

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

In Senate Chamber
Thursday
February 29, 2024

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

Prayer by Senator Jill C. Duson of Cumberland County.

SENATOR DUSON: Thank you. I'm offering a prayer written by Langston Hughes, I Dream a World.
I dream a world where man no other man will scorn, where love will bless the earth and peace its paths adorn. I dream a world where all will know sweet freedom's way, where greed no longer saps the soul nor avarice blights our day. A world I dream where black or white, whatever race you be, will share the bounties of the earth and every man is free. Where wretchedness will hang its head and joy, like a pearl, attends the needs of all mankind. Of such I dream, my world.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator Henry L. Ingwersen of York County.

Reading of the Journal of Wednesday, February 28, 2024.

Medical Provider of the Day, Robert Rousseau PA-C of Sidney.

Off Record Remarks

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, on motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, the following Joint Order:
S.P. 961

Ordered, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, March 5, 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.

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.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: S.C. 961

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

February 26, 2024
The Honorable Troy Jackson
President of the Senate

The Honorable Rachel Talbot Ross
Speaker of the House of Representatives

131st Legislature
State House
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross:

Please accept this letter as the report of the findings of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing from its review and evaluation of the Maine State Housing Authority (MaineHousing) under the State Government Evaluation Act, Title 3 Maine Revised Statutes, chapter 35.

Pursuant to the requirements of the Act, the committee notified the Maine State Housing Authority by letter dated April 20, 2023 of its intent to conduct a review. MaineHousing submitted its program evaluation report on November 1, 2023.

The committee has reviewed the report and unanimously finds that the Maine State Housing Authority is operating within its statutory authority.

Additionally, the committee discussed the relationship between MaineHousing and the Legislature. MaineHousing is a quasi-independent entity governed by a Board of Directors but is subject to funding, policy decisions, directives and review by the Legislature. Committee members acknowledged there is no executive branch "Department of Housing" and wonder how this effects policy outcomes and products generated by MaineHousing. The Committee discussed that perhaps a future Legislature may want to examine the structure of MaineHousing and what changes may be necessary to meet the State's housing demand.

The Committee appreciates and welcomes additional thoughts on oversight from both the Legislature and the Executive Branch on

different mechanisms of oversight especially as it pertains to program development.

Sincerely,

S/Mike Tipping
Senate Chair

S/Amy Roeder
House Chair

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 962

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

February 28, 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 The Honorable Chandler Woodcock of Farmington, for appointment 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	2	Ingwersen, H. of York, Black, R. of Franklin
	Representatives	10	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, Jauch, R. of Topsham, Osher, L. of Orono, Shaw, K. of Auburn
NAYS		0	
ABSENT		1	Sen. Hickman, C. of Kennebec

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 The Honorable Chandler Woodcock of Farmington,

for appointment 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?"

The Chair noted the absence of the Senator from Cumberland, Senator **DAUGHTRY**, the Senator from Somerset, Senator **FARRIN**, the Senator from Kennebec, Senator **POULIOT**, and the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator **TIMBERLAKE**, and further excused the same Senators from today's Roll Call votes.

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 131st Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#565)

YEAS: Senators: None

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

EXCUSED: Senators: DAUGHTRY, FARRIN, POULIOT, TIMBERLAKE

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 **Chandler Woodcock** of Farmington, for appointment to the State Harness Racing Commission was **CONFIRMED**.

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

The Following Communication: H.P. 1436

**STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0148**

February 27, 2024

Honorable Robert B. Hunt
Clerk of the House
2 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Enclosed please find my official certification to the 131st Legislature of the citizen initiative petition entitled "An Act to Limit Contributions to Political Action Committees That Make Independent Expenditures".

Sincerely,

S/Shenna Bellows
Secretary of State

**STATE OF MAINE
SECRETARY OF STATE**

I, Shenna Bellows, Secretary of State, hereby certify that written petitions bearing valid signatures of 76,081 electors of this State were addressed to the Legislature of the State of Maine and were filed in the office of the Secretary of State on January 23, 2024, requesting that the Legislature consider an act entitled, "An Act to Limit Contributions to Political Action Committees That Make Independent Expenditures".

I further certify that the number of signatures submitted is in excess of ten percent of the total votes cast in the last gubernatorial election preceding the filing of such petitions, as required by Article IV, Part Third, Section 18 of the Constitution of Maine, that number being 67,682.

I further certify this initiative petition to be valid and attach herewith the text of the legislation circulated on the petition's behalf.

In testimony whereof, I have caused the Great Seal of the State of Maine to be hereunto affixed. Given under my hand at Augusta on the Twenty-seventh day of February in the year Two Thousand and Twenty-four.

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The accompanying bill:

An Act to Limit Contributions to Political Action Committees That Make Independent Expenditures
I.B. 5 L.D. 2232

Comes from the House, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

REFERRED to the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed, in concurrence.

ORDERS

Joint Orders

Expressions of Legislative Sentiment recognizing:

The Deering High School Debate Team, of Portland, which placed 2nd in debate overall at the Maine State Speech and Debate Championship Tournament held by the Maine Forensics Association. We extend our congratulations and best wishes; SLS 1470

Sponsored by Senator DUSON of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Senator: CHIPMAN of Cumberland,
Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, COLLINGS of Portland, CROCKETT of Portland, LOOKNER of Portland, MOONEN of Portland, SKOLD of Portland, Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland, ZAGER of Portland.

The following members of the Deering High School Debate Team, of Portland: Eli Tuchinsky, Isabella Figdor, Mya Landry and Violet Blum-Levine. They competed in teams of 2 in the Varsity Public Forum Debate competition at the Maine State Speech and Debate Championship Tournament, and the 2 teams were named Co-Champions by the Maine Forensics Association. We extend our congratulations and best wishes; SLS 1471

Sponsored by Senator DUSON of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Senator: CHIPMAN of Cumberland,
Representatives: BRENNAN of Portland, COLLINGS of Portland, CROCKETT of Portland, LOOKNER of Portland, MOONEN of Portland, SKOLD of Portland, Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland, ZAGER of Portland.

The Joint Orders were **READ**.

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

Senator **DUSON:** Thank you, Mr. President, and Fellow Colleagues in the Senate. I rise to have you join me in acknowledging a group of exceptional young minds of the Deering High School Debate Team. We're joined by the co-captains today - Eli, Izzy, Mya, and Violet - all juniors at Deering High School, along with their coaches, Krista and Bilal. The Deering debate team had an inspiring season after several years of virtual tournaments. The team is comprised of students that compete in multiple types of debate: Lincoln-Douglas debate, more of a one-on-one philosophical debate, congressional debate - students play the role of a legislator and debate bills and follow parliamentary procedure - and public forum debate, which is a structured style, policy-centered debate that involves two versus

two. They also have students compete in speech events as well. The public forum style of debate is king for the Deering Rams. These debaters have researched issues including the U.S. should substantially increase its military presence in West Asia, the U.S. Government should forgive all federal student loan debt, the U.S. Government should repeal Section 320. In the recent Maine Speech and Debate State Championships, Deering debaters showcased their remarkable skills and abilities. The debaters showed up and showed out, as the team collectively was named the runners up of the debate State Championship. However, the most impressive feat was of the team's captains. Both pairings of Eli and Izzy and Mya and Violet went undefeated the entire tournament. To name a State Champion they either had to debate one another or flip a coin to decide the winner, they decided to do what all good debaters do, they prepped as best they could and left the rest up to chance. Not much was clear of the decision and the results are debatable, but one thing is for certain, both teams of debaters had equally deserving performances for the title as State Champion. I ask that you join me in congratulating our debaters of Deering High on their remarkable achievement of being named co-champions of Varsity public forum debate and join me in also wishing them the best of luck at the national tournament in Chicago on Memorial Day weekend, and join me in congratulating the team's coaches, Krista and Bilal, who happens to be serving as a legislative aide for several members of our Body.

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

Senator **CHIPMAN:** Thank you, Mr. President, Men and Women of the Senate. I rise to also just say that I think that the Deering High School Debate Team has done an amazing job. This is an incredible accomplishment and want to also extend my congratulations.

The Joint Orders were **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the chamber the Captains of the Deering Debate Team: Maya Landry, Vilet Blum-Levine, Eli Tuchinsky and Isabella Figdor, Co-Co-Champions of Public Forum Debate, they're all from the city of Portland. They are joined today by their coaches, Krista and Bilal, and are the guests today of the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Duson, the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Chipman, and the entire Maine Senate. Would they please rise and accept the greetings and congratulations of the Maine Senate.

Off Record Remarks

ORDERS

Joint Resolutions

On motion by Senator **MOORE** of Washington, the following Joint Resolution:

S.P. 962

JOINT RESOLUTION DESIGNATING MAY 5, 2024 TO MAY 11, 2024 AS TARDIVE DYSKINESIA AWARENESS WEEK

WHEREAS, many people living with serious mental illnesses, including bipolar disorder, major depressive disorder, schizophrenia and schizoaffective disorder, or gastrointestinal disorders such as gastroparesis, upset stomach, nausea and vomiting may be treated with medications that work as dopamine receptor blocking agents, including antipsychotics and antiemetics; and

WHEREAS, while ongoing treatment with these medications can be necessary, prolonged use is associated with tardive dyskinesia, an involuntary movement disorder that is characterized by uncontrollable, abnormal and repetitive movements of the face, torso, limbs and fingers or toes; and

WHEREAS, it is important that people taking these medications be monitored for tardive dyskinesia by a health care provider. Regular screening for tardive dyskinesia is recommended by the American Psychiatric Association; and

WHEREAS, even mild symptoms of tardive dyskinesia can impact people physically, socially and emotionally; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that tardive dyskinesia affects approximately 600,000 people in the United States, and approximately 65% of people with tardive dyskinesia have not been diagnosed, making it important to raise awareness about the symptoms; and

WHEREAS, clinical research has led to approval of treatments for adults with tardive dyskinesia by the United States Food and Drug Administration, and recognition and treatment of tardive dyskinesia can make a positive impact in the lives of many people experiencing psychotic and mood disorders; 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 designate May 5, 2024 to May 11, 2024 as Tardive Dyskinesia Awareness Week and respectfully encourage anyone experiencing uncontrollable, abnormal and repetitive movements to consult their health care provider regarding their symptoms.

READ and ADOPTED.

Sent down for concurrence.

On motion by Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland (Cosponsored by Representative MOONEN of Portland), the following Joint Resolution:
S.P. 963

**JOINT RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING FEBRUARY 29, 2024 AS ACCESS TO
JUSTICE DAY**

WHEREAS, 2024 marks the 29th anniversary of the founding of the Justice Action Group, a judge-led coalition of leaders from Maine's legal community who are passionate about ensuring that all Maine people have access to civil justice; and

WHEREAS, the Justice Action Group's members include representatives of the state and federal judiciary, the Legislature, nonprofit civil legal aid providers, the University of Maine School of Law, the Maine Justice Foundation, the Maine State Bar Association, the Maine Trial Lawyers Association, private practice attorneys and others; and

WHEREAS, key initiator Judge Frank Coffin described the Justice Action Group as a catalyst, something introduced in small quantities that produces great change, and the Justice Action Group has been an advocate for equal access to justice since 1995; and

WHEREAS, equal access to justice is a bedrock principle of a free, constitutional society, but no system of laws and constitutional protections can be effective if only those who can afford private advocates have access to justice; and

WHEREAS, because justice for all is achievable only through the vigilance and action of the legislative, judicial and executive branches of government, it is important to provide for access to justice in all branches of State Government; and

WHEREAS, providing equal access to justice has tangible, widespread benefits for Maine's families, children, schools, communities, businesses, charities and government; and

WHEREAS, legal issues profoundly affect basic human needs such as safety from violence and exploitation, security and stability for children and the families in which they are nurtured, health, shelter and food security; and

WHEREAS, the need for increased support for civil legal aid and pro bono representation for low-income and vulnerable Maine people remains acute; 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 declare February 29, 2024 as Access to Justice Day to acknowledge and express our appreciation and strong support for the Justice Action Group and all civil legal aid providers and private practice attorneys who provide pro bono services for those otherwise unable to afford legal representation; and be it further

RESOLVED: That a suitable copy of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Justice Action Group.

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

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

Senator **CARNEY:** Thank you, President Jackson. Thank you, Esteemed Colleagues of the Senate. Today is Access to Justice Day. As customary, we started today with the Pledge of Allegiance. But this morning, the final three words really stayed in my mind. Those words are justice for all, and they perfectly capture why we take time each year to recognize both Access to Justice Day and the Justice Action Group. Since its founding 29 years ago, the Justice Action Group has worked to ensure that Mainers with low income get necessary legal advice on civil legal issues. In their own words, the Justice Action Group seeks to achieve the objective of justice for all by obtaining increased support from public and private sources, raising awareness among the legal community, Legislature, and public about the needs of Mainers who face daunting barriers to civil justice, encouraging greater pro bono representation by lawyers, sharing of resources between legal service providers, and facilitating access to justice in innovative and creative ways. Civil legal aid helps Maine people and families meet the most basic human needs for housing, income, healthcare, safety from domestic abuse, protection from financial exploitation, and more. Thanks to the Justice Action Group, and with legislative support, Maine has a strong network of civil legal aid providers and private practice attorneys who provide pro bono services for those otherwise unable to afford legal representation. Their work brings us closer to the ideal expressed in the Pledge of Allegiance, and the ideal we strive for each day; that in Maine, we have justice for all. I encourage you to visit with the Justice Action Group in the Legislative Council Room today at noon and learn more about their good work. Thank you.

The Joint Resolution was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

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

Off Record Remarks

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Ought to Pass As Amended

The Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** on Bill "An Act to Enact the Reentry Success and Earned Time Act"
H.P. 1271 L.D. 1978

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-777)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-777)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-777) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

The Joint Select Committee on **HOUSING** on Bill "An Act to Implement Certain Recommendations of the Commission to Increase Housing Opportunities in Maine by Studying Land Use Regulations and Short-term Rentals"
H.P. 819 L.D. 1294

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-779)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-779)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-779) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Enhance Cost Savings to Consumers of Prescription Drugs"
H.P. 737 L.D. 1165

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

Senators:
BRAKEY of Androscoggin
RENY of Lincoln

Representatives:
ARFORD of Brunswick
CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham
CYRWAY of Albion
MASTRACCIO of Sanford
MORRIS of Turner
NUTTING of Oakland
SWALLOW of Houlton

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-780)**.

Signed:

Senator:
BAILEY of York

Representatives:
PERRY of Calais
MATHIESON of Kittery
PRINGLE of Windham

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

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **BAILEY** of York, Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Divided Report

Six Members of the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** on Resolve, to Create an Advisory Council to Oversee the Review and Revision of the Maine Criminal Code and Other Statutes Establishing Criminal Offenses
H.P. 1218 L.D. 1903

Reported in Report "A" that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-778)**

Signed:

Senator:
BEEBE-CENTER of Knox

Representatives:
SALISBURY of Westbrook
HASENFUS of Readfield
LAJOIE of Lewiston
MATHIESON of Kittery
MILLIKEN of Blue Hill

Six Members of the same Committee on the same subject reported in Report "B" that the same **Ought Not to Pass**.

Signed:

Senators:

HARRINGTON of York
LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec

Representatives:

ARDELL of Monticello
NEWMAN of Belgrade
NUTTING of Oakland
PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft

Comes from the House with Report "A", **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-778)**, READ and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-778)**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **BEEBE-CENTER** of Knox, Report "A", **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-778)**, **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-778) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Senate

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Resolve, to Establish the Stakeholder Group to Ensure Timely Access to Medication Management Across the State (EMERGENCY)
S.P. 876 L.D. 2083

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-550)**.

Signed:

Senator:

BALDACCI of Penobscot

Representatives:

MEYER of Eliot
CRAVEN of Lewiston
FREDERICKS of Sanford
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth
MADIGAN of Waterville

SHAGOURY of Hallowell
ZAGER of Portland

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

Signed:

Senator:

MOORE of Washington

Representatives:

GRIFFIN of Levant
JAVNER of Chester
LEMELIN of Chelsea

Reports **READ**.

Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report.

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

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

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I just rise in support of this motion. I know that it came out of committee kind of along party lines, but I do think in caucus we had a good discussion about that and I just want to make sure that everybody is kind of on the same page there - at least on our side because we did not anticipate a roll call here, but I do think that as some comments were shared this morning within our group that this bill would actually address some pretty tragic situations that are happening out in the real world, and so, I think you'll see a pretty strong vote here in favor of advancing this initiative. So, with that, thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Mr. President, with apologies. I just want to stand and speak, because the issue of med management is critically important. We heard testimony just this week in Appropriations with -- along with Health and Human Services on this question relating to the budget. One of the tragedies is frankly that there's really darn little in the budget in this area that has been proposed by the Executive Branch, and so I'm hoping that we actually go farther than what this bill has been amended to do. I think the issues are more poignant, this is a very big issue. What happens when people are released from - into outpatient services, they are faced with tremendously long waiting lists, they're six to eight, nine months before they can get services and therapy services. This measure, the only fault with this measure is that it doesn't go far enough. And I'm glad that the committee ended up where they did with this, but there's much more that we need to do, and I rise to address this because, in my view, we need to do more. It may be in the supplemental budget, but this is a pressing issue that demands

our attention, and I want to just add my voice to those who are in favor of this measure, and I hope that we'll have a resounding vote here, but it will be followed up with more concrete action. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator **BRENNER:** Thank you, Mr. President. As a sponsor of the bill, I just want to talk a little bit about what the amendment does. So, this would be a study by the Department to look at the availability of psychiatric medication management services across the state, including a review of geographic and other disparities in the access to the service, availability of psychiatric nurse practitioners to provide medication management, and the challenges to sustaining and expanding the psychiatric nurse practitioner workforce, including examining educational opportunities, financial support for educating nurse practitioners, and the availability of nurse educators to train these -- this new -- these new nurse practitioners. It's important to know that medication management is a foundational tool for people living with serious and persistent mental illness, and it enables them to live successfully integrated into their communities. Comprehensive mental health care services should also include the ability to access timely and consistent medical management, and right now, approximately 70% of this work is done by psychiatric nurse practitioners, and the rest is done by psychiatrists. And sadly, many agencies have stopped providing the service or have cut it back to minimal levels because it's not financially sustainable, and as a result, most people are waiting for their initial medical -- medication management visit four to six months. So, for someone in crisis, that's a really, really long time to wait to get in to see someone to help you manage whatever medication you're going to start taking. People's response to psychiatric medications can be extremely severe. Sometimes the wrong dose, the wrong medication, can put someone into psychosis. And so, you need to have thoughtful, consistent, available care in order to manage that medication. So, understanding the scope of the problem and identifying where incentives could relieve these pain points in the care delivery system is necessary if we want to make a difference in the capacity of our state to meet the needs of Maine residents whose mental health treatment is going to need to include medication management. I'm grateful for the Body's support. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#566)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, KEIM, LAFOUNTAIN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE,

RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: None

EXCUSED: Senators: DAUGHTRY, FARRIN, POULIOT

32 Senators having voted in the affirmative and no Senators having voted in the negative, with 3 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **PREVAILED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-550) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

SECOND READERS

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

House

Bill "An Act to Increase Safety for Child Welfare Services Workers"
H.P. 1311 L.D. 2049

Bill "An Act to Add Schedule V Substances to the Controlled Substances Prescription Monitoring Program"
H.P. 1363 L.D. 2139

Bill "An Act to Clarify MaineCare Copayments"
H.P. 1377 L.D. 2153

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 61: State Board of Education Rules for Major Capital School Construction Projects, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Education, State Board of Education (EMERGENCY)
H.P. 1396 L.D. 2181

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

House As Amended

Bill "An Act to Permit Municipalities to Establish by Ordinance a Program for Partial Deferral of Property Taxes for Seniors"
H.P. 859 L.D. 1345
(C "A" H-767)

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

(C "A" H-769)

Bill "An Act to Prohibit Noncompete Clauses"
H.P. 951 L.D. 1496
(C "A" H-768)

Bill "An Act to Strengthen the Teaching of Wabanaki Studies in
Maine Schools"
H.P. 1052 L.D. 1642
(C "A" H-772)

Bill "An Act to Protect Maine's Consumers by Establishing an
Abuse of Dominance Right of Action and Requiring Notification of
Mergers"
H.P. 1161 L.D. 1815
(C "A" H-771)

Bill "An Act to Amend the Laws Governing Real Estate Appraisers
and Appraisal Management Companies"
H.P. 1324 L.D. 2062
(C "A" H-770)

Bill "An Act to Make Permanent the Arrearage Management
Program for Low-income Residential Electricity Customers"
(EMERGENCY)
H.P. 1330 L.D. 2067
(C "A" H-764)

Bill "An Act to Correct Outdated References in and Relating to the
Maine Human Rights Act"
H.P. 1366 L.D. 2142
(C "A" H-765)

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

Senate

Bill "An Act to Improve Maine's Labor Laws by Changing the
Laws Governing Elections of Collective Bargaining Agents for
Certain Public Employees"
S.P. 860 L.D. 2032

READ A SECOND TIME and PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED.

Sent down for concurrence.

Senate As Amended

Bill "An Act to Exempt Certain Emergency Activities and Structure
Elevation Increases in Flood Zones from Permit Requirements
Under the Natural Resources Protection Act"
S.P. 858 L.D. 2030
(C "A" S-547)

Bill "An Act Establishing Concurrent Jurisdiction with the Federal
Courts in Certain Juvenile Matters"
S.P. 923 L.D. 2171

(C "A" S-549)

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

Sent down for concurrence.

ENACTORS

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

Emergency Measure

An Act to Fully Reimburse Municipalities for Lost Revenue Under
the Property Tax Stabilization for Senior Citizens Program
H.P. 423 L.D. 646
(C "A" H-755)

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the
affirmative vote of 32 Members of the Senate, with no Senators
having voted in the negative, and 32 being more than two-thirds
of the entire elected Membership of the Senate, was **PASSED TO
BE ENACTED** and, having been signed by the President, was
presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

Emergency Resolve

Resolve, to Establish a Stakeholder Group to Address the
Problem of Long Stays for Children and Adolescents in Hospital
Emergency Departments
S.P. 830 L.D. 2009
(C "A" S-535)

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the
affirmative vote of 32 Members of the Senate, with no Senators
having voted in the negative, and 32 being more than two-thirds
of the entire elected Membership of the Senate, was **FINALLY
PASSED** and, having been signed by the President, was
presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

Resolves

Resolve, Directing the Commissioner of Education to Review the
Placement of Personal Finance in the System of Learning Results
S.P. 521 L.D. 1284
(C "A" S-536)

Resolve, Directing the State Board of Education to Amend
Chapter 115: The Credentialing of Education Personnel, a Major
Substantive Rule of the State Board of Education
H.P. 1424 L.D. 2221

FINALLY PASSED and, having been signed by the President,
were presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

Resolve, to Provide Funds to the Maine Indian Education School District
H.P. 917 L.D. 1421
(C "A" H-756)

On motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin, placed on the **SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS TABLE** pending **FINAL PASSAGE**, in concurrence.

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

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Unfinished Business

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

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (2/27/24) matter:

NOMINATION - of the Honorable Robert S. Duchesne of Old Town for reappointment to the Board of Environmental Protection

Tabled - February 27, 2024 by Senator **BRENNER** of Cumberland

Pending - **CONSIDERATION**

(In Senate, February 27, 2024, Communication (S.C. 948) from the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**, READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.)

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

Senator **BRENNER:** Thank you, Mr. President, Colleagues. Today, I'd just like to share a little bit about these three nominees, but I'd like to start by telling you a little bit about the Board of Environmental Protection. They have the authority to adopt, amend, repeal rules, to review license applications for projects of statewide significance, to hear appeals of DEP licensing decisions, and to review administrative consent agreements. Board membership is governed by Title 38, Section 341(C). The Board consists of seven volunteer members. A member may not serve more than two consecutive four-year terms, and at least three members must have technical or scientific backgrounds in environmental issues. Members should not discuss their opinions or matters that are pending -- about matters that are pending

before them for a decision, except in -- because -- except in a public proceeding conducted in accordance with the Maine Administrative Procedures Act, which includes public notification that a discussion about a particular matter will occur. This protects the rights of interested persons in the decision-making process. So, I want to say a few words about the Honorable Bob Duchesne. He is someone who has dedicated his life to serving Mainers in Eastern and Central Maine. He has connected with people in a variety of ways throughout his life. Countless people have heard Bob on the radio for decades, work for which he was inducted into the Country Music DJ Hall of Fame in 2004, which I'll admit is just a fun fact about Bob, it doesn't really help support his nomination to the Board, but it may make him sound good when he's sitting there. Bob served six non-consecutive terms in the Legislature between 2004 and 2018, including as chair of this committee and chair of the Inland Fish and Wildlife Committee. During that time, he was an active participant and a legislative leader on a broad range of issues that were as challenging as any that may have come before the committee since, including solid waste management, product stewardship, mineral mining, high and moderate value water fowl and wading bird habitat rules, as well as regulatory reform. His colleagues define him as a highly skilled lawmaker. He's also served on the Bangor Land Trust Board and the Brewer Economic Development Corporation Board, among others. I hope you will join me in supporting the reconfirmation of the Honorable Bob Duchesne. Thank you.

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

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. We set a precedent earlier this year around the votes of entities like this and upcoming very substantial, very impactful votes, so near to confirmation or reconfirmation, reappointments of different nominees for office. And so, with this one, on the 20th, there's going to be - and I guess I'm speaking generally to all three of these nominees at this point - but on the 20th, there is going to be a decision made by that body around electric vehicles and mandates in the State of Maine. And it's an issue that is incredibly controversial, as I would characterize it, and incredibly problematic from a public viewpoint. I think the amount of public testimony to that effect during the hearing on this issue is a testament to that, and is one that I think, since we are factoring in these decisions in some of these cases that we've had even earlier this year, I feel strongly that this Body should not speculate on what these folks are going to do one way or the other, but rather just wait a little bit, let them decide what sort of policy they're going to be setting for our state in an unelected fashion, and then we can give a more thoughtful review to whether or not any of these folks are qualified. And by that, what I mean is, are they going to be putting forth good public policy, particularly for reappointments, and given that opportunity to factor those variables in here. I understand that we're up against somewhat of a clock on this particular proposal -- or these three, actually, I believe that time is going to, in fact, expire between now and then, but that doesn't mean that we couldn't begin that process anew and restart that clock at some point very soon but then allow for that decision to be made and not speculate on it. And not speculate on whether or not somebody is or isn't going to support an EV mandate that I have heard more feedback from than probably any other bill in this last year. And so, with that in mind, our preference would be to go through that

process again with our decisions being able to be made with full information at a point maybe immediately following that ruling here next -- less than a month away. So, with that, I would move that this item and all its accompanying papers be recommitted to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources for reconsideration of that group. Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook moved the Nomination be **COMMITTED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**.

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

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

Senator **TIPPING:** I was hoping to speak on the original matter.

THE PRESIDENT: The Secretary informs if this does happen to fail, then you can speak on the original matter. So, we'll have to - we're speaking right now on the reconfirming back to committee. The Chair would like to advise that the Secretary also informed us that if the thought of going till March 20th, if these confirmations weren't enacted on by March 9th, then they would automatically be confirmed. And so, we can't wait till the 20th. Obviously, the Senator from Aroostook has asked for sending them back to the committee, but I just wanted the Body to understand why we're in this position.

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

Senator **LIBBY:** Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I've been away from this Body for 22 years until this last year, and I -- so, I have a question that I'd like to ask through the Chair.

THE PRESIDENT: I see no objection.

Senator **LIBBY:** Some of the controversial matters, and others that haven't been mentioned here today are matters that should be before the Legislature, and I just wondered if somebody could give me a rundown on the history of this legislation that authorizes the board to make these kinds of decisions and -- because I'm just not familiar with that history. I should be, but I am not. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

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

Senator **BRENNER:** Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you for the question. I can't give you the history, I'm just not that much of a historian, but I can tell you essentially how it works. And the -- so, the Board has rule proceedings regularly and consistently, and this is a part of the statute that governs the BEP's functioning and it's a measure that allows anyone in the public to be able to petition the Board to consider a rule and think about whether or not it's time to reevaluate an updating of that rule. And so, that's what this process is that's in front of the BEP right now. And as I mentioned, they -- based on this statute that governs the BEP, they aren't allowed to legally speak outside of the confines of the

public experience of the BEP's meeting structure about issues pending in front of them.

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

Senator **LIBBY:** Thank you. And I want to thank the Good Senator for that explanation, I really appreciate it. I would suggest that these are major and substantive rules that should be in front of these -- this Body, and it's frustrating that there seems to be a circumvention of what I would normally consider legislative authority and a power, and at some point, we must've delegated that power. So, if maybe at a later date, if somebody could help me with the history, I would appreciate it. Thank you.

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

Senator **HICKMAN:** Thank you, Mr. President. I just wanted to say that the delegation of the power that the petition process for rules is back to the people, because sometimes the Legislature doesn't act the way the people would like, and so the Legislature made it very clear in statute that if the people want the Executive Branch to change a rule, they have to directly petition to the Executive Branch to do that. And that is why that controversial issue was before this Board. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Commitment of the Nomination to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#567)

YEAS: Senators: BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, KEIM, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

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

EXCUSED: Senators: CURRY, DAUGHTRY, FARRIN, POULIOT

11 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 20 Senators having voted in the negative, with 4 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook to **COMMIT** the Nomination to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES FAILED**.

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

Senator **TIPPING:** Thank you, Mr. President. I just wanted to speak briefly to this nomination. Bob Duchesne is a friend who provided some important advice to me as I was considering public service. I just wanted to note that he's deeply loved by the people of Alton and Argyle and Milford, LaGrange, and I hear his name all the time, as well as from everyone who reads his birding column in the BDN. I just wanted to thank him for his continued service, urge his nomination here in the Chamber, and note that I thought of him when I read in the BDN this morning that there was a rare species of crow found in Bangor, and I'm sure he's all over that.

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

Senator **BRAKEY:** Thank you, Mr. President. Regarding the nominee before us, first, I just want to say that I very much appreciate and I know it was appreciated this morning when Bob Duchesne came to the Senate Republican Caucus and spoke with us pretty frankly and bluntly and he was very open and transparent with us, which I think is very much appreciated. I know that all three nominees were invited, he came, I'm not sure where the other two were, maybe they had other commitments, but it was appreciated that he came and spoke with us. Still, there is a big looming question that hangs over this nomination and the other two nominations that I'm sure we've all heard quite a bit about, you know, that the -- this Body is making a decision over electric vehicle mandates, as in process on those decisions, they've taken some initial votes to move forward with the process, though that process is still underway. And yet, you know, thousands of Maine people came out trying to have their voices heard at public hearings against moving forward with consideration of electric vehicle mandates. They tried to make their voices heard, but were their voices heard? This process continues moving forward, I wish that we were in a position to vote on these confirmations after that decision was made so we could do that with much more information and better 20/20 vision on the performance of these individuals, but that's not -- doesn't sound like that's the position that we're going to be in. But I am very concerned because this policy that they are considering would be an absolute disaster for the State of Maine. Our electric grid is not even prepared for mass adoption of electric vehicles. And the only way, it seems, since this is an unelected body that's going to be making this decision --

THE PRESIDENT: Would the Senator from Androscoggin just defer for a minute? Why does the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Brenner, rise?

Senator **BRENNER:** I don't feel that the Senator's discussion is germane to the nomination of the Honorable Robert S. Duchesne for confirmation.

THE PRESIDENT: I had my own thought on this but certainly confirms the Secretary. I think the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Brakey, is talking about an issue that would go before the Board where the nominee is being confirmed to, so I think it is at least relevant to the confirmation.

Senator **BRAKEY:** Thank you, Mr. President. I was just about to wrap up my comments, all the same. This policy would be a disaster, our electric grid is not even prepared for mass adoption of electric vehicles, and the fact that these members have voted to move forward with this process is very concerning. And the only way, since this is being determined by an unelected board, the only path that we have to express our concerns and our displeasure with this process moving forward on behalf of ourselves and our constituents is to vote in opposition at this point in time for confirmation on these positions. So, I will be voting in opposition. I would like my sincere concerns over this policy they are considering registered. Thank you.

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

Senator **HICKMAN:** Thank you, Mr. President. I have no idea how the Honorable Bob Duchesne will vote on anything in the Board of Environmental Protection. But I can say, having served with the Honorable Bob Duchesne in the House of Representatives for more than a few terms, he's a man of impeccable integrity, who often took votes against his party often and kept all of us on our toes. So, with that, not getting into the debate about electric vehicles, Bob Duchesne has my vote for confirmation - reconfirmation back to this Board. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator **VITELLI:** Thank you, Mr. President. I rise simply to remind my colleagues that the vote for confirmation was unanimous in committee and that, further, the Legislative Council has approved a bill to turn these into major substantive rules and that it is still in possession of the Representative who submitted that. So, for those of us who are concerned about this needing to move to that level, there is a vehicle in place that could address that. I would ask that in the meantime, we vote to confirm these reappointments so that the Board can have its full capacity to deal with the important issues that are coming before it. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator **KEIM:** Thank you, Mr. President. So, today, my vote isn't about particularly these nominees, it's not about their personalities or their personal intelligence, or even their personal integrity. I respect the confirmation process and the committee process to vet and to talk through all of the issues pertaining to this. However, the confirmation process gives us a vote for a reason. We are not a rubber stamp on the committee process. And my vote today is the voice of my people. There was a similar EV rule coming through about trucks and many of these members voted not to move forward with the EV mandate on trucks. However, they did move forward the process which is, as been

said, still in the process for an EV mandate on cars. And this would be so, so detrimental to my constituents, it would impact their ability to live, to -- all the most basic things in life, to feed their families. And so, I absolutely cannot have my fingerprint on this of someone who has -- there were 2600 responses to this rule. So, I appreciate the petition process that allows people to, you know, force the Executive Branch to hear them around rulemaking, but that requires 150 signatures. We have 2600 responses on this - 80% of them, as an estimate, or in opposition to that. Again, for the reasons I said, really basic needs. It's not whether or not we're concerned -- these people are, obviously, I would say a hundred percent of Mainers care about the environment. That's where we live, this is who we are. There's nothing more Mainer than a person that cares about the environment. But they have to feed their families, they have to get to work, and we can't take away that ability. So, listening to the people, that's like the most basic of what I would expect someone on this committee to do. They cannot ignore the voice of the people. And when you even look at what their purpose is as outlined, the Board of Environmental Protection, its purpose is to provide informed, independent, and timely decisions on the interpretation, administration, and enforcement of the laws relating to environmental protection and to provide for credible, fair, and responsible public participation. I can tell you my constituents do not feel that there was responsible public participation when they were completely ignored. And so, my vote today, again, I will say, it is not about personalities, it is not about the person, but my vote today is for my people who would say absolutely, we cannot risk having this happen to our lives. And so, I will be voting against all three of these nominees for that reason, and it is the Chief Executive's position to put them forward and it's unfortunate that even at that level, it wasn't considered important to think about their ignoring the voice of the people in this process. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Hancock, Senator Grohoski.

Senator **GROHOSKI:** Thank you, Mr. President. I would just like to state for the public record that my vote on this confirmation and those that ensue is in no way correlated to my position on any matters before the Board of Environmental Protection at this time or any that I see coming in the future, and I am not going to look at anyone else's votes through that lens because I'm just looking at whether or not this person should be confirmed, and if any person or any constituent would like to know my position on any matter before the Board, they should always feel welcome to ask, and I would clarify that.

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

Senator **BRENNER:** Thank you, Mr. President, and thanks for allowing me to rise and share an additional thought with you. I just want to tell you that one of the things that was most impressive to me about all three of these candidates for re-nomination -- confirmation for reappointment is that when I asked them how much time they spend preparing for and being a part of the Board of Environmental Protection, all of them spoke to upwards of 20 hours a week. This is a volunteer job, these are highly skilled professionals in their fields, and they all spoke about how they read every email, every piece of testimony, and every

bit of information that's presented to them so that when they get to the meeting, they are prepared and ready to have discussions in front of the public. That to me was impressive in terms of commitment to the public good and the environment in the State of Maine. Thank you.

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

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Mr. President, Fellow Members of the Senate. I always hate to disagree with the senior Senator from Oxford, my seatmate here, Senator Keim, but on this, my analysis differs. It more aligns with the Senator from Hancock, Senator Grohoski. From what I know, and I'm not completely well informed about this matter, like any other of these EV mandate proposals, I would not be supporting it, I don't favor it in its form. But that's not the decision before us. And, in fact, we don't even know what the position is of these nominees on that question. They're in the middle of a process. I voted earlier to -- because I think that that information is really -- would be really helpful in me casting a vote today. I voted earlier to recommit. I'd like to put this off, but that's not going to happen. So, we're here today with this necessary decision. I am not going to prejudge something which isn't settled yet by the Board of Environmental Protection and vote against somebody because my concern that what they might do. There are specific decisions that these candidates have rendered, and if people have an opposition to the candidates on the basis of decisions that they know they've made, I think that would be more helpful to the discussion. So, today, although I oppose the EV mandate in its current form, I'll be voting for these nominees, and I would ask the Secretary to read the committee report.

On motion by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford, Report **READ**.

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

Senator **CARNEY:** Thank you, President Jackson. I just want to lift up colleague's one point that may have slipped from our minds as we've discussed this matter, it's something that the Senate Secretary and Senate President mentioned very early on in our discussion, and this would be the consequence of the reappointment not going forward under the statute that applies to the Maine Board of Environmental Protection. This is how vacancies are dealt with, and I'm just going to read the statute and then share a couple of more remarks. The members must be appointed for staggered four-year terms. A member may not serve more than two consecutive four-year terms. This is the important part - a member continues to serve until that member has been reappointed or a successor has been appointed, except that if the member has not been reappointed or a successor has not been appointed one year after the member term expires, the member may no longer continue to serve. A vacancy occurring other than by an expiration of a term must be filled by appointment for the unexpired portion of the term. So, in a nutshell, even if this Body voted down the reappointments, these members would continue to be on the Board at the time of the March 20, I believe, it is, meeting, and would actually likely serve for a full year. And so, I would just ask members to reflect on that as we move forward.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 131st Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#568)

YEAS: Senators: BRAKEY, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, KEIM, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

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

EXCUSED: Senators: CURRY, DAUGHTRY, FARRIN, POULIOT

6 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 25 Senators having voted in the negative, with 4 Senators being excused, and 6 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 **Robert S. Duchesne** of Old Town for reappointment to the Board of Environmental Protection was **CONFIRMED**.

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

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (2/27/24) matter:

NOMINATION - of Steven K. Pelletier of Topsham for reappointment to the Board of Environmental Protection

Tabled - February 27, 2024 by Senator **BRENNER** of Cumberland

Pending - **CONSIDERATION**

(In Senate, February 27, 2024, Communication (S.C. 949) from the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**, READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.)

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

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. For the reasons I laid out earlier, I will be moving to recommit this item and its accompanying papers, as

well as the next one, to the committee of jurisdiction, the Environment of Natural Resources Committee. I actually think that the case was made to be able to do just that. In fact, these folks can carry on their work, we can determine the outcome of the most controversial issue that I think the BEP has maybe heard testimony from the public from, and then make a more informed decision less than a month from now as to whether or not those same folks should in fact continue. So, with that, I will move to recommit this item and all its accompanying papers to the Environment and Natural Resource Committee.

Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook moved the Nomination be **COMMITTED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**.

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

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

Senator **LIBBY:** Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, I'm not going to ask for one now, but just related to this second attempt to recommit, I mean, this whole idea of the power that seems to have been delegated to this particular board, it requires a solemn occasion. It's just not -- I just do -- I disagree with the constitutionality of the power that has been granted to this body. I just feel like -- I voted in favor of the last nominee, I'll be voting in favor of this nominee, I felt like when I pressed that button, I voted for a legislator - a legislator. And I don't feel right about it. Some other time, some other place, but that's my feeling on the issue. Thank you so much.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Commitment of the Nomination to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#569)

YEAS: Senators: BENNETT, BRAKEY, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, KEIM, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

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

EXCUSED: Senators: CURRY, DAUGHTRY, FARRIN, POULIOT

10 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 21 Senators having voted in the negative, with 4 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook to **COMMIT** the

Nomination to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES FAILED.**

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** be overridden?"

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

Senator **BRENNER:** Thank you, Mr. President. I rise with a few remarks about Mr. Pelletier. With more than four decades of professional natural resource experience, Mr. Pelletier offers exceptional and diverse expertise to the BEP. He's a certified wildlife biologist, Maine licensed forester, and professional wetlands scientist. Mr. Pelletier has experience working at the federal level with the U.S. Forest Service, and at the state level with our own Department of Environmental Protection. In addition to his work in public service, Mr. Pelletier's long career as a Maine-based ecological consultant and advisory role for conservation groups and committees in his community and beyond highlight the unique and dedicated and expert perspective that he brings to the BEP. Testifiers shared how Mr. Pelletier brings an honest and caring and analytical approach to his work. They reiterated that his deep familiarity with Maine, Maine wildlife, renewable energy development, the permitting process, and more, have undeniable assets to our collective work to modernize, grow, and develop, while avoiding mitigating -- and mitigating impacts to our environment. With thousands of hours of work identifying plants, animals, and ecosystems, studying how they may be impacted by development, and assessing the range of mitigation measures available to balance competing interests, Steve is a rare find himself, and a great catch for the BEP. Thank you.

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 131st Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#570)

YEAS: Senators: BRAKEY, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, KEIM, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

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

EXCUSED: Senators: DAUGHTRY, FARRIN, POULIOT

6 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 26 Senators having voted in the negative, with 3 Senators being excused, and 6 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 **Steven K. Pelletier** of Topsham for reappointment to the Board of Environmental Protection was **CONFIRMED**.

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

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (2/27/24) matter:

NOMINATION - of Robert M. Sanford of Gorham for reappointment to the Board of Environmental Protection

Tabled - February 27, 2024 by Senator **BRENNER** of Cumberland

Pending - **CONSIDERATION**

(In Senate, February 27, 2024, Communication (S.C. 950) from the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**, READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.)

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

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Again, for the reasons articulated on the previous two nominations, I move that this item be recommitted to the committee of jurisdiction, the Environment and Natural Resource Committee.

Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook moved the Nomination be **COMMITTED** to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#571)

YEAS: Senators: BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, KEIM, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

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

EXCUSED: Senators: DAUGHTRY, FARRIN, POULIOT

11 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 21 Senators having voted in the negative, with 3 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook to **COMMIT** the Nomination to the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES FAILED**.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall the recommendation of the Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** be overridden?"

In accordance with 3 M.R.S.A., Chapter 6, Section 158, and with Joint Rule 506 of the 131st Legislature, the vote was taken by the Yeas and Nays.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#572)

YEAS: Senators: BRAKEY, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, KEIM, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

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

EXCUSED: Senators: DAUGHTRY, FARRIN, POULIOT

6 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 26 Senators having voted in the negative, with 3 Senators being excused, and 6 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 M. Sanford** of Gorham for reappointment to the Board of Environmental Protection was **CONFIRMED**.

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

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (2/28/24) matter:

HOUSE REPORTS - from the Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** on Bill "An Act to Enhance Protections for and Better Address Invasive Aquatic Plant Infestations in Inland Waters of the State"
H.P. 1365 L.D. 2141

Majority - **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-773)** (7 members)

Minority - **Ought Not to Pass** (6 members)

Tabled - February 28, 2024 by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook

Pending - motion by Senator **LAFOUNTAIN** of Kennebec to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence (Roll Call Ordered)

(In House, January 3, 2024, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-773).**)

(In Senate, February 28, 2024, Reports **READ**.)

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

Senator **GUERIN:** I will be voting in favor of the pending motion today and would like to take this opportunity to highlight this funding and also the importance of voluntary boat inspections performed throughout Maine, including Piscataquis County's iconic Moosehead Lake and Lower Wilson Pond. This bill's funding is a small step in preventing the spread of invasive aquatic plants such as variable leaf milfoil, which is already found in 22 Maine bodies of water. The bill's effort is multiplied many times over by the committed volunteers who deserve our recognition and thanks. Thank you.

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

Senator **BRAKEY:** Thank you, Mr. President. I am typically no fan of increased government spending, but as a policy matter, I think that this -- reviewing this proposal, I think it does have a lot of merit, and I think it deserves to go the Appropriations Table and see what can be done there. You know, I was actually reflecting on -- I think yesterday -- was the words of our colleague from Kennebec, Senator Hickman, and -- on this issue, and I was thinking about how blessed I was and I have been, you know, being -- as a young boy, learning how to swim in the pristine waters of Sabbathday Lake in New Gloucester, a lake that still to this day, thanks to proactive community engagement has been spared the scourge of milfoil. But I know that many of our lakes are not as fortunate. And when we're talking about the commons, when we're talking about our lakes which are not owned by any one particular individual who's responsible for it, but it's commonly owned, there does seem to me a very proper and important role for government to help protect the commons from being destroyed. So, I'm -- I'll be proudly casting my vote in support of this measure so that we can try to keep our lakes pristine for future generations. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Waldo, Senator Curry.

Senator **CURRY:** Thank you, Mr. President. I stand in support of this motion and this fund. One of the things that are really important to me is recognize the very hard work and financial support of our lake associations across the state who have been leading this fight. But not all lake associations and not all lakes have the financial capabilities to support this, and this is a very strong equity issue. Maine is an amazing place. One of the things that I love about it is that properties have been, you know, lakefront and shorefront and ocean, you know, islands have -- often are held by people of very modest means and it's been in

their families for generations and this bill allows us to focus on where are the most threats and not just rely on the wealth of property owners around certain lakes to protect their properties or their lakes. And so, I am a big fan of this -- supporting this fund and strengthening it because we strengthen all of Maine in this way. Thank you very much.

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

Senator **NANGLE:** Good morning, Mr. President, thank you. I was disappointed that this got tabled the other day because everybody talked about how they live in their lakes regions, and I just wanted to point out that Windham, Raymond, and Casco probably has the most beautiful lakes region in the state. That being said, during my first term on the Windham Town Council, we had discussions regarding the water quality in some of the lakes and the lake association's difficulty in mitigating the invasive species. And one thing that we did -- one thing that I proposed was noting the financial commitment that this -- these mitigation efforts take. We made a policy that we would now transfer any fees from the boat registrations into a lake association grant program, thereby quadrupling the amount of money that we were able to grant to lake associations. So, this just makes that extra step that will help keep Maine waters clear of these invasive species. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Acceptance of the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#573)

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

NAYS: Senators: None

EXCUSED: Senators: DAUGHTRY, FARRIN, POULIOT

32 Senators having voted in the affirmative and no Senators having voted in the negative, with 3 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **LAFOUNTAIN** of Kennebec to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-773) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

ASSIGNED FOR SECOND READING NEXT LEGISLATIVE DAY.

Off Record Remarks

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (2/28/24) matter:

HOUSE REPORTS - from the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act to Require Constitutional Officers to Complete Harassment Training" H.P. 1374 L.D. 2150

Majority - **Ought Not to Pass** (8 members)

Minority - **Ought to Pass** (5 members)

Tabled - February 28, 2024 by Senator **NANGLE** of Cumberland

Pending - **ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT**

(In House, January 3, 2024, the Minority **OUGHT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**.)

(In Senate, February 28, 2024, Reports **READ**.)

Senator **NANGLE** of Cumberland moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Minority **OUGHT TO PASS** Report, in concurrence.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#574)

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

NAYS: Senators: None

EXCUSED: Senators: DAUGHTRY, FARRIN, POULIOT

32 Senators having voted in the affirmative and no Senators having voted in the negative, with 3 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **NANGLE** of Cumberland to **ACCEPT** the Minority **OUGHT TO PASS** Report, in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

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

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

Senator **DUSON:** Thank you. The welcomed challenge of celebrating the history of African Americans this month in this Body has been deciding where to train the spotlight each day. There are so many stories to share, and I've learned so much along the way. The spotlight on this final day of Black History Month is an excerpt from the final essay in the anthology *Four Hundred Souls*, a Community History of African Americans. Yesterday's reading was excerpted from the first essay in this anthology entitled *The Arrival*, and today's reading is excerpted from the final essay, entitled *Conclusion*, written by Keisha Blain, author of *Set the World Afire* and co-editor of the anthology. I am focused today on moving forward -- I'm focused today on moving forward, on aspiration for the history we will make together in service to the people of Maine. Thus, the prayer I Dream a World offered this morning and this excerpt from *Conclusion*. There's a saying that has circulated in black communities for decades. I am my ancestors' wildest dreams. It originates -- its origins are unknown, yet its power is unmistakable. It speaks to all that black people have overcome that did not seem possible generations before. I've often wondered what my ancestors dreamed about. I wish my great-great-grandparents who were enslaved had left letters detailing all their hopes and dreams for themselves and for me. I'll never know for sure their wishes, their desires, but I can say with certainty that they wanted a life of freedom. The millions of black people who have shaped American history, whether descendants of enslaved people or of colonized people, all had dreams. Some dreamed of home, the place they could truly call their own. Some dreamed of the opportunity to explore and travel. Others dreamed of the opportunity to obtain a quality education. Regardless of the diversity of their individual hopes, they all dreamed of freedom. Full freedom. Are we our ancestors' wildest dreams? Are black people in the United States now living the lives our ancestors of the past imagined for us? I'm not so sure. Together, despite the odds, we've made it this far. The powerful essays and poetries in *Four Hundred Souls*, which I keep recommending to you, are a testament to how much we've overcome and how we have managed to do it together, despite our differences in the first perspectives, yet I'm not convinced we are our ancestors' wildest dreams, at least not yet. I'll never know what ran through my great-grandmother's mind as she rested quietly in the evenings, but I suspect that her wildest dream for herself and for me mirrors my own. In this dream, black people have full freedom, equal access to all the rights and privileges afforded to others. In this dream, black people regardless of gender, religion, sexuality, and class, are living their lives uninhibited by the chains of racism and white supremacy that bind us still. This dream is not yet a reality. We have much work left

to do. While I remain doubtful that we are our ancestors' wildest dreams, I believe we can be. More than four hundred years since the symbolic birth date of Black America, we still have the unique opportunity to shape our current dreams into future realities. The task ahead is not an easy one, but we can help chart out a path that leads us all to a better future, the kind of future that will more closely resemble our ancestors' wildest dreams. And thank you very much for your listening this month.

Off Record Remarks

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

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Mr. President. I just wanted to express my personal gratitude, I know it's shared by many other members, to the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Duson, for her daily information and eloquence regarding various topics related to Black History Month. I've learned a lot. I'm looking forward to walking the Portland Freedom Trail. I kept the map, and I've kept much of the rest of the material that has been provided because it's not only interesting and informative, but I think it's very important information for all of us to contemplate. And I just wanted to say thank you to Senator Duson for taking the time to do that.

On motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, **ADJOURNED**, pursuant to the Joint Order, until Tuesday, March 5, 2024, at 10:00 in the morning, or until the call of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House.