

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

In Senate Chamber  
Thursday  
October 10, 2024

Pursuant to the provisions of Article V, Part First, Section 8 of the Constitution and the laws of the State of Maine, the Senate convened in the Senate Chamber at 10:00 in the Morning and was called to order by President **TROY D. JACKSON** of Aroostook County.

Prayer by Senator Peter R. Lyford of Penobscot County.

**SENATOR LYFORD:** Let us pray. Our Heavenly Father, today we come to you with thanks for the great State of Maine, for the glorious color of your handiworks seen in the trees, and for the crispness in the air and as we deliberate. All eyes are on Florida this week as we also ask for the safety of those in Milton's path. Many of us have friends and relatives in harm's way. We pray for divine protection. Today we ask these things and let us be truly thankful, in his name, amen.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator Donna Bailey of York County.

The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1184

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

September 26, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Grant,

Please be advised that in accordance with Article 5, Part 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of Maine, the Maine Senate will convene Thursday, October 10th at 10:00 a.m. for the purpose of voting on a number of appointments put forward by the Honorable Janet T. Mills, Governor of the State of Maine.

Sincerely,

S/Troy D. Jackson  
Maine Senate President

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

**QUORUM CALL**

32 Senators having answered the Roll with 3 being excused, the Chair declared a quorum present.

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, on motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, the following Senate Order:  
S.O. 29

**ORDERED**, that a message be sent to Governor Janet T. Mills informing her that in accordance with Article V, Part First, Section 8 of the Constitution of Maine, a quorum of Senators is assembled in the Senate Chamber for the consideration of such business as may come before the Senate.

**READ and 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.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1183

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

September 26, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Grant,

Pursuant to my authority under Senate Rule 201.3, I am pleased to appoint Senator Lisa Keim to the Committee on Judiciary. With this appointment, she will be taking the place of Senator Eric Brakey, who has decided to step down. Her appointment is effective the date of this letter. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

S/Troy D. Jackson  
President of the Senate

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1181

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

September 30, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Grant:

Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (I) (a), I am temporarily appointing Representative Chad Perkins of Dover-Foxcroft, to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans' and Legal Affairs, effective immediately. Representative Perkins is replacing Representative John Andrews of Paris. This appointment will expire at the end of the day today, September 30, 2024.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions regarding this temporary appointment.

Sincerely,

S/Rachel Talbot Ross  
Speaker of the House

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1150

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

August 26, 2024

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

Re: Nomination to the Maine Land Use Planning Commission

Dear President Jackson:

It is my pleasure to nominate Perry A. Ellsworth of Strong for reappointment to the Maine Land Use Planning Commission.

Pursuant to Title 12 M.R.S.A. §683-A, this nomination is contingent on confirmation by the Maine Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills  
Governor

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1151

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

August 26, 2024

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

RE: Board of Pesticides Control

Dear President Jackson:

I am pleased to nominate the following individuals to the Board of Pesticides Control:

For reappointment: Curtis Bohlen of Pownal and Robert Carlton of Freeman Township

For appointment: Phillip D. Fanning of Bangor and Justin Gray of Gray

Pursuant to Title 22, M.R.S.A § 1471-B, these nominations are contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills  
Governor

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1152

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

August 26, 2024

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

Re: Nomination to the State Harness Racing Commission

Dear President Jackson:

It is my pleasure to nominate the following individuals to the State Harness Racing Commission:

- Patricia A. Varum of Greene and Harry B. Center, II of Yarmouth for reappointment.

Pursuant to Title 8 M.R.S.A. §261-A, these nominations are contingent on confirmation by the Maine Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills  
Governor

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1154

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

August 26, 2024

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

Re: Nomination of the Commissioner of Department of Health and Human Services

Dear President Jackson:

It is my pleasure to nominate Sara Gagné-Holmes of Readfield for appointment as Commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services:

Pursuant to Title 22-A MRSA §204, this nomination is contingent on confirmation by the Maine Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills  
Governor

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1155

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

August 26, 2024

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

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

Dear President Jackson:

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

- Owen McCarthy of Gorham for reappointment.
- Elise Baldacci of North Yarmouth for appointment.

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

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills  
Governor

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1156

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

August 29, 2024

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

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

Dear President Jackson:

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

- Philip Hussey of Scarborough
- Simon Ferland of Bangor as a graduate student member
- William Kemler of Machias as an undergraduate student member

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

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills  
Governor

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1157

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

September 4, 2024

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

RE: Appointment of Chief Shawn J. Esler of Albion as Maine State Fire Marshal

Dear President Jackson:

It is my pleasure to inform you, that pursuant to his authority under Title 25 MRSA §2396 and with my advice and consent, Commissioner Sauschuck has nominated Chief Shawn J. Esler for appointment as Maine State Fire Marshal.

This appointment is contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety.

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills  
Governor

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1158

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

September 5, 2024

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

RE: Appointments to the Maine Turnpike Authority Board of Directors

Dear President Jackson:

I am pleased to nominate Nina A. Fisher of Farmingdale and Matthew J. Garside of Poland for appointment to the Maine Turnpike Authority Board of Directors.

Pursuant to Title 23, MRSA §1964-A, these appointments are contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation.

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills  
Governor

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1159

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

September 5, 2024

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

RE: Appointment of Beth Ahearn, Esquire of Freeport to the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices

Dear President Jackson:

I am pleased to nominate Beth Ahearn, Esquire of Freeport for appointment to the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices.

Pursuant to Title 1 MRSA §1002, this appointment is contingent on confirmation by the Maine State Senate after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

S/Janet T. Mills  
Governor

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1170

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

September 13, 2024

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

RE: Appointment of The Honorable MaryGay Kennedy as an Active Retired Justice of the Maine Superior Court

Dear President Jackson:

I am pleased to nominate The Honorable MaryGay Kennedy of Brunswick for appointment as an Active Retired Justice of the Maine Superior Court.

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

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills  
Governor

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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The Following Communication:

S.C. 1171

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

September 13, 2024

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

RE: Reappointment of The Honorable Peter L. Darwin and appointment of Harris A. Mattson, Esq. and Julia Greenleaf Pitney, Esq. as Judges of the Maine District Court

Dear President Jackson:

I am pleased to nominate The Honorable Peter L. Darwin of Portland, Harris A. Mattson, Esq. of Holden and Julia Greenleaf Pitney, Esq. of Yarmouth as Judges of the Maine District Court.

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

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills  
Governor

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1177

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

September 17, 2024

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

RE: University of Maine System Board of Trustees

Dear President Jackson:

Pursuant to Title 3 M.R.S.A., §154, I am withdrawing my nomination of Simon Ferland of Bangor for appointment to the University of Maine System Board of Trustees at the request of the nominee.

This nomination is currently pending before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills  
Governor

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1182

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

October 1, 2024

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

RE: Maine Turnpike Authority

Dear President Jackson:

Pursuant to Title 3 M.R.S.A., §154, I am withdrawing my nomination of Matthew Garside for appointment to the Maine Turnpike Authority, at the request of the nominee.

This nomination is currently pending before the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills  
Governor

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1153

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

August 28, 2024

Honorable Troy D. Jackson  
President of the Senate  
131st Maine Legislature  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson:

I am notifying you that, pursuant to 12 MRSA §683-A, I have forwarded to the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry the following nomination made to the Maine Land Use Planning Commission by the Hancock County Commissioners on April 23, 2024.

Millard Billings of Franklin

The County asks that this nomination be considered to fill the four-year term that ends on July 8, 2028, which is scheduled to be filled by Hancock County.

Pursuant to 12 MRSA 683-A, this appointment is subject to confirmation by the Maine Senate after review by the committee having jurisdiction over conservation matters.

Sincerely,

S/Suzanne M. Gresser  
Executive Director

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

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The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1163

**STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND  
FORESTRY**

September 9, 2024

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 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry has had under consideration the nomination of Curtis Bohlen of Pownal, for reappointment to the Board of Pesticides Control.

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	Ingwersen, H. of York, Black, R. of Franklin, Hickman, C. of Kennebec
	Representatives	8	Pluecker, B. of Warren, Costain, D. of Plymouth, Cray, D. of Palmyra, Guerrette, T. of Caribou, Hall, R. of Wilton, Hepler, A. of Woolwich, Jackson, C. of Oxford, Osher, L. of Orono

NAYS	0
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ABSENT	1	Rep. Shaw, K. of Auburn
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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 Curtis Bohlen of Pownal, for reappointment to the Board of Pesticides Control be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Henry Ingwersen  
Senate Chair

S/Bill Pluecker  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158 and with Joint Rule 506 of the 128<sup>th</sup> Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Chair noted the absence of the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator **BRAKEY**, the Senator from Hancock, Senator **GROHOSKI**, and the Senator from York, Senator **LAWRENCE**, and further excused the same Senators from today's Roll Call votes.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

YEAS

**ROLL CALL (#809)**

YEAS:       Senators: None

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BRAKEY, GROHOSKI, LAWRENCE

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 **Curtis Bohlen** of Pownal for reappointment to the Board of Pesticides Control was **CONFIRMED**.

The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1164

**STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND  
FORESTRY**

September 9, 2024

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 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry has had under consideration the nomination of Robert S. Carlton of Freeman Township, for reappointment to the Board of Pesticides Control.

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:

Senators	3	Ingwersen, H. of York, Black, R. of Franklin, Hickman, C. of Kennebec
Representatives	8	Pluecker, B. of Warren, Costain, D. of Plymouth, Cray, D. of Palmyra, Guerrette, T. of Caribou, Hall, R. of Wilton, Hepler, A. of Woolwich, Jackson, C. of Oxford, Osher, L. of Orono

NAYS	0	
ABSENT	1	Rep. Shaw, K. of Auburn

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 Robert S. Carlton of Freeman Township, for reappointment to the Board of Pesticides Control be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Henry Ingwersen                      S/Bill Pluecker  
Senate Chair                              House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158 and with Joint Rule 506 of the 128<sup>th</sup> Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#810)**

YEAS:        Senators: None

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BRAKEY, GROHOSKI, LAWRENCE

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 S. Carlton** of Freeman Township for reappointment to the Board of Pesticides Control was **CONFIRMED**.

The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1167

**STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY**

September 9, 2024

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 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry has had under consideration the nomination of Phillip D. Fanning of Bangor, for appointment to the Board of Pesticides Control.

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	Ingwersen, H. of York, Black, R. of Franklin, Hickman, C. of Kennebec
	Representatives	8	Pluecker, B. of Warren, Costain, D. of Plymouth, Cray, D. of Palmyra, Guerrette, T. of Caribou, Hall, R. of Wilton, Hepler, A. of Woolwich, Jackson, C. of Oxford, Osher, L. of Orono
NAYS		0	
ABSENT		1	Rep. Shaw, K. of Auburn

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 Phillip D. Fanning of Bangor, for appointment to the Board of Pesticides Control be confirmed.



Signed,

S/Henry Ingwersen  
Senate Chair

S/Bill Pluecker  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158 and with Joint Rule 506 of the 128<sup>th</sup> Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#811)**

YEAS: Senators: None

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BRAKEY, GROHOSKI, LAWRENCE

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 **Philip D Fanning** of Bangor for appointment to the Board of Pesticides Control was **CONFIRMED**.

The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1168

**STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND  
FORESTRY**

September 9, 2024

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 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry has had under consideration the nomination of Justin Gray of Gray, for appointment to the Board of Pesticides Control.

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	Ingwersen, H. of York, Black, R. of Franklin, Hickman, C. of Kennebec
	Representatives	8	Pluecker, B. of Warren, Costain, D. of Plymouth, Cray, D. of Palmyra, Guerrette, T. of Caribou, Hall, R. of Wilton, Hepler, A. of Woolwich, Jackson, C. of Oxford, Osher, L. of Orono

NAYS 0

ABSENT 1 Rep. Shaw, K. of Auburn

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 Justin Gray of Gray, for appointment to the Board of Pesticides Control be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Henry Ingwersen  
Senate Chair

S/Bill Pluecker  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158 and with Joint Rule 506 of the 128<sup>th</sup> Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#812)**

YEAS: Senators: None

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BRAKEY, GROHOSKI, LAWRENCE

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 **Justin Gray** of Gray for appointment to the Board of Pesticides Control was **CONFIRMED**.

The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1162

**STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND  
FORESTRY**

September 9, 2024

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 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry has had under consideration the nomination of Millard Billings of Franklin, for reappointment to the Maine Land Use Planning Commission.

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	Ingwersen, H. of York, Black, R. of Franklin, Hickman, C. of Kennebec
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Representatives

8

Pluecker, B. of Warren, Costain, D. of Plymouth, Cray, D. of Palmyra, Guerrette, T. of Caribou, Hall, R. of Wilton, Hepler, A. of Woolwich, Jackson, C. of Oxford, Osher, L. of Orono

NAYS

0

ABSENT

1

Rep. Shaw, K. of Auburn

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 Millard Billings of Franklin, for reappointment to the Maine Land Use Planning Commission be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Henry Ingwersen  
Senate Chair

S/Bill Pluecker  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158 and with Joint Rule 506 of the 128<sup>th</sup> Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#813)**

YEAS: Senators: None

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BRAKEY, GROHOSKI, LAWRENCE

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 **Millard Billings** of Franklin for reappointment to the Maine Land Use Planning Commission was **CONFIRMED**.

The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1166

**STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND  
FORESTRY**

September 9, 2024

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 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry has had under consideration the nomination of Perry A. Ellsworth of Strong, for reappointment to the Maine Land Use Planning Commission.

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	Ingwersen, H. of York, Black, R. of Franklin, Hickman, C. of Kennebec
	Representatives	8	Pluecker, B. of Warren, Costain, D. of Plymouth, Cray, D. of Palmyra, Guerrette, T. of Caribou, Hall, R. of Wilton, Hepler, A. of Woolwich, Jackson, C. of Oxford, Osher, L. of Orono
NAYS		0	
ABSENT		1	Rep. Shaw, K. of Auburn

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 Perry A. Ellsworth of Strong, for reappointment to the Maine Land Use Planning Commission be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Henry Ingwersen  
Senate Chair

S/Bill Pluecker  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158 and with Joint Rule 506 of the 128<sup>th</sup> Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#814)**

YEAS: Senators: None

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BRAKEY, GROHOSKI, LAWRENCE

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 **Perry A Ellsworth** of Strong for reappointment to the Maine Land Use Planning Commission was **CONFIRMED**.

The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1165

**STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND  
FORESTRY**

September 9, 2024

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 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry has had under consideration the nomination of Harry B. Center, II of Yarmouth, for reappointment to the State Harness Racing Commission.

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	Ingwersen, H. of York, Black, R. of Franklin, Hickman, C. of Kennebec
	Representatives	8	Pluecker, B. of Warren, Costain, D. of Plymouth, Cray, D. of Palmyra, Guerrette, T. of Caribou, Hall, R. of Wilton, Hepler, A. of Woolwich, Jackson, C. of Oxford, Osher, L. of Orono
NAYS		0	
ABSENT		1	Rep. Shaw, K. of Auburn

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 Harry B. Center, II of Yarmouth, for reappointment to the State Harness Racing Commission be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Henry Ingwersen  
Senate Chair

S/Bill Pluecker  
House Chair

#### READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158 and with Joint Rule 506 of the 128<sup>th</sup> Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

#### ROLL CALL (#815)

YEAS: Senators: None

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BRAKEY, GROHOSKI, LAWRENCE

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 **Harry B. Center, II** of Yarmouth for reappointment to the State Harness Racing Commission was **CONFIRMED**.

The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1169

#### STATE OF MAINE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY

September 9, 2024

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 Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry has had under consideration the nomination of Patricia A. Varnum of Greene, for reappointment to the State Harness Racing Commission.

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	Ingwersen, H. of York, Black, R. of Franklin, Hickman, C. of Kennebec
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LEGISLATIVE RECORD - SENATE, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2024

Representatives	8	Pluecker, B. of Warren, Costain, D. of Plymouth, Cray, D. of Palmyra, Guerrette, T. of Caribou, Hall, R. of Wilton, Hepler, A. of Woolwich, Jackson, C. of Oxford, Osher, L. of Orono
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Greene for reappointment to the State Harness Racing Commission was **CONFIRMED**.

The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1178

**STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

September 27, 2024

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 Criminal Justice and Public Safety has had under consideration the nomination of Shawn J. Esler of Albion, for appointment as the State Fire Marshal.

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

YEAS	Senators	1	Beebe-Center, A. of Knox
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Representatives	8	Salisbury, S. of Westbrook, Ardell, D. of Monticello, Hasenfus, T. of Readfield, Lajoie, M. of Lewiston, Mathieson, K. of Kittery, Milliken, N. of Blue Hill, Newman, D. of Belgrade, Nutting, R. of Oakland
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NAYS	0
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ABSENT	4	Sen. Harrington, M. of York, Sen. LaFountain, D. of Kennebec, Rep. Lookner, G. of Portland, Rep. Perkins, C. of Dover-Foxcroft
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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 Shawn J. Esler of Albion, for appointment as the State Fire Marshal be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Anne Beebe-Center  
Senate Chair

S/Suzanne M. Salisbury  
House Chair

NAYS	0	
ABSENT	1	Rep. Shaw, K. of Auburn

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 Patricia A. Varnum of Greene, for reappointment to the State Harness Racing Commission be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Henry Ingwersen Senate Chair	S/Bill Pluecker House Chair
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**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158 and with Joint Rule 506 of the 128<sup>th</sup> Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#816)**

YEAS:       Senators: BALDACCI

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BRAKEY, GROHOSKI, LAWRENCE

1 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 31 Senators having voted in the negative, with 3 Senators being excused, and 1 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 **Patricia A. Varnum** of

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158 and with Joint Rule 506 of the 128<sup>th</sup> Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#817)**

YEAS: Senators: None

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BRAKEY, GROHOSKI, LAWRENCE

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 **Shawn J. Esler** of Albion for appointment as State Fire Marshall was **CONFIRMED**.

The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1173

**STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

September 17, 2024

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 Education and Cultural Affairs has had under consideration the

nomination of Philip Hussey of Scarborough, for appointment to the University of Maine System, Board of Trustees.

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	Rafferty, J. of York, Libby, J. of Cumberland, Pierce, T. of Cumberland
	Representatives	4	Brennan, M. of Portland, Dodge, J. of Belfast, Sargent, H. of York, Worth, J. of Ellsworth
NAYS	Senators	0	
	Representatives	2	Lyman, S. of Livermore Falls, Polewarczyk, E. of Wiscasset

ABSENT	4	Rep. Bagshaw, B. of Windham, Rep. Millett, R. of Cape Elizabeth, Rep. Murphy, K. of Scarborough, Rep. Sampson, H. of Alfred
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Seven members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and two in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of Philip Hussey of Scarborough, for appointment to the University of Maine System, Board of Trustees be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Joseph E. Rafferty  
Senate Chair

S/Michael F. Brennan  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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 158 and with Joint Rule 506 of the 128<sup>th</sup> Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#818)**

YEAS: Senators: None

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BRAKEY, GROHOSKI, LAWRENCE

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 **Philip Hussey** of Scarborough for appointment to the University of Maine System, Board of Trustees was **CONFIRMED**.

The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1174

**STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS**

September 17, 2024

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 Education and Cultural Affairs has had under consideration the nomination of Owen McCarthy of Gorham, for reappointment to the University of Maine System, Board of Trustees.

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	Rafferty, J. of York, Libby, J. of Cumberland, Pierce, T. of Cumberland
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Representatives	6	Brennan, M. of Portland, Dodge, J. of Belfast, Lyman, S. of Livermore Falls, Polewarczyk, E. of Wiscasset, Sargent, H. of York, Worth, J. of Ellsworth
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NAYS 0

ABSENT	4	Rep. Bagshaw, B. of Windham, Rep. Millett, R. of Cape Elizabeth, Rep. Murphy, K. of Scarborough, Rep. Sampson, H. of Alfred
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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 Owen McCarthy of Gorham, for reappointment to the University of Maine System, Board of Trustees be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Joseph E. Rafferty Senate Chair	S/Michael F. Brennan House Chair
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**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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 158 and with Joint Rule 506 of the 128<sup>th</sup> Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#819)**

YEAS:	Senators: None
NAYS:	Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BLACK, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, FARRIN, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSON, KEIM, LAFOUNTAIN, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

EXCUSED: Senators: BRAKEY, GROHOSKI, LAWRENCE

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 **Owen McCarthy** of Gorham for reappointment to the University of Maine System, Board of Trustees was **CONFIRMED**.

The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1175

STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

September 17, 2024

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 Education and Cultural Affairs has had under consideration the nomination of William Kemler of Machias, for appointment to the University of Maine System, Board of Trustees.

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	Rafferty, J. of York, Libby, J. of Cumberland, Pierce, T. of Cumberland
	Representatives	6	Brennan, M. of Portland, Dodge, J. of Belfast, Lyman, S. of Livermore Falls, Polewarczyk, E. of Wiscasset, Sargent, H. of York, Worth, J. of Ellsworth
NAYS		0	
ABSENT		4	Rep. Bagshaw, B. of Windham, Rep. Millett, R. of Cape Elizabeth, Rep. Murphy, K. of Scarborough, Rep. Sampson, H. of Alfred

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 William Kemler of Machias, for appointment to the University of Maine System, Board of Trustees be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Joseph E. Rafferty  
Senate Chair

S/Michael F. Brennan  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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 158 and with Joint Rule 506 of the 128<sup>th</sup> Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#820)**

YEAS:	Senators: None
NAYS:	Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BLACK, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, FARRIN, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSON, KEIM, LAFOUNTAIN, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

EXCUSED: Senators: BRAKEY, GROHOSKI, LAWRENCE

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 **William Kemler** of Machias for appointment to the University of Maine System, Board of Trustees was **CONFIRMED**.

The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1176

STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

September 17, 2024

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 Education and Cultural Affairs has had under consideration the nomination of Elise M. Baldacci of North Yarmouth, for appointment to the University of Maine System, Board of Trustees.

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	Rafferty, J. of York, Libby, J. of Cumberland, Pierce, T. of Cumberland
	Representatives	4	Brennan, M. of Portland, Dodge, J. of Belfast, Sargent, H. of York, Worth, J. of Ellsworth
NAYS	Senators	0	
	Representatives	2	Lyman, S. of Livermore Falls, Polewarczyk, E. of Wiscasset
ABSENT		4	Rep. Bagshaw, B. of Windham, Rep. Millett, R. of Cape Elizabeth, Rep. Murphy, K. of Scarborough, Rep. Sampson, H. of Alfred

Seven members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and two in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of Elise M. Baldacci of North Yarmouth, for appointment to the University of Maine System, Board of Trustees be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Joseph E. Rafferty  
Senate Chair

S/Michael F. Brennan  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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 158 and with Joint Rule 506 of the 128<sup>th</sup> Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#821)**

YEAS: Senators: None

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

EXCUSED: Senators: BRAKEY, GROHOSKI, LAWRENCE

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 **Elise M. Baldacci** of North Yarmouth for appointment to the University of Maine System, Board of Trustees was **CONFIRMED**.

The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1172

**STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

September 16, 2024

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 Health and Human Services has had under consideration the nomination of Sara Gagne-Holmes of Readfield, for appointment as the Commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services.

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	Baldacci, J. of Penobscot, Ingwersen, H. of York, Moore, M. of Washington
	Representatives	7	Meyer, M. of Eliot, Craven, M. of Lewiston, Graham, A. of North Yarmouth, Griffin, A. of Levant, Javner, K. of Chester, Madigan, C. of Waterville, Shagoury, D. of Hallowell
NAYS	Senators	0	
	Representatives	2	Fredericks, A. of Sanford, Lemelin, M. of Chelsea
ABSENT		1	Rep. Zager, S. of Portland

Ten members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and two in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of Sara Gagne-Holmes of Readfield, for appointment as the Commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Joseph M. Baldacci  
Senate Chair

S/Michele Meyer  
House Chair

#### **READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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

Senator **NANGLE:** Thank you, Mr. President. Over my 30 years as a first responder, I've answered many calls where children were hurt by the people who were supposed to love and care for them. These calls stay with me to this day. I'm no longer responding to 9-1-1 calls, but I hear the calls about the systemic failures of our child welfare system. The Maine Child Welfare Services ombudsman, the Legislature's oversight committee, advocates, journalists, foster parents, and most importantly, frontline Child Protective Services staff have made it clear the child welfare system in the State of Maine has not effectively protected children. Despite spending millions of dollars on reviewing these issues, the ombudsman's report showed a continued decline in child welfare. They're just not statistics or reports; they represent the lives of vulnerable children across our state. Despite the efforts of good people working within the system, the system is on fire. The time for planning and reviewing is well past. We need to be committed to not letting one more child experience maltreatment in the State of Maine. I sincerely hope that the new leadership responds with the necessary urgency to put out the fire in the Office of Child and Family Services. Thank you.

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

Senator **TIMBERLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. President. Let me preface this by saying that I have a lot of respect for Sara Gagne-Holmes. Over her career, she has been an advocate for healthcare, housing, and many other things through her work at Maine Equal Justice, John T. Gorman Foundation, she has been Maine's Deputy Commissioner and now Acting Commissioner for DHHS since 2019. But for me, therein lies the problem. In the time she has been at DHHS, we have seen a deterioration of services, culture, and standards. I and many others believe the Department has been in decline for some time. That's why I feel the confirmation of Sara Gagne-Holmes is a wrong solution to a problem. During her tenure, 130 children with whom the Office of Child and Family Services were involved have died, including four who died within weeks of each other in 2021, and who have been the critical focus for those of us in the Chamber who serve on the Government Oversight Committee. During her tenure, we have taken countless complaints of poor service, no communication, lack of follow-up, or even having people answer the phones. The Maine Public Utilities Commission just fined Versant \$90,000 for not answering their phone within 30 seconds. If they ever measured DHHS, I'll bet it'd be over \$9 million that it would take before they answered their phone. And yet, we have elevated two people within the Department who have been part of the culture a long time. They've never solved the problems the public has been experiencing; they've never been part of the solution. That is why I won't be voting for Ms. Gagne-Holmes today. It really, truly has nothing to do with her personality -- her personally. I'm more than certain she is likely qualified from a technical point of view. Rather, my objection is simply because we need a sharp outside perspective of Maine's single largest department that touches the lives of at least a third of all the Mainers. We need objectivity here, not an insider who has been there the whole time these problems have existed. We need a fresh approach, not a recycled approach, a rinse and repeat one that hasn't elevated or moved DHHS forward in the time that she has been there. That is my fear. And if you listen to any of our -- the testimony we heard at the GOC from DHHS employees about the broken culture, I suspect that fear may also be shared by them as well, albeit quietly. So, this is not political for me, it hasn't been for the Government Oversight Committee - it can't be. We have way too many lives on the line, especially our young children that depend on the Department of Health and Human Services. Instead, I believe we need an entirely new approach to the Department of Health and Human Services, one that brings new concepts and experience from other cultures and processes. One that represents the best practices of the best departments across this nation. The children of the State of Maine deserve no less. Shifting the chairs on the Titanic didn't change its outcome. It still ended up at the bottom of the ocean. That is why I ask you all to join me at this point in time in opposing this nomination and see if we can't find somebody that's new, from the outside, to rebuild this Department for the sake of the children of the State of Maine. Thank you very much.

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

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Mr. President, Fellow Members of the Senate. It's good to be with you all today. I heard powerful statements from my colleagues here today, and I think there's no question that when confirmed, this nominee will be inheriting custody of a department which is in dire straits - in fact, almost, I

would call it a disaster in many ways. I couldn't help but reflect on my service in the Senate, and it's not unlike all of yours. Yes, I serve on the Government Oversight Committee, I've been exposed to a lot of the failings of the Department there, the Appropriations Committee, but just as an ordinary working Senator, like all of you who deal with our constituents and care about the people we represent, this Department has been woefully lacking in its responsiveness to the needs of real people. And as said, it's many -- it's in many ways much worse than just woefully lacking. Because of that, when this nominee was presented, I immediately reached out to the Department and asked for a meeting with the nominee. And I have to say, I was very surprised -- surprisingly delighted that Sara Holmes-Gagne found time to meet with me for about an hour a full week in advance of her nomination hearing. And we just took about an hour, but the list was long, and it could've gone a lot longer, because the issues that I raised are the same issues that you've all been dealing with. There seems to be at the Department a culture of opacity, a culture of secrecy, sometimes hiding behind confidentiality laws, way too closed off. I presented, like I've heard from other people, a system that doesn't work for people, even third-party service providers who are there hired by the Department to perform services in the public interests, and these are people who are putting their own lives and their own money and their own time and their own careers forward to serve the people are not being, in turn, properly supported by the Department. There's no reason that a group like Hakuna Matata, who was trying to put forward -- put themselves forward as a licensed provider should have to wait a year to get a license. They've got all of the pieces together to start serving people, and they're caught up in a process that cares more about the process than it does for actually the results of letting this enterprise go forward. We all remember - well, maybe we don't - but LD 2082, the billing delays, which this Senate enacted a bill I put in as an emergency enactor earlier this year because people like the Shalom House in Portland were owed \$2 million. For two and a half months, they had to go borrow money at 7.49% interest in order to pay their bills. We do not have a cash problem, look at our cash accounts, we could pay these people what they are rightfully billing us, and yet, you know, we're spending money and forcing them to spend money on banking fees and interest payments rather than providing services that people need. We've had delays in rulemaking. This Legislature passed Safe Haven Baby Box legislation, those rules are still waiting action, the last I checked. We will remember that last -- earlier this year, the Department put forward a bunch of onerous rules on youth camps that came completely out of the blue and threatened to shut down all of these wonderful youth camps for this summer season. We had to put in legislation, Senator Brenner put in legislation which I co-sponsored to stop that. It passed, they are now -- reset the bar and they're involved in an inclusive way a conversation with the providers of youth camps in Maine to have more reasonable regulations. We've all heard this, you know, the sense of retaliation sometimes from people working with the Department, particularly in family matters, lack of transparency, sense of covering up past actions, denied payments, coverage, and of course, the long-term care circumstance which has reached horribly epic proportions, where we've been losing long-term care facilities. In rural Maine, it is devastating. I went to meet with folks at the Chapman House, which is an assisted living facility in Auburn, last week, and heard again about the fact that we haven't updated our rules and our regulations for these providers of

services. They're working for the public through contracts with the DHHS. The system is badly broken. We all talk about rate reform, we know rate reform is a thing that keeps getting talked about and doesn't seem to happen and when it does happen, it's like two or three years late and we need more rates to update them because the old rate reform isn't working. This is a really dire situation. And so, the question before us is okay, we have a nominee before us, and I told her when I met with her privately that when I last served in the Maine Legislature, when I was last a Senator back in the last millennium, I would be able to pick up the phone to the DHHS Commissioner - it was called DHS back then - Kevin Concannon, and, you know, he might not immediately return the call, but as the Senator, we got attention. We got attention to the issues. And the nominee responded in I think the best way possible, you know, she said, you know, we are -- we're all working for the same people. The Department, her as Acting Commissioner, Commissioner Nominee, and us in the State Senate are all working for the same people and we're trying to do the same work. That is an incredibly important realization. I haven't felt that way since I returned to the Senate in 2020. I haven't felt like I've been working in collaboration with the Department, I felt like we're working against each other, and that is a terrible, terrible feeling and a terrible reality for all of us in the most important department in state government to have that as the reality. I am encouraged by her attitude, and I just want to be clear, I'll be voting for the nominee, but my vote is not a vote for the status quo and, in fact, it's just the reverse. It is a vote for hope. The triumph of hope over experience, some have said. That will be my vote today. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator **BALDACCI:** Thank you, Mr. President, and Members of the Senate. I want to first let you know that first of all, I've been a freaking critic of the Department of Health and Human Services for many years. I've joined Senator Timberlake and others in different efforts, and I'm going to continue to do that. But Sara Gagne-Holmes is the individual, first of all, who presented herself to the committee, who answered questions for a couple hours, very tough questions, and won the overwhelming bipartisan support of the committee. She is a person of great intellect and great experience and great compassion. I think she is extremely well-suited, and I agree with Senator Bennett about looking forward to the future with hope. But I would point to her past as well. She has deep Maine roots, her parents were first-generation Americans, French-Canadian immigrants that came to Sanford to work in the textile mills. Her and her family all worked in that area, and she worked her way through school. She's worked for -- went to law school, she's worked for law firms, she's worked for the John Gorman Foundation, which came highly -- gave high recommendations to her for her skill and her leadership. She worked in two administrations on healthcare reform and finance. She was instrumental in helping to implement the Medicaid expansion, which I know some people here may not have liked, but many people have liked because it expanded healthcare to an additional 100,000 people. She is -- I understand the problems, and they're not going to change. What we told her at the committee is that the child protective system and the current pending lawsuit have to be at the top of the priority list, and we intend to follow through with that, as we have. It's been a difficult road, okay, but she has been -- she has on

many fronts helped enormously. And I would remind some of my colleagues that the Department of Health and Human Services has been a monumental problem for probably 50 years. I can go back to maybe the Longley Administration, Brennan, right up through, it has always been a continual monumental churn because it's such a large department, covering so many different issues. And this department had to rebuild after eight years of, frankly, being starved for resources in order to get things done. So, in the last supplemental budget, we approved a pay increase for the caseworkers, the number of vacancies in child protective caseworkers has come down, I'm confident based on her history, her experience, her deep Maine roots, her compassion and her intellect that she's going to help us move forward, and that's why I'm voting in favor of her nomination. Thank you.

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

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Sometimes, particularly being in the minority here, you can feel like the system is designed to more or less just be asking for some sort of rubber stamp. And it struck me this morning as I was going through the calendar and sitting in caucus, there was only -- and there's back and forths on a few of these nominees at the committee level, and ultimately, this is the only one that I wrote a question mark next to. And I still have it on my paper here, and I still, quite truly, don't know how I'm going to vote on this nomination. I appreciate it greatly that she joined us this morning in caucus and answered some questions. We could've probably spent days or weeks going back and forth on how things could improve or what you would do differently if you were in charge, but we simply don't have that luxury. I look at the situation in Maine right now. We have, without a doubt, a child welfare crisis, we have, without a doubt, still a substance abuse and mental health crisis, we have a nursing home and senior care crisis, we have a childcare crisis - all of which falls squarely in the purview of this Department. And leadership starts at the top. The Executive Branch, I think, has tried many different times, in many different ways over my tenure here to stymie the efforts of the Legislative Branch, the one that is closest to the people, the one that actually has to go home to these places where a nursing home has closed, a childcare center has closed, or God forbid, another child has died. It's not the Governor, it's us. And my hope is that with this confirmation today, and I'm under no illusion that she is not going to be confirmed today, I understand how this place works, that's one thing I've learned in the eight years that I've been here, and we can go back and forth around the constitutional dynamics at play here, Mr. President, but if you have a strong vote out of committee, as this nominee has, they're going to get confirmed unless two-thirds override. I don't see that happening here today, so I'm under no illusion that that's not going to happen. I do, however, ask - maybe plead is a better word - that as Ms. Gagne-Holmes takes the helm at this Department, that she does what she can do to break down this barrier between the Legislative Branch and the Executive Branch. It is catastrophic. It is catastrophic that this branch of government that is closest to the people, that has a constitutional duty to control the purse, and yet it's being talked at constantly by Commissioners and the Chief Executive, and it's got to change. That has to change particularly with this Department. I can't think of anywhere else in state government where the stakes are as high as they are here. When there are bipartisan efforts, some of

which you and I worked on together, Mr. President, at the end of the Second Session, and the Legislative Branch is being told what to do by the Executive Branch to the detriment of the people of the State of Maine, that is unacceptable. And I hope, I hope that we're at the end of those days. That her leadership will bring forward a new approach to government, to how things operate in this building and across the state with this department. I hope she considers perhaps doing things differently as it relates to just simple structure of this entity. We go round and round about this all the time. The Department is the biggest entity in the State of Maine. Why? Because it always has been that way? To my colleague's point from Bangor, that's unacceptable, too. Particularly with the outcomes that we're getting right now. All options should be on the table. Communication should be open and transparent and back and forth and it shouldn't be a one-way street, regardless of who's in control of the House or the Senate or the Blaine House. This stuff matters, it's very high stakes. When you're confirmed here, Ms. Gagne-Holmes, I wish you nothing but the best, and I sincerely mean that, because there's a lot of people counting on you. There's a lot of people counting you. And I don't know how it's going to go, I hope it's different, I guess I'm leaning more on that side of my colleague of Senator Bennett to give a chance here, but I really don't want to regret this vote. I don't want to be sitting here in a month knowing that another nursing home closed, and another child died. I don't want to regret this. That's my message today, knowing that -- the inevitability of things in this Chamber has kind of crept in. And I just pray that we can change course here, and I wish the nominee all the best in her leadership and this experience, and I pray that it goes well for the people of the State of Maine, because we're counting on you.

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

Senator **INGWERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, today I rise to offer my support of the nomination of Sara Gagne-Holmes for the position of Commissioner of the Maine Department of Health and Human Services. I won't go into the concerns, which I share and agree with that many of my Fellow Senators brought up today in the Chamber. I sat as a Member of the HHS Committee during the hearing and was able to hear directly from Ms. Gagne-Holmes and to learn more about who she is as a person, what her character is like, and why she is qualified to lead the State's largest department, and why she would want to. I'll just give you a brief summary. I think background matters, I think -- I think character and work ethic matters and is going to be particularly needed in this job, and also a sense of hardworking Mainers, everyday Mainers, and the struggle they go through with health and welfare in this state and the changes that are needed from the Department. I think through her youth and through her upbringing, she has developed a character that's going to be much needed in the next few years going forward in order to turn Health and Human Services around. Many of you have already heard about it, but I'm just going to talk a little bit about her upbringing near me in the town of Sanford. Her grandparents were born in the province of Quebec, and they immigrated to Sanford, Maine, to work in the mills. Her parents are first-generation Mainers and U.S. citizens. Her mother started working in the Sanford Mills as a bobbin girl after completing eighth grade to support her family, and years later, earned her high school diploma while she was raising her

two little ones. Her dad completed two tours of Korea and after coming home, he took over his father's grocery business in Sanford, despite a desire to complete and continue his military career. Ms. Gagne-Holmes shared with all of us in the committee that although her family was never well-to-do, her childhood was stable, full of caring adults, and her needs were met. Her parents' commitment and sacrifices on the behalf of their families and children fostered in her at a very early age an ethic to work hard and to strive to make a difference. She's since committed her career to doing that, and with the work we all know remains ahead for DHHS, I feel confident that she will lead the Department well. So, I would ask you to please join me in voting to confirm her. Thank you.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158 and with Joint Rule 506 of the 128<sup>th</sup> Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

#### ROLL CALL (#822)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, CHIPMAN, FARRIN, GUERIN, LYFORD, NANGLE, POULIOT, TIMBERLAKE

NAYS: Senators: BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BLACK, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSON, KEIM, LAFOUNTAIN, LIBBY, MOORE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

EXCUSED: Senators: BRAKEY, GROHOSKI, LAWRENCE

8 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 24 Senators having voted in the negative, with 3 Senators being excused, and 8 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 **Sara Gagné-Holmes** of Readfield for appointment as the Commissioner of the Department of Health and Human Services was **CONFIRMED**.

The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1185

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

October 9, 2024

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 Judiciary has had under consideration the nomination of Julia Greenleaf Pitney of Yarmouth, for appointment as a District Court Judge.

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

YEAS	Senators	2	Carney, A. of Cumberland, Keim, L. of Oxford
	Representatives	9	Moonen, M. of Portland, Beck, M. of South Portland, Haggan, D. of Hampden, Henderson, R. of Rumford, Kuhn, A. of Falmouth, Lee, A. of Auburn, Moriarty, S. of Cumberland, Poirier, J. of Skowhegan, Sheehan, E. of Biddeford
NAYS		0	
ABSENT		1	Sen. Bailey, D. of York

Rep. Dana of Passamaquoddy Tribe was absent.

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 Julia Greenleaf Pitney of Yarmouth, for appointment as a District Court Judge be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Anne Carney  
Senate Chair

S/Matt Moonen  
House Chair

#### READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158 and with Joint Rule 506 of the 128<sup>th</sup> Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

The Chair noted the absence of the Senator from Knox, Senator **BEEBE-CENTER**, and further excused the same Senators from today's Roll Call votes.

### ROLL CALL (#823)

YEAS: Senators: None

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BENNETT, BLACK, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, FARRIN, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSON, KEIM, LAFOUNTAIN, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

EXCUSED: Senators: BEEBE-CENTER, BRAKEY, GROHOSKI, LAWRENCE

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 31 Senators having voted in the negative, with 4 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 **Julia Greenleaf Pitney** of Yarmouth for appointment as a District Court Judge was **CONFIRMED**.

The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1186

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

October 9, 2024

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 Judiciary has had under consideration the nomination of Harris Mattson of Holden, for appointment as a District Court Judge.

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

YEAS	Senators	2	Carney, A. of Cumberland, Keim, L. of Oxford
	Representatives	9	Moonen, M. of Portland, Beck, M. of South Portland, Haggan, D. of Hampden, Henderson, R. of Rumford, Kuhn, A. of Falmouth, Lee, A. of Auburn, Moriarty, S. of Cumberland, Poirier, J. of Skowhegan, Sheehan, E. of Biddeford

NAYS 0

ABSENT 1 Sen. Bailey, D. of York

Rep. Dana of Passamaquoddy Tribe was absent.

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 Harris Mattson of Holden, for appointment as a District Court Judge be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Ane Carney  
Senate Chair

S/Matt Moonen  
House Chair

### READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158 and with Joint Rule 506 of the 128<sup>th</sup> Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

## ROLL CALL (#824)

YEAS:       Senators: None

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BENNETT, BLACK, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, FARRIN, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSON, KEIM, LAFOUNTAIN, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

EXCUSED: Senators: BEEBE-CENTER, BRAKEY, GROHOSKI,  
LAWRENCE

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 31 Senators having voted in the negative, with 4 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 **Harris Mattson** of Holden for appointment as a District Court Judge was **CONFIRMED**.

The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1187

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

October 9, 2024

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 Judiciary has had under consideration the nomination of the Honorable Peter Darwin of Portland, for reappointment as a District Court Judge.

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

YEAS	Senators	2	Carney, A. of Cumberland, Keim, L. of Oxford
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Representatives	8	Moonen, M. of Portland, Beck, M. of South Portland, Henderson, R. of Rumford, Kuhn, A. of Falmouth, Lee, A. of Auburn, Moriarty, S. of Cumberland, Poirier, J. of Skowhegan, Sheehan, E. of Biddeford
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NAYS	0
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ABSENT	2	Sen. Bailey, D. of York, Rep. Haggan, D. of Hampden
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Rep. Dana of Passamaquoddy Tribe was absent.

Ten members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of the Honorable Peter Darvin of Portland, for reappointment as a District Court Judge be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Anne Carney  
Senate Chair

S/Matt Moonen  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158 and with Joint Rule 506 of the 128<sup>th</sup> Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#825)**

YEAS:       Senators: None

NAYS:            Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BENNETT, BLACK,  
BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY,  
DAUGHTRY, DUSON, FARRIN, GUERIN,  
HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSON,  
KEIM, LAFOUNTAIN, LIBBY, LYFORD,  
MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, POULIOT,  
RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO,  
STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING,  
VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

EXCUSED: Senators: BEEBE-CENTER, BRAKEY, GROHOSKI,  
LAWRENCE

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 31 Senators having voted in the negative, with 4 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 the Honorable **Peter Darvin** of Portland for reappointment as a District Court Judge was **CONFIRMED**.

The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1188

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

October 9, 2024

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 Judiciary has had under consideration the nomination of the Honorable MaryGay Kennedy of Brunswick, for appointment as an Active Retired Justice of the Superior Court.

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

YEAS	Senators	2	Carney, A. of Cumberland, Keim, L. of Oxford
	Representatives	8	Moonen, M. of Portland, Beck, M. of South Portland, Henderson, R. of Rumford, Kuhn, A. of Falmouth, Lee, A. of Auburn, Moriarty, S. of Cumberland, Poirier, J. of Skowhegan, Sheehan, E. of Biddeford
NAYS		0	
ABSENT		2	Sen. Bailey, D. of York, Rep. Haggan, D. of Hampden

Rep. Dana of Passamaquoddy Tribe was absent.

Ten members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and zero in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of the Honorable MaryGay Kennedy of Brunswick, for appointment as an Active Retired Justice of the Superior Court be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Ane Carney  
Senate Chair House Chair

S/Matt Moonen

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158 and with Joint Rule 506 of the 128<sup>th</sup> Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#826)**

YEAS: Senators: None

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BENNETT, BLACK, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, FARRIN, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSON, KEIM, LAFOUNTAIN, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

EXCUSED: Senators: BEEBE-CENTER, BRAKEY, GROHOSKI, LAWRENCE

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 31 Senators having voted in the negative, with 4 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 the Honorable **MaryGay Kennedy** of Brunswick for appointment as an Active Retired Justice of the Superior Court was **CONFIRMED**.

The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1180

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

October 3, 2024

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



ROLL CALL (#827)

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 Nina A. Fisher of Farmingdale, for appointment to the Maine Turnpike Authority, Board of Directors.

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	Chipman, B. of Cumberland, Farrin, B. of Somerset, Nangle, T. of Cumberland
	Representatives	9	Crafts, L. of Newcastle, Albert, R. of Madawaska, Ankeles, D. of Brunswick, Mason, R. of Lisbon, O'Connell, K. of Brewer, Parry, W. of Arundel, Theriault, A. of Fort Kent, White, B. of Waterville, White, J. of Guilford
NAYS		0	
ABSENT		1	Rep. Eaton, H. of Deer Isle

Twelve 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 Nina A. Fisher of Farmingdale, for appointment the Maine Turnpike Authority, Board of Directors be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Ben Chipman  
Senate Chair

S/Lydia Crafts  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158 and with Joint Rule 506 of the 128<sup>th</sup> Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

YEAS: Senators: None

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BENNETT, BLACK, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, FARRIN, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSON, KEIM, LAFOUNTAIN, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

EXCUSED: Senators: BEEBE-CENTER, BRAKEY, GROHOSKI, LAWRENCE

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 31 Senators having voted in the negative, with 4 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 **Nina A. Fisher** of Farmingdale for appointment to the Maine Turnpike Authority, Board of Directors was **CONFIRMED**.

The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1179

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

September 30, 2024

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 Veterans and Legal Affairs has had under consideration the nomination of Beth Ahearn, Esq. of Freeport, for appointment to the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices.

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:

LEGISLATIVE RECORD - SENATE, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2024

YEAS	Senators	3	Hickman, C. of Kennebec, Brenner, S. of Cumberland, Timberlake, J. of Androscoggin
	Representatives	5	Supica, L. of Bangor, Collings, B. of Portland, Hymes, B. of Waldo, Malon, M. of Biddeford, Montell, K. of Gardiner
NAYS	Senators	0	
	Representatives	3	Boyer, D. of Poland, Perkins, C. of Dover-Foxcroft, Rudnicki, S. of Fairfield

No Senator having voted in the affirmative and 31 Senators having voted in the negative, with 4 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 **Beth Ahearn** of Freeport for appointment to the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices was **CONFIRMED**.

ABSENT	1	Rep. Rielly, M. of Westbrook
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Eight members of the Committee having voted in the affirmative and three in the negative, it was the vote of the Committee that the nomination of Beth Ahearn, Esq. of Freeport, for appointment to the Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices be confirmed.

Signed,

S/Craig V. Hickman  
Senate Chair

S/Laura Supica  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158 and with Joint Rule 506 of the 128<sup>th</sup> Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#828)**

YEAS:       Senators: None

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BENNETT, BLACK, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, FARRIN, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSON, KEIM, LAFOUNTAIN, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, VITELLI. PRESIDENT JACKSON

EXCUSED: Senators: BEEBE-CENTER, BRAKEY, GROHOSKI,  
LAWRENCE

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

## ORDERS

On motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, the following  
Senate Order:  
S.O. 30

**ORDERED**, that a message be sent to Governor Janet T. Mills informing her that the Senate has transacted all business before it and is ready to Adjourn Without Day.

**READ and 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.

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

Senator **RAFFERTY**: Thank you, Mr. President. I don't know whether this is -- I wish to speak on or off the record, but on the record would be more appropriate, I believe. In any case, it hit me earlier today when you said yeah, I'm here for the last time. So, I could not go without saying thank you, and I do mean that, even though you got me into this. But I just want to thank you for your leadership throughout the last four years, and for all that you have done for the State of Maine. I think that -- I know I am extremely grateful for what you've done, and I know there are many, many people across the state that have benefitted from your work and I just wanted to recognize that and thank you.

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

Senator **CHIPMAN**: Thank you, Mr. President. As many of you know, this is my final day here due to term limits, I'm finishing up my last term here in the Senate, so I just wanted to share a few parting words. I'll keep these brief. I wanted to thank you for your service. It's been an honor to serve with you over the last eight years here in the Senate, and before that when I was in the House, and you were in the Senate. Thank Senator Vitelli for her time here as well and thank Senator Keim who's also up against term limits, it's been an honor to work with you, as well as Senator Pouliot and Senator Brakey, who's not with us today, who are choosing not to run and will not be returning. It's been an amazing 14 years, serving three terms in the House, four terms in the Senate, a lot to be grateful for. First and foremost, I'd like to be grateful -- share my gratefulness to my parents, my mother and my father, who were here to see me get sworn in back in 2010 in the House, they're both divorced, they got remarried but they came together to see me get sworn in. My mother's here today on my final day. For those of you who haven't had a chance to meet her, she's by the door, if you'd like to say hi on your way out. She's here, my father couldn't be here. But I'm grateful for all the relationships I've built with all of you, all of the work we've done together over the years, grateful to the staff who I don't think get thanked enough for their service and their work to help us all be successful, so thank all of you and the work that you do behind the scenes. And also wanted to thank all the constituents, the voters of Portland, for putting their trust in me and electing me for the last 14 years to come here and represent them and work day in and day out for them. So, thank you to everyone, it's been a real honor, and I will come back and visit from time to time, but thank you for all that you do, it's been a great time to serve with you. Thank you.

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

Senator **POULIOT**: Thank you, Mr. President. Today is also my last day in this Body and in the Legislature, and it's not due to term limits, but it's due to the little guy that some of you saw me carrying around earlier. He sleeps better during the day than he does at night right now, but he'll get there. You know, Mr. President, when I started this job down in the House, I was 25 years old when I got sworn in to the House of Representative. Senator Matty Daughtry and I started at the same time and the Press Herald wrote a story about the Tale of Two Matts, and I always joke with her that she picked the right party to get more done over this time. But it's been one heck of a great journey. And, you know, I was just remarking to Senator Brenner how over the last 12 years I've kind of seen the partisanship and the vitriol kind of pick up a bit more, and I'm hopeful, as Senator Bennett mentioned earlier when we were talking during the confirmations, that when you all come back next legislative session, there might be, you know, some more focus on collaboration and working together because I believe in all of you, and so don't the people of Maine. You know, they entrust us to do this work, which is an extraordinary responsibility, and I think sometimes when you're in kind of the mix of it and things are kind of going on, it's hard to realize just how much people are in awe of what happens here and what goes on. I mean, there's a group here visiting today for a fall foliage tour and they're like oh, my God, Maine is so beautiful, this is amazing, you know? And we're in here like at war with each other, you know? And I think -- not today, thankfully, but, you know, at times. So, I just would encourage

you all to remember that we -- we're counting on you to work together and make sound decisions to the best interests of all Maine people. And I'm not far away, you'll probably see me poking around here a little bit. I've got to put a little plug in, I hope that you'll all continue the Housing Committee as a standalone committee next session, it's such a core issue and I'm not just saying that as a real estate agent, I mean, so many Maine people are struggling, so much of their money is going toward paying for housing costs and it's really holding a lot of people back. So, I hope you guys can all join together and advance that in the next legislative session. I'll be praying for you, rooting for you, and I look forward to seeing you all around. And Mr. President, thank you for your work as the leader of this Chamber. The day that I got sworn into the Senate, you gave a great speech, and you talked about that river up in the Allagash, and how, you know, just looking across that river, there's one country here and one over there with a whole bunch of different rules and laws and everything, you know, but we're united by that river that runs through. And I wish you all the best, as you go back up to the County, I'm sure it's not the last we'll see of you, either, but I wish you all the best in all that you do and thank you for your leadership in this Chamber.

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

Senator **DAUGHTRY**: Thank you, Mr. President, Men and Women of the Senate. We did have on our last session I think I got to say most of my piece about the amazing people we have served with, but I would be remiss on this last day if I didn't just give one more shoutout to not only my leadership team, I have been so honored to serve with these two individuals and I'm going to miss them so, so much, and I am so grateful to have learned from you both for four years. But I also want to give a shoutout to our leadership team on the other side of the aisle. It's been an honor and a privilege to work with Senator Stewart and Senator Keim, and as we sort of turn off the light on the 131st Maine Legislature, I also want to thank all of you. It's always a privilege, and I know it's always anxious in these times, but I'm so glad we were able to do this together.

**THE PRESIDENT**: Seeing no further announcements, as I look across the Chamber, and Senator Daughtry just said it, Senator Keim will be leaving because of term limits, Senator Vitelli, Senator Chipman, Senator Pouliot who is leaving to pursue family and Senator Brakey, Senator Lyford and Senator LaFontaine all won't be back, and I just want to say to all of you, I have enjoyed very much serving with you throughout the time. And for the rest of you, hopefully, you know, everything goes well in your elections, and I do hope, as Senator Pouliot has said, that you're able to come back and do great things for the State of Maine. Actually, I expect that and believe that will happen. I do want to thank Senator Pouliot, I think that's twice now that he's given very nice remarks to me at the end of sessions, and I appreciate that. I appreciate all of it. I will miss this, but like you said, I'll certainly try and stop in and if I can help, that'd be great, if you'd take my advice, that'd be wonderful. And it was said, too, with the staff, everyone -- you know, this morning was a perfect example of people working really, really hard to make this Chamber work and operate and I just get to stand up here and look pretty. But I also want to thank both the Assistant Secretary and Secretary Grant for, I mean, the count -- well all of them, but the countless,

countless hours that they put in getting the scripts ready and getting everything ready. It has been an incredible experience, and I am, like I said, very, very honored to get to work and know all of you. So, with that, it looks like we're going to shut down, and God be with all of you.

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On motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, the Honorable **TROY D. JACKSON**, President of the Senate, declared the First Confirmation Session of the 131<sup>st</sup> Legislature **ADJOURNED SINE DIE** at 12:45 in the afternoon.