

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

In Senate Chamber
Thursday
February 1, 2024

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

Prayer by Father Chad Williams of St. Alexander Nevsky Church in Richmond.

FATHER CHAD WILLIAMS: My brothers and sisters, you all who are ministering to the needs of our society and to the needs of one another, a couple of words from an ancient Chinese philosopher that we may be familiar with to some degree, Lao Tzu. He is purported to write these words.

The nameless is the origin of heaven and earth, the named is the mother of all things. If then there is a single origin of heaven and earth, and a mother of all things, we are inextricably connected to one another. Saint Macarius of Egypt, a fourth century Christian personality and ascetic, widely acclaimed and revered, is quoted as saying this. Sometimes the greatest distance on earth is the distance between the mind and the heart. If the heart is the seat of the soul, which it is said to be, and the throne of the originator of all things of heaven and earth, which it is said to be, we'd do well to guard our mind, that fabulous human instrument, with our hearts. And with the knowledge that everything we do and think and feel makes its impact on those around us and on the world, for we are all interconnected and related to one another and all creation. With this in mind, I ask you to incline your hearts at this moment to this prayer. Oh, heavenly king, comfort our spirits of truth who art everywhere present and fillest all things, giver of life, come and abide in each of us and guide this congregation in the doing of the great task of ministering to the needs of the people in this state. Amen. May God's blessing be upon each of you as you struggle with yourselves and one another for the benefit of the people of Maine and for the entirety of all things in heaven and earth. God bless you all.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator Bradlee T. Farrin of Somerset County.

Reading of the Journal of Tuesday, January 30, 2024.

Off Record Remarks

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

Off Record Remarks

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

ORDERS

Joint Orders

Expressions of Legislative Sentiment recognizing:

Morgan Thibodeau, of Carrabassett Valley, a student at Mt. Abram High School, who has been named the Sun Journal 2023 All-Region Boys Soccer Player of the Year. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;
SLS 1278

Sponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin
Cosponsored by Representative SOBOLESKI of Phillips.

Darren Allen, of Avon, boys soccer coach at Mt. Abram High School, who was named National Coach of the Year for Small Public Schools by United Soccer Coaches. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;
SLS 1361

Sponsored by Senator BLACK of Franklin.
Cosponsored by Senator: KEIM of Oxford, Representative: HALL of Wilton.

The Joint Orders were **READ**.

The **PRESIDENT:** The Chair recognizes the Senator from Franklin, Senator Black.

Senator **BLACK:** Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. It is my pleasure to be standing before you today to commemorate and to share some reflections on a host of team and individual accomplishments that have emerged from Mt. Abram High School 2023 Boys Soccer Team. Frankly, it might be easier just to list the things that weren't accomplished, but we'll stick to the basics for now. With their 1-0 victory over George Stevens Academy on November 11th, they capped off a perfect 18-0 season and secured the first Class C State team in the team's history -- state title. What's more is that they held their opponents across the entire season - and you heard that right - to just three goals in total; nothing short of a remarkable season, gentlemen. Excellence defined. A cornerstone of the efforts of this squad was undeniably Mr. Morgan Thibodeau, who received his own sentiment celebrating his selection as the MVC Player of the Year. Also worth noting is his selection for the Maine Soccer Coaches Association All State team. He scored a stunning 30 goals throughout the season, while assisting on 13 others,

helping to put the season wide three-goal stat on a defensive end into perspective that much more and scoring the lone deciding goal in the state championship game. That said, perhaps most noteworthy is how he embodies their one team motto in a steadfast commitment to the team's success above all else. Coach Darren Allen was quoted at one point of saying that Morgan is a tremendous leader; however, he also is an unselfish player. Morgan, congratulations on everything, and allow me to commend you for the example you have set for your community. Last, but certainly not least, is the coach himself. Just recently, Darren Allen was recognized as the Small Public School National Coach of the Year by United States Soccer Coaches. This is a truly incredible feat that is -- almost can't be overstated and that he can look back on with fond memories for a lifetime. There is no question that this team is filled top to bottom with young men who have exceptional talent, work ethic, and character. But I would dare to say that it was Darren's coaching that helped to bring out all these ingredients together and hone those qualities in such a way that it brings out maximum success. I tip my cap to Darren for the incredible investment he puts into his players and the team-oriented culture that he fosters. Mt. Abram is lucky to have him, and once more, I congratulate him and the entire squad for their historic season.

The Joint Orders were **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is very pleased to recognize up in the gallery Darren Allen, who was named the National Coach of the Year, Morgan Thibodeau who was named the Sun Journal All-Region Boys Soccer Player of the Year, and the entire Mt. Abram Regional High School Boys Soccer Team of Salem Township, who together won the Class C State Championship. Would they all please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate.

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, on motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, the following Joint Order: S.P. 941

Ordered, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 10:00 in the morning, or until the call of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, respectively.

READ and PASSED.

Ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

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

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (1/16/24) matters:

JOINT ORDER - Expression of Legislative Sentiment Recognizing the Madison Area Memorial High School Girls Soccer Team, which won the Maine High School 8 Person Girls State Championship. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;
SLS 1334

Tabled - January 16, 2024 by Senator **KEIM** of Oxford

Pending - **PASSAGE**

(In Senate, **READ**)

JOINT ORDER - Expression of Legislative Sentiment Recognizing Kayla Carrier, of Madison, who was named Coach of the Year for 8 Person South Region by the Maine Principals' Association. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;
SLS 1335

Tabled - January 16, 2024 by Senator **KEIM** of Oxford

Pending - **PASSAGE**

(In Senate, **READ**)

JOINT ORDER - Expression of Legislative Sentiment Recognizing Raegan Cowan, of Madison, who was named Player of the Year for 8 Person South Region by the Maine Principals' Association. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;
SLS 1336

Tabled - January 16, 2024 by Senator **KEIM** of Oxford

Pending - **PASSAGE**

(In Senate, **READ**)

The Joint Orders were **READ**.

The **PRESIDENT:** The Chair recognizes the Senator from Somerset, Senator Farrin.

Senator **FARRIN:** Thank you, Mr. President, and distinguished colleagues. I rise today to let everyone know we have a unique group of girls in the Chamber today. They're history makers. The Madison Bulldogs beat Penquis Valley 3-1 to become Maine's first girls eight-person state soccer championship team. Obviously, that makes this the first state championship in program history. The headline that appeared in the Kennebec Journal and the Morning Sentinel says it all, the Madison Area High School Girls Soccer Team has made history. Over the years, we have recognized many state championships in this Chamber, and every time we do, it always feels special, and today is no different. There is only one state championship crowned. To be crowned the champion is a result of hard work, it is a result of dedication, it is a testament to the devotion and commitment of these young ladies. Their head coach Carrier and her coaching staff and their school all deserve recognition. I asked them this morning what was the most challenging part of the journey.

Unfortunately, sad to say, the game was postponed because our state was still reeling from the tragedy in Lewiston. It was played a week later, played on a cold, dark evening, they were behind one to nothing and came back in stellar form to win 3-1. I quote from that same story, Madison has a very solid squad, that offense is nothing to mess with, their opponent's head coach said after the game. I'm proud of what these young ladies have accomplished, and it is my pleasure to recognize them here today. And with only three seniors on the team, I extend an invitation to join us again next year. I also want to point out although we all know every team member contributes to success, Raegan Cowan has been named Player of the Year for Eight-Person South by the Maine Principal Association as a junior, and Coach Carrier was named Coach of the Year for Eight-Person South Region by the Maine Principal's Association. So, I want to extend a hearty congratulations, welcome to the State House, enjoy the day today, and we'll see you again next year. Thank you, Mr. President.

The Joint Orders were **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is very pleased to recognize in the rear of the chamber the Madison Area Memorial High School Girls Soccer Team with their coach, Kayla Carrier of the town of Madison. They are the guests today of the Senator from Somerset, Senator Farrin and the entire Maine Senate. Would they please rise and accept the congratulations of the Maine Senate.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

House Paper

Resolve, to Authorize the Chief Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court to Arrange the Constitution of Maine to Incorporate Amendments Approved at the November 2023 Referendum (EMERGENCY)
H.P. 1407 L.D. 2196

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

Comes from the House, under suspension of the Rules, **READ TWICE** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**, without reference to a Committee.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ TWICE** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**, without reference to a Committee, in concurrence.

Ordered sent forthwith.

Joint Resolution

(1-4) The following Joint Resolution:
H.P. 1406

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING JANUARY 2024 AS FIREFIGHTER CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

WHEREAS, firefighters serve their communities by putting residents' safety above their own; and

WHEREAS, firefighters often work in a toxic environment of smoke, soot and other carcinogens; and

WHEREAS, according to research, firefighters have a 9% greater chance of being diagnosed with cancer and a 14% greater chance of dying from cancer than the general population; and

WHEREAS, occupational cancer is a leading cause of line-of-duty deaths in firefighters and has reached epidemic levels; and

WHEREAS, studies have found a direct correlation between the chemical exposures firefighters experience on the job and an increased risk of cancer for those firefighters; and

WHEREAS, all 50 states recognize cancer as a presumptive workers' compensation claim for firefighters; and

WHEREAS, early detection of cancer through routine screening leads to earlier treatment and better disease outcomes, including improved survival and reduced morbidity; and

WHEREAS, the International Association of Fire Fighters and the Firefighter Cancer Support Network have declared January as Fire Fighter Cancer Awareness Month; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize January 2024 as Firefighter Cancer Awareness Month, and we encourage fire departments across the State to participate in the activities of the International Association of Fire Fighters and the Firefighter Cancer Support Network.

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

READ and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: S.C. 859

STATE OF MAINE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

January 31, 2024

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

State House
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

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

L.D. 306 An Act Related to Water

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Stacy Fielding Brenner
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Lori K. Gramlich
House Chair

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 850

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

January 30, 2024

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

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

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

L.D. 321 An Act to Create a Bill of Rights for Temporary Workers

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Michael Tipping
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Amy Jean Roeder
House Chair

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 851

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

January 30, 2024

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

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

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

L.D. 322 An Act to Improve the Unemployment Insurance System

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Michael Tipping
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Amy Jean Roeder
House Chair

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 852

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

January 30, 2024

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

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

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

L.D. 324 An Act to Prevent the Wrongful Firing of Maine Workers

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Michael Tipping

Senate Chair

S/Rep. Amy Jean Roeder
House Chair

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 853

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

January 30, 2024

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

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

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

L.D. 926 An Act to Improve Maine Public Employees Retirement System Representation

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Michael Tipping
Senate Chair

S/Rep. Amy Roeder
House Chair

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 860

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

January 29, 2024

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

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

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

L.D. 19 An Act to Authorize the National Institute of Funeral Service to Grant Associate Degrees (EMERGENCY)

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Joseph E. Rafferty
Senate Chair House Chair

S/Rep. Michael F. Brennan

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 855

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY**

January 29, 2024

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

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

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

L.D. 2127 An Act to Increase the Number of Commissioners on the Public Utilities Commission

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Mark W. Lawrence
Senate Chair House Chair

S/Rep. S. Paige Zeigler

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 857

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE**

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

State House
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

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

An Act to Establish Maximum Contaminant Levels Under the State's Drinking Water Rules to Prohibit Certain Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances

L.D. 619 An Act to Ensure Coordination of Care for MaineCare Members

L.D. 825 An Act Relating to Transportation Services for MaineCare Members with Multiple Disabilities

L.D. 1114 An Act to Eliminate the Annual Medical Eligibility Determinations of Need for Families of Children with Disabilities

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Joseph M. Baldacci S/Rep. Michele Meyer
Senate Chair House Chair

READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 854

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

January 26, 2024

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

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

L.D. 1716 An Act to Establish a Repairability Index for Consumer Electronic Products

This is notification of the Committee's action.

January 29, 2024

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

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross: L.D. 75

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

L.D. 251 Resolve, to Classify Employee Health Insurance as a Fixed Cost for MaineCare Reimbursement in Nursing Facilities

L.D. 744 Resolve, to Direct the Department of Health and Human Services to Perform Rate Studies and Rate Determinations for Providers of Certain Services for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities or Autism Spectrum Disorder

L.D. 821 Resolve, to Improve Access to Neurobehavioral Services

L.D. 1224 Resolve, Directing the Department of Health and Human Services to Seek Federal Approval for Reimbursement of Community-based Mobile Crisis Intervention Services

L.D. 1995 An Act to Bolster Maine's Workforce and Economy by Increasing Assistance for Parents Pursuing Education and Employment and by Indexing Unemployment Benefits to the Unemployment Rate

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Joseph M. Baldacci S/Rep. Michele Meyer
Senate Chair House Chair

READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 858

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

January 29, 2024

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

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Chip Curry
Roberts
Senate Chair House Chair

S/Rep. Tiffany Danielle

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 856

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

January 26, 2024

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

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

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

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| L.D. 1763 | An Act Regarding Trustee Duties to Beneficiaries |
| L.D. 2159 | An Act to Protect the Confidentiality of Attorney-Client E-mail Communications for Residents of Jails and Correctional Facilities |

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Anne Carney
Senate Chair House Chair

S/Rep. Matt Moonen

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 846

**STATE OF MAINE
CONNECTME AUTHORITY**

January 22, 2024

Honorable Troy D. Jackson
President of the Senate
3 State House Station

Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A., Section 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required report from the Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority due by February 1, 2024.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

S/Mr. James Cohen
Chairman Executive Director

S/Ms. Patricia Quinn

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 847

**MIDCOAST REGIONAL
REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

January 22, 2024

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

The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Mr. President and Madame Speaker:

Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A., Section 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required report from the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority.

MRRA was created in 2006 by the Maine Legislature (5 MRSA §13083-G) as a municipal corporation charged with the responsibility to implement the reuse master plans for Naval Air Station Brunswick (NAS Brunswick) and the Topsham Annex, which closed as a result of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process.

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

Sincerely,

S/Jeffrey K. Jordan

Deputy Director

Regarding Quasi-Independent State
Entities

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

Dear Senate President Jackson,

Enclosed are the reports required under 5 M.R.S.A. §12023, due February 1, 2024. The reports include: a list of all procurements in 2023 exceeding \$10,000 for which competitive procurement was waived; a list of contributions made in 2023 that exceed \$1,000. Section 12023(2c) requires a description of changes to the written policies and procedures required by Section 12022. There were no changes to the policies and procedures required by this section in 2022, therefore, there is nothing to report.

In 2023, the Maine Turnpike Authority made over \$120 million in payments to approximately 700 vendors. The vast majority of these payments, approximately \$101 million, were for competitively bid products or services or were legally or legislatively required. The Authority sole-sourced approximately \$18.7 million in 2023. Most of these products or services were either proprietary in nature or were procured under long-term contracts. As these long-term contracts expire, the Authority will seek competitive bids.

Respectfully,

S/Peter Mills
Executive Director

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 848

**MAINE MUNICIPAL AND RURAL
ELECTRIFICATION COOPERATIVE AGENCY**

January 26, 2024

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

Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Ross:

Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A., Section 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required report from the Maine Municipal and Rural Electrification Cooperative Agency due by February 1, 2024.

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

Thank you.

Sincerely,

S/Scott M. Hallowell
MMRECA

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 861

MAINE TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE

January 31, 2024

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

The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

Pursuant to 5 M.R.S.A., Section 12023, please consider this the letter of transmittal for the required report from the Maine Technology Institute (MTI) due by February 1, 2024.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information.
Thank you.

Sincerely,

The Following Communication: S.C. 849

MAINE TURNPIKE AUTHORITY

January 26, 2024

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

Re: An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the
Office of Program Evaluation and
Government Accountability and the
Government Oversight Committee

S/Brian Whitney
President

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

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act to Ensure Subsidy Reimbursements and Emergency Financial Assistance for Certain Child Care Providers"
S.P. 935 L.D. 2199

Presented by President JACKSON of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland and Senators: BALDACCI of Penobscot, DAUGHTRY of Cumberland, INGWERSEN of York, MOORE of Washington, VITELLI of Sagadahoc, Representatives: CRAVEN of Lewiston, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth.
Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Resolve, to Attract and Retain Behavioral Health Clinicians
S.P. 936 L.D. 2200

Presented by Senator STEWART of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Senator: BENNETT of Oxford.
Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act Regarding the Approval for the Placement of Portable Toilets"
S.P. 938 L.D. 2201

Presented by Senator LIBBY of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Representative: LANIGAN of Sanford.
Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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

On motion by Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Resolve, to Allow Ireland Farms, Inc. to Sue the State
S.P. 939 L.D. 2202

Presented by Senator STEWART of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Senator: President JACKSON of Aroostook, Representatives: ARDELL of Monticello, BABIN of Fort Fairfield, GUERRETTE of Caribou, QUINT of Hodgdon, SWALLOW of Houlton, UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle.
Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

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

ORDERS

Joint Order

On motion by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford, the following Joint Order:
S.P. 937

ORDERED, the House concurring, that a proposed committee amendment by the sponsor of a bill or resolve prepared as a concept draft pursuant to Joint Rule 208 and printed as an L.D. must be filed by the sponsor of that L.D. and posted online on the Legislature's website at least one business day before the committee hearing on that L.D.

READ

On motion by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **PASSAGE**.

Joint Resolution

On motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook (Cosponsored by Representative GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach), the following Joint Resolution:
S.P. 940

JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 2024 AS 211 MAINE MONTH

WHEREAS, 211 Maine is a Maine-based health and human services and emergency preparedness and response helpline that provides Maine people free and confidential referrals to needed resources; and

WHEREAS, 211 Maine provides around-the-clock service statewide, offering efficient and effective responses to questions arising from the growing complexities in health, financial and human services and the needs of Maine people from people

employed in Maine, including interpreters for multilanguage users; and

WHEREAS, since 2006, 211 Maine call specialists have assisted with requests for information regarding topics ranging from substance use and recovery services to housing support and food resources, and in 2023 fielded over 77,000 calls, text messages and e-mails from people looking for help for themselves or someone they know; and

WHEREAS, 211 Maine provides emergency operations support during times of natural and other disasters, including assisting the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Emergency Management Agency by fielding calls from those affected by windstorms and floods, collecting data regarding incidence severity and locations of need and directing people to local warming shelters and cooling centers; and

WHEREAS, during this past year, 211 Maine provided over 11,000 referrals for heating and utility assistance services, helping individuals find appropriate assistance programs, which may have prevented their contacting the wrong agency for heating assistance, prevented utility shut-offs and saved people from spending winter nights without fuel; and

WHEREAS, 211 Maine handles a number of specialized services and partnerships, including serving as the centralized access point for the Help Me Grow Maine program, which helps families with children from birth to 8 years of age to access needed services, providing the opiate helpline and the gambling helpline and serving as a resource for finding information about needs such as tax preparation, mental health services and browntail moth caterpillar prevention, mitigation and treatment; and

WHEREAS, 211 Maine provides a powerful example of how the government and nonprofit and private sectors can work together to improve the quality of life of the people of Maine; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize February 2024 as 211 Maine Month.

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

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

Senator **STEWART**: Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I rise to just share a few brief words about 211 and the good work that they're doing. I do this every year to hopefully remind all of you in the Chamber of what a great resource they can be for you as legislators and, more importantly, to people that you represent back home, as you can see. And the reason why I enjoy getting the updates each year and having the secretary actually read the order into the record is so that all of you can get a quick update and pause from your busy days to see exactly what it is that they do, and what they can do for you and your constituents. It really is a great resource, a one-stop shop for just about any sort of issue that you're running into or, more importantly, the folks that you're representing might run into. You

know, as you heard, everything from helping to locate interpreters to dealing with substance misuse and addiction and other problems that folks might have. And so, I encourage you to use them. I encourage you to lean in on that resource. Nikki is here, she does wonderful work and has done over the years, I'm sure you all know her by now, but want to just thank those folks over there and through the United Way and all the great work that's happening with that organization on behalf of the people of the State of Maine. So, as we head into February, hard to believe we're already here, but the first day of February, we like to pause and just recognize what's happening over there, the ways that you can better utilize that resource, and hopefully connect your constituents as well, and I'm sure that they would be more than happy to assist you in that as well, so please don't hesitate to reach out to them and talk and engage. And thank you very much, Mr. President, for the opportunity, and thanks again to the folks at 211 and the United Way for all the good work they're doing.

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

Senator **VITELLI**: Thank you, Mr. President, Men and Women of the Senate. I want to thank my colleague for bringing this to our attention once again and join in saying a few things about the life-changing services that 211 provides our citizens. Particularly, it's been on my mind this last several months during all of these storms that have devastated communities in my district and actually across the state. My constituents have lost their power, their businesses, their homes. Some have lost the stability and security that usually anchors their lives, and my heart is certainly with them as they try to recover. In the aftermath of these natural disasters, I've been deeply impressed with the generosity and the support between families, communities, neighbors, strangers - that is who we are as Mainers. Sometimes, though, we can't do it alone, and so, while I know that Mainers are proud, resilient, and resourceful, I want to offer all of us a gentle reminder, it's okay to ask for help. It is okay to ask for help, and 211 is there to provide help in all kinds of different situations, whether it's basic needs, food, housing. Please make sure all of your constituents, your family, your friends, know about the resource the 211 is for our state. We're fortunate that it's here and that it's available to bring us all together with the resources that we need as we recover from this or whatever else comes our way. Thank you, Mr. President.

The Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the chamber Nikki Williams and the members of United Way. Would they please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Ought to Pass

The Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** on Bill "An Act to Update Air Quality Health Warnings"
H.P. 1306 L.D. 2044

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

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

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

The Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** on Bill "An Act Regarding Processing of Applications Under the Natural Resources Protection Act to Ensure Consistency with Shoreland Zoning Laws"
H.P. 1321 L.D. 2059

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

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

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

The Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Expand Accreditation Options for Laboratories That Conduct Blood-alcohol or Drug Testing"
H.P. 1312 L.D. 2050

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

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

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Ought to Pass As Amended

The Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** on Resolve, Authorizing the Director of the Bureau of Parks and Lands to Convey Peacock Beach State Park to the Town of Richmond
H.P. 1323 L.D. 2061

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-733)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-733)**.

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

Resolve **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-733) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** on Bill "An Act to Provide an Opportunity for Resentencing for Individuals Who Were Sentenced for Crimes Committed as Juveniles"
H.P. 873 L.D. 1359

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

Signed:

Senator:
HARRINGTON of York

Representatives:
SALISBURY of Westbrook
ARDELL of Monticello
LAJOIE of Lewiston
NEWMAN of Belgrade
NUTTING of Oakland
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-730)**.

Signed:

Senator:

BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representatives:

HASENFUS of Readfield

LOOKNER of Portland

MATHIESON of Kittery

MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

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

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **BEEBE-CENTER** of Knox, Majority
OUGHT NOT TO PASS Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act to
Update the Laws Governing Electronic Device Information as
Evidence"
H.P. 1021 L.D. 1576

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by**
Committee Amendment "A" (H-732).

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland

BAILEY of York

BRAKEY of Androscoggin

Representatives:

MOONEN of Portland

ANDREWS of Paris

KUHN of Falmouth

LEE of Auburn

MORIARTY of Cumberland

SHEEHAN of Biddeford

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

Signed:

Representatives:

HAGGAN of Hampden

HENDERSON of Rumford

POIRIER of Skowhegan

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS**
AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-732) Report
READ and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE**
ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT
"A" (H-732).

Reports **READ**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-732) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in
concurrence.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE
DAY.

Senate

Ought to Pass

Senator BRENNER for the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND**
NATURAL RESOURCES on Bill "An Act to Clarify the Laws
Regarding Pharmaceutical Product Stewardship"
S.P. 849 L.D. 2021

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

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE
DAY.

Senator BRENNER for the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND**
NATURAL RESOURCES on Bill "An Act to Address Identified
Gaps in the Laws Governing Erosion Control and the Natural
Resources Protection Act"
S.P. 862 L.D. 2034

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

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE
DAY.

Senator BAILEY for the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE,**
INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES on Bill "An Act to
Make Technical Updates to the Maine Uniform Securities Act"
S.P. 848 L.D. 2020

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

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

SECOND READERS

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

Senate

Bill "An Act to Align the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program with Federal Regulations"
S.P. 865 L.D. 2037

READ A SECOND TIME and PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED.

Sent down for concurrence.

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

Off Record Remarks

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

Senator **DUSON**: Thank you, Mr. President, Members of the Maine Senate. I rise today to offer comments in acknowledgment of the first day of Black History Month. Let's begin with a spotlight on the history of the celebration itself. The story of Black History Month begins in Chicago during the summer of 1915. Dr. Carter G. Woodson traveled from Washington DC to Chicago to participate in a national celebration of the 50th anniversary of emancipation sponsored by the State of Illinois. Later that year, Woodson helped co-found the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. In 1920, Dr. Woodson urged black civic organizations to promote the research being uncovered by black scholars in the Journal of Negro History, and in 1924, they responded with the creation of Negro History and Literature Week. Negro History Week was celebrated in the second week of February because it involved -- it includes the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. Dr. Woodson and fellow historians believed that the celebration of black history should expand beyond these two men and focus on the countless black men and women who contributed to the advance of human civilization. He commented that Lincoln alone did not free the slaves, that was the work of the Union Army, including hundreds of thousands of black soldiers and sailors. Those soldiers included David Luth, who served in Company D of the 24th Regiment of the United States Colored Troops, my fourth great-grandfather, and William Albert Burton, Sr., who served in the 26th regiment of the United States Colored Troops. William Burton was my third great-grandfather. In 1975, President Ford was the first president to issue a message urging Americans to

recognize what was then Black History Week. The following year, the week was expanded to a month-long observation, and in '86, Congress passed the law designating February of 1986 as National Black History Month. Dr. Carter Woodson's life work and the mission of the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History since its founding in 1915 represent a living testimony to the continual study of African American history. Each year, the association sets a theme for Black History Month, and this year's theme is African Americans and the Arts. Throughout this month, I'll do my best to spotlight a brief story about African Americans who have contributed to our shared history in Maine and throughout the nation. Many of the individuals we highlight will be black Americans in history with ties to Maine. One of the key sources for this spotlight will be drawn from our family copy of Maine's Visible Black History, an anthology authored by our own Gerald E. Talbot, whom we continue to honor as the first black elected member of the Maine State Legislature. Thank you very much.

Off Record Remarks

On motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, **ADJOURNED**, pursuant to the Joint Order, until Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 10:00 in the morning, or until the call of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House.