



Senate of Maine

One Hundred and Thirty-Second Legislature
First Regular Session

Advance Journal and Calendar

Governor's State of the Budget Address

5th Legislative Day

In Senate Chamber, Tuesday, January 28, 2025.

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

Prayer by Poet Robert C. Clark of Windham.

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

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

Matthea E. L. Daughtry
President of the Senate

Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate

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

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

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Non-Concurrent Matter

(1-1) Bill "An Act to Permit the Sale of Motor Vehicles on Sundays"

H.P. 121 L.D. 188

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

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

Joint Orders

(1-2) The following Joint Order:

H.P. 130

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

Rule 208. Requirements for Drafting.

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

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

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

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

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

Expressions of Legislative Sentiment recognizing:

(1-3) the Hermon High School Football Team, which won the Class C North Championship. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

HLS 21

(1-4) Julie Jones, of Hallowell, a Senior Legislative Analyst with the Office of Fiscal and Program Review, on her retirement from the Maine State Legislature after over four decades of public service. During her tenure with the Legislature, Ms. Jones worked in the Office of Policy and Legal Analysis and the Office of the Revisor of Statutes as well as the Office of Fiscal and Program Review, holding the positions of Legislative Analyst, Principal Analyst and Senior Attorney as well as Senior Legislative Analyst. At the beginning of her career, she worked at the Bureau of Maine's Elderly, Legal Services for the Elderly from 1977 to 1981, when she joined the Legislature's nonpartisan staff. Ms. Jones has worked in every production office in the Legislature and has produced a body of work that is without parallel among the nonpartisan staff. Her dedication to the job, her skill and the breadth and depth of her knowledge will be greatly missed. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

HLS 22

(1-5) the Wells High School Football Team, which won the Class D State Championship. Members of the team include Darion Lemont, Noah McDonough, Dominic Carbonneau, Cooper Bourque, Garrett Hemly, Nate DeMauro, Sabin Piatek, Riley Murphy, Cal Moody, Carson Kuderer, Quinn Finemore, Kevin Bolduc, Cameron Kirby, Colin Moody, Alex Albright, Chase Lunetta, Josh Corbett, Dylan Hudnall, Dom Buxton, Rhys Sullivan, Mason Miles, Robert Stevens, Daniel Bell, Brady Godin and Jacob Barry; assistant coaches Kevin Fox, Mark Lewia and Carmen Perri; and head coach Tim Roche. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

HLS 23

Come from the House, **READ** and **PASSED**.

COMMUNICATIONS

(2-1) The Following Communication:

S.P. 127

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

January 23, 2025

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

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

Dear Madam President and Mr. Speaker:

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

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

Energy, Utilities and Technology

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

Health and Human Services

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

Housing and Economic Development

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

Taxation

Bill "An Act to Establish a Sales Tax Holiday for Purchases of Certain School Supplies for the Month of August" (S.P. 123) (L.D. 256) (Sponsored by Senator MARTIN of Oxford)
(Cosponsored by Representative LANCE of Paris and Senators: BRADSTREET of Kennebec, HAGGAN of Penobscot, MOORE of Washington, BICKFORD of Androscoggin, LIBBY of Cumberland, Representatives: HENDERSON of Rumford, SOBOLESKI of Phillips, WOOD of Norway)

Sincerely,

S/Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate

S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House

(2-2) The Following Communication:

H.P. 133

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

January 14, 2025

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

Honorable Matthea Daughtry
President of the Senate
132nd Legislature

Dear Mr. Speaker and Madam President:

On January 14, 2025, 2 bills were received by the Clerk of the House.

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, these bills were referred to the Joint Standing Committee on January 14, 2025, as follows:

Appropriations and Financial Affairs

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

Bill "An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations from the General Fund and Other Funds for the Expenditures of State Government and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2025, June 30, 2026 and June 30, 2027" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 132) (L.D. 210) (Sponsored by Representative GATTINE of Westbrook) (GOVERNOR'S BILL)

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House

S/Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate

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

(2-3) The Following Communication:

H.P. 160

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

January 16, 2025

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

Honorable Matthea Daughtry
President of the Senate
132nd Legislature

Dear Mr. Speaker and Madam President:

On January 16, 2025, 20 bills were received by the Clerk of the House.

Pursuant to the provisions of Joint Rule 308.2, these bills were referred to the Joint Standing Committees on January 16, 2025, as follows:

Criminal Justice and Public Safety

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

Education and Cultural Affairs

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

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

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

Energy, Utilities and Technology

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

Environment and Natural Resources

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

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

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

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

Health and Human Services

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

Marine Resources

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

State and Local Government

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

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

Taxation

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

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

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

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

Transportation

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

Veterans and Legal Affairs

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

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

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House

S/Darek M. Grant
Secretary of the Senate

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

(2-4) The Following Communication:

S.C. 36

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

January 23, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Grant:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

S/Matthea Elisabeth Larsen Daughtry
President of the Senate

S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

(2-5) The Following Communication:

S.C. 35

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

January 22, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Grant,

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

(2-6) The Following Communication:

S.C. 38

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

January 24, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Grant,

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

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

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

Liam LaFountain of Biddeford, representing a municipality.

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

Sincerely,

S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

(2-7) The Following Communication:

S.C. 42

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

January 27, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Grant,

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

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

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

Sincerely,

S/Ryan D. Fecteau
Speaker of the House

(2-8) The Following Communication:

S.C. 30

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

January 21, 2025

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

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

Dear President Daughtry:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

(2-9) The Following Communication:

S.C. 31

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

January 21, 2025

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

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

Dear President Daughtry:

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

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

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

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

(2-10) The Following Communication:

S.C. 33

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

January 22, 2025

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

Re: Nominations to the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority

Dear President Daughtry:

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

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

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

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

(2-11) The Following Communication:

S.C. 34

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

January 22, 2025

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

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

Dear President Daughtry:

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

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

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

(2-12) The Following Communication:

S.C. 37

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

January 14, 2025

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

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

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

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

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

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

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

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

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

(2-13) The Following Communication:

S.C. 40

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

January 27, 2025

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

Re: Nomination of Judges to the Maine District Court

Dear President Daughtry:

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

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

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

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

(2-14) The Following Communication:

S.C. 41

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

January 23, 2025

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

Re: Nominations of Maine Superior Court Justices

Dear President Daughtry:

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

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

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

(2-15) The Following Communication:

S.C. 32

MAINE VENTURE FUND

January 22, 2025

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

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

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau:

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

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

Sincerely,
S/Terri Wark

Office Operations Manager
Small Enterprise Growth Board d/b/a Maine Venture Fund

(2-16) The Following Communication:

S.C. 39

MAINE PORT AUTHORITY

January 24, 2025

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

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

Dear President Daughtry and Speaker Fecteau,

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

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

S/Chelsea Pettengill
Interim Executive Director

SENATE PAPERS

(3-1) Bill "An Act to Provide Support for Certain Maine Discovery Museum Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Educational Programming Throughout the State"
S.P. 131 L.D. 281

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

Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** suggested and ordered printed.

(3-2) Bill "An Act to Address the Shortage of Direct Care Workers for Children with Disabilities in Maine" (EMERGENCY)
S.P. 129 L.D. 279

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

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

(3-3) Bill "An Act to Establish the Criminal Records Review Commission in Statute"
S.P. 126 L.D. 259

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

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

(3-4) Bill "An Act to Eliminate the Tobacco Products Tax on Certain Products That Contain Nicotine"

S.P. 128 L.D. 278

Presented by Senator HARRINGTON of York.

Cosponsored by Senators: MARTIN of Oxford, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin,

Representatives: DUCHARME of Madison, LIBBY of Auburn, MORRIS of Turner.

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

(3-5) Bill "An Act to Establish Lifetime Ferry Passes for Retired Maine State Ferry Service Employees"

S.P. 130 L.D. 280

Presented by Senator BEEBE-CENTER of Knox.

Cosponsored by Senator: CURRY of Waldo.

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

ORDERS

Joint Orders

(4-1) On motion by Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland, the following Joint Order:
S.P. 132

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

Expressions of Legislative Sentiment recognizing:

(4-2) the Narraguagus Junior/Senior High School Girls Volleyball Team, of Harrington, which won the Class C State Championship. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;
SLS 32

Sponsored by Senator MOORE of Washington.
Cosponsored by Representative: STROUT of Harrington.

(4-3) the Gardiner Area High School Varsity Golf Team, which won the Class B State Championship, the team's first state title in 60 years. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 33

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

(4-4) Keegan Tripp, of Winn, who has been elected President of the University of Maine Student Government. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 34

Sponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representative: GIFFORD of Lincoln.

(4-5) Lila Cummings, of Howland, a junior mid-fielder for the Penobscot Valley High School girls soccer team, who was named the 2024 Class D Girls Player of the Year. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 35

Sponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representative: GIFFORD of Lincoln.

(4-6) the Biddeford Little League All-Star Majors Team, which won the 2024 Maine Little League District 4 Championship. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 36

Sponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York.

Cosponsored by Representatives: Speaker FECTEAU of Biddeford, GERE of Kennebunkport, MALON of Biddeford.

(4-7) the Scarborough High School Girls Soccer Team, which won the 2024 Class A South Championship. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 37

Sponsored by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland.

Cosponsored by Senator: CARNEY of Cumberland, Representatives: GATTINE of Westbrook, MURPHY of Scarborough, WARREN of Scarborough.

(4-8) the Scarborough High School Boys Soccer Team, which won the 2024 Class A South Championship. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 38

Sponsored by Senator BRENNER of Cumberland.

Cosponsored by Senator: CARNEY of Cumberland, Representatives: GATTINE of Westbrook, MURPHY of Scarborough, WARREN of Scarborough.

(4-9) Katie Murphy, of North Yarmouth, who was named the North Yarmouth Citizen of the Year by the Cumberland/North Yarmouth Lions Club. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 39

Sponsored by Senator PIERCE of Cumberland.

Cosponsored by Representative: GRAHAM of North Yarmouth.

(4-10) Bill Flagg, of Stockholm, who has served the people of the State for 46 years at Cary Medical Center in Caribou. We extend our appreciation and best wishes;

SLS 42

Sponsored by Senator BERNARD of Aroostook.

Cosponsored by Representatives: BABIN of Fort Fairfield, GUERRETTE of Caribou.

(4-11) Erica Guay, of Lewiston, a member of the Greene Fire Department, who was named the department's Firefighter of the Year for 2023. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 43

Sponsored by Senator TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin.

Cosponsored by Senator: ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, Representatives: ABDI of Lewiston, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, LAJOIE of Lewiston, MCCABE of Lewiston.

(4-12) Hope White, of Lincoln, who has received the Lincoln Historical Society Cane, an honor given to the oldest citizen of the municipality. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 44

Sponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot.

Cosponsored by Representative: GIFFORD of Lincoln.

(4-13) Alma Babetta Linscott, of Springfield, who celebrated her 90th birthday on December 28, 2024. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 45

Sponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot.

Cosponsored by Representative: QUINT of Hodgdon.

Joint Resolutions

Joint Resolutions in Memoriam:

WHEREAS, the Legislature has learned with deep regret of the death of:

(4-14) Janice Stevens, of Lincoln. Mrs. Stevens graduated from Howland High School in 1959 and was employed by the United States Postal Service until she retired in 2003. She was a member of the Daughters of Isabella, an active member of St. Mary's Church in Lincoln and a member of the St. Mary's Church choir. Mrs. Stevens will be long remembered and sadly missed by her family, friends and community;

SLS 40

Sponsored by Senator TIPPING of Penobscot.
Cosponsored by Representative: GIFFORD of Lincoln.

WHEREAS, the Legislature has learned with deep regret of the death of:

(4-15) Ifeanyi "Iffy" Sargent, of Presque Isle. Mr. Sargent worked alongside his family at Falcon Transportation. He was an avid gamer and was involved with his church's youth group. As a student, he was a member of Caribou High School's state championship basketball team. Mr. Sargent will be long remembered and sadly missed by his family, friends and community;

SLS 41

Sponsored by Senator STEWART of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Representative: UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle.

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

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

S.C. 27

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

Pending - **CONSIDERATION**
