, Daphne te Boekhorst, Sophie Miller, Lilli Frame, Ollie Moon, Abby McFarland, Lilia Membrino, Lauren Cutter, Sarah Keniston, Jack Stewart, Dan Howard, Will Pearson, Emma Schoonover, Olivia Tighe, Colby Mayer, Sammi Vaughan, Marianna Godfrey, Libby Palanza, Chase Kozlowski, Cooper Hoffman and Drew Harrington; head attorney coach Dick O'Meara; attorney coaches Jon Sahrbeck and David Hillman; and teacher advisor/coach Mary Page. We extend to all the members of the team our congratulations and best wishes on this achievement;

Sponsored by Senator MILLETT of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representatives: HAMANN of South Portland, MONAGHAN of Cape Elizabeth.

(4-3) Doris Hodgkins, of Roxbury, who has received the Boston Post Cane, an honor given to the oldest citizen of a municipality. We extend our congratulations and best wishes to Ms. Hodgkins on this occasion;

Sponsored by Senator KEIM of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Representative: MADIGAN of Rumford.

(4-4) Tammy Goldfrank, of Kingfield, who has received a Spirit of America Award. The Spirit of America Foundation was established to encourage and promote volunteerism, and the award is presented to honor local individuals, organizations or projects in appreciation of community service. We send our congratulations to Ms. Goldfrank on her receiving this award;

Sponsored by Senator SAVIELLO of Franklin.
Cosponsored by Representatives: BLACK of Wilton, SKOLFIELD of Weld.
(4-5) Frank Forster, of New Vineyard, who has received a Spirit of America Award. The Spirit of America Foundation was established to encourage and promote volunteerism, and the award is presented to honor local individuals, organizations or projects in appreciation of community service. We send our congratulations to Mr. Forster on his receiving this award;  
Sponsored by Senator SAVIELLO of Franklin.  
Cosponsored by Representative: BLACK of Wilton.

(4-6) Harlan Clemens, of Chesterville, who has received a Spirit of America Award. The Spirit of America Foundation was established to encourage and promote volunteerism, and the award is presented to honor local individuals, organizations or projects in appreciation of community service. We send our congratulations to Mr. Clemens on his receiving this award;  
Sponsored by Senator SAVIELLO of Franklin.  
Cosponsored by Representative: BLACK of Wilton.

(4-7) Aaron Jones, of Gorham, a member of Boy Scout Troop No. 817, who has attained the high rank and distinction of Eagle Scout. This is the highest award in Boy Scouting and is given for excellence in skills development, leadership, personal growth and community service. For his Eagle Scout project, Aaron built a bridge across a stream on a trail used by local students, cross-country teams, hikers and cyclists near Gorham Middle School. We extend our congratulations to Aaron on this achievement;  
Sponsored by Senator VOLK of Cumberland.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: McLEAN of Gorham, TERRY of Gorham.
Joint Resolution

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

S.P. 81

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
TWO THOUSAND AND SEVENTEEN

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JANUARY 27TH AS EITC AWARENESS DAY

WHEREAS, in order to promote the federal and Maine state earned income tax credit, which enhances family household budgets, we recognize January 27, 2017 as EITC Awareness Day; and

WHEREAS, 4 of 5 people eligible for the credit claim it, which demonstrates the importance of raising awareness of this credit and urging individuals to find out if they qualify for it; and

WHEREAS, throughout the State, IRS-certified volunteer tax preparers who are members of CA$H Maine and AARP Tax-Aide, a collaboration of 10 statewide coalitions including 50 nonprofit and for-profit partners, provide free federal and state tax preparation; and

WHEREAS, since 2003, CA$H Maine has also educated hard-working families and individuals about programs in the community that can increase their income, reduce debt and build savings; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, these volunteers helped Maine residents save more than $3,500,000 in tax filing fees and claim over $5,200,000 in earned income tax credits, returning over $21,200,000 to Maine residents in federal income tax refunds; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-eighth Legislature now assembled in the First Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize January 27, 2017 as EITC Awareness Day; and be it further

RESOLVED: That we send our appreciation to all the volunteers who participate in EITC Awareness Day for the benefit of Maine citizens and we urge participation in this worthy cause.
ORDERS OF THE DAY

Unfinished Business

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

1.

Tabled and Later Assigned

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Exclude Wildlife Issues from Citizen Initiatives

H.P. 7  L.D. 5

Tabled - January 5, 2017, by Senator MASON of Androscoggin

Pending - REFERENCE

(In House, REFERRED to the Committee on VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS and ordered printed.)

2.

Tabled and Later Assigned

JOINT ORDER - Expression of Legislative Sentiment Recognizing the Portland Public Library, of Portland, on its 150th anniversary.

SLS 18

Tabled - January 5, 2017, by Senator CHIPMAN of Cumberland

Pending - PASSAGE
3.

Tabled and Later Assigned

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Establish the Right To Hunt and Fish

H.P. 12  L.D. 11

Tabled - January 10, 2017, by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec

Pending - REFERENCE

(In House, REFERRED to the Committee on INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE and ordered printed.)

4.

Tabled and Later Assigned

Bill "An Act To Strengthen the Maine Children's Growth Council"

S.P. 17  L.D. 38

Tabled - January 10, 2017, by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin

Pending - REFERENCE

(Committee on HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES suggested and ordered printed.)
5.

Tabled and Later Assigned

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Require That Signatures on a Direct Initiative of Legislation Come from Each Congressional District

H.P. 32  L.D. 31

Tabled - January 11, 2017, by Senator MASON of Androscoggin

Pending - REFERENCE

(In House, REFERRED to the Committee on VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS and ordered printed.)

6.

Tabled and Later Assigned

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Prohibit Payment Per Signature for Citizen Petition Drives

H.P. 39  L.D. 53

Tabled - January 11, 2017, by Senator MASON of Androscoggin

Pending - REFERENCE

(In House, REFERRED to the Committee on VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS and ordered printed.)

7.

Tabled and Later Assigned

Bill "An Act To Increase the Number of Suboxone Prescribers"

H.P. 82  L.D. 114

Tabled - January 19, 2017, by Senator MASON of Androscoggin

Pending - REFERENCE

(In House, the Bill was REFERRED to the Committee on LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT and ordered printed.)