

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

In Senate Chamber  
Thursday  
April 11, 2024

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

Prayer by the Honorable Marcia Homstead of Lewiston.

**THE HONORABLE MARCIA HOMSTEAD:** Good morning, everyone. It is an honor and a privilege to be here with you today. Let us join together in the spirit of prayer. Heavenly Father, we come before you today in humility. We thank you for all you have given us and the many blessings in our lives. We ask for your guidance and your strength. Show us the way and fill us with courage and wisdom. Help us to remember your love and grace and to be faithful in our service to you. Give us the patience and understanding to face life's challenges with grace. We ask these things in your name, amen.

National Anthem Performed by Lincoln Middle School Chorus of Portland.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator Joseph Baldacci of Penobscot County.

Reading of the Journal of Wednesday, April 10, 2024.

Medical Provider of the Day, Ethan Evankow, PA-C of Portland.

**PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE**

**Non-Concurrent Matter**

An Act to Provide for the Direct Shipment of Spirits to Consumers  
S.P. 682 L.D. 1695

In Senate, April 9, 2024, the Minority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-664)**.

Comes from the House, the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

On motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, the Senate **INSISTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

The Following Communication: H.C. 473

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

April 10, 2024

Honorable Darek M. Grant  
Secretary of the Senate  
131st Maine Legislature  
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear Secretary Grant:

House Paper 1442, Legislative Document 2246, "An Act to Establish a Minimum Value Threshold for the Class C Crime of Theft by a Repeat Offender," having been returned by the Governor, together with objections to the same, pursuant to Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, after reconsideration, the House proceeded to vote on the question: "Shall this Bill become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?"

59 voted in favor and 77 against, and accordingly it was the vote of the House that the Bill not become a law and the veto was sustained.

Sincerely,

S/Robert B. Hunt  
Clerk of the House

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

**ORDERS**

**Joint Orders**

Expressions of Legislative Sentiment recognizing:

The University of Southern Maine's Maine Model United Nations Conference Leadership Team, of Gorham, on the occasion of the 25th annual Maine Model United Nations Conference. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;  
SLS 1806

Sponsored by Senator **BRENNER** of Cumberland.

Cosponsored by Senator: DUSON of Cumberland,  
Representatives: BOYLE of Gorham, TERRY of Gorham.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

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

Senator **BRENNER:** Thank you, Mr. President, and Fellow Colleagues of the Senate. Today, I rise to celebrate the incredible work and heritage of the Maine Model United Nations Conference, or MeMUNC, and their contributions to our state. This year, MeMUNC will be celebrating their 25th anniversary hosting this prestigious conference. MeMUNC is an annual three-day event hosted on USM's Gorham campus for upwards of 300 high school students from across Maine. They gather in different UN committees and each student represents a different member nation. It's important to note that MeMUNC is not meant to identically replicate the UN, but rather role play as their member states and develop a strategy and negotiate with other delegates, which can lead to conflict or partnerships with their colleagues. It sounds a lot like us here in the Legislature. Some of the topics for this year's conference syllabus include saving animals from geopolitics as growing human conflicts pose a great risk for many animals and their habitats, maternal health as maternal mortality rates remain high around the world due to inadequate access to healthcare and socioeconomic disparities. Mr. President, these are critical issues threatening our world. MeMUNC offers an outlet to simulate different nations with different viewpoints and provides students with an understanding of the complexities in international relations. To the MeMUNC leadership team past and present, I extend my heartfelt congratulations and gratitude. Your dedication and hard work serve to enrich the lives of students and educators alike. May this milestone anniversary be a moment of celebration, reflection, and renewed commitment to the values of diplomacy, cooperation, and mutual understanding. Thank you.

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

Senator **DUSON:** Thank you, Mr. President, my Fellow Colleagues of the Senate. I, too, rise to commemorate the quarter-century anniversary of MeMUNC and the -- notice the conference that was held at USM. This annual event has been a platform for students to hone their diplomatic skills and empower students, both high school students and college students, to become leaders, thinkers, and advocates for positive change. The MeMUNC annual conference is unique, as it is led by college students from the University of Southern Maine. These students are led in a semester-long course by the leadership team, fellow college students, that help prepare for the conference, research the topics, and train in parliamentary procedure. The MeMUNC leadership team is also responsible for programming during the three-day conference and fundraising to make the conference accessible to all that want to partake in it. Mr. President, I'm pleased to welcome members of the MeMUNC leadership team here in the Chamber: Lily Carson, Rozhan Sabeti, both sophomores and both serving as Undersecretary General of Publications, Maddie Weston, a junior, is serving as Co-Undersecretary General of Public Relations, Tyler Harris, a junior, is serving as Undersecretary for the Crisis Committee, Sanjay

Tucker, a junior, is serving as Undersecretary General of Operations, and Yasmin Idow, a senior, is serving as Secretary General for MeMUNC 2024. I commend the members of the MeMUNC leadership team and their advisors who work tirelessly to ensure the success of this program year after year. I'd like to give a special shoutout to Professor Tim Ruback and Professor Rebecca Davis-Gibbons, who serve as co-directors for MeMUNC. Your dedication to fostering dialogue and collaboration among our youth is commendable and deserving of the highest praise. As we celebrate this significant milestone, let us reaffirm our commitment to the diversity of thoughts and opinions and a renewed understanding that we all should work to protect fundamental human rights for all, and to practice tolerance and live together in peace. Thank you so much.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

**THE PRESIDENT:** The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the chamber Tyler Harris, Sanjay Tucker, Yasmeen Edow, Madilyn Weston, Rozzan Sabeti, Lilly Carson of USM Model UN Leadership Team of the towns of Portland, Gorham, Westbrook, Saco and Durham. They are the guests today of the Senators from Cumberland, Senator Brenner and Senator DUSON, the Senator from York, Senator Bailey and the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Brakey. Would they please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate.

Ladies of the Lake Quilting Group, of Rumford, recipient of a Spirit of America Foundation Award. The Spirit of America Foundation was established to encourage and promote volunteerism, and the foundation presents awards to honor local individuals, organizations or projects in appreciation of community service. We extend our congratulations and best wishes; SLS 1807

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

The Joint Order was **READ**.

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

Senator **KEIM:** Thank you, Mr. President. I rise to speak about an extraordinary group of women from the River Valley. As you know, municipalities in Maine present the Spirit of America Foundation Tribute to local individuals, organizations, and projects for commendable service each year. The Town of Rumford chose the Ladies of the Lake Quilting Group for this prestigious award, and it was a great choice. The Ladies of the Lake do more than the name implies. Of course, they do make quilts - beautiful quilts - but they do much more as well. The Ladies of the Lake Quilting Group is a group of women who work behind the scenes to help their neighbors in the River Valley. This group, which has been around for more than two decades, currently has around 15 members. One of their top priorities is providing quilts to the men and women who served our country. The ladies make quilts for veterans and bring them to veterans

homes and nursing homes. In addition, they make dresses for girls in Africa and quilts to be donated to fire victims immediately following a blaze, so they have something warm and comforting of their own. One of their biggest projects is providing gift bags to newborns from disadvantaged homes. The gift bags include supplies to meet the needs of the newborn, as well as books, diapers, onesies, and other necessities. The Ladies of the Lake hold an annual baby shower to help meet these needs. These ladies meet twice a month at the Rumford Methodist Church, where they learn new quilting skills and research ways that they can best help the community. Together, they prepare, cut, and sew fabric to provide quilts and other needs to those less fortunate. The result of their efforts can be seen in the beauty of their work, and our state is better off due to their efforts, and I want to thank them today for their tireless volunteerism. Thank you for joining me.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

**THE PRESIDENT:** The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the chamber the Ladies of the Lake Quilting Group: Sally Carey, Donna Bucher, Blanche Lyons, Linda Kurus, Mary Pulsifer, Cathy Crump and Naomi Robertson. They are the guests today of the Senator from Oxford, Senator Keim. Would they please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate.

Dennis Yates, of Norway, Chief of the Norway Fire Department, on his retirement from the department after 50 years of public service. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;  
SLS 1808

Sponsored by Senator BENNETT of Oxford.  
Cosponsored by Representative: MILLETT of Waterford.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

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

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Mr. President, Fellow Members of the Senate. Today, I rise to honor an extraordinary public servant, Dennis Yates. Mr. Yates began his career with the Norway Fire Department on March 5, 1974, and his retirement became effective just about a week and a half ago, on March 31st. During that long career, Mr. Yates served as the fire chief for 13 years, stepping back from the top position about a year ago. But wanting to put in his full 50 years, he stayed on to continue to protect the people of Norway and the surrounding communities. Chief Yates has spent so many years protecting the citizens of Norway because, as he said it in his words, quote, I love what I do. When I go to the schools and talk to the kids, I say I don't have a job, I have a calling. The people of Norway have been very lucky to benefit from this calling. You can't find that kind of experience and expertise just anywhere. Fifty years in any career is a long time, but particularly in such a dangerous field. Mr. Yates' son also worked as a firefighter, but quit the profession after only 30 years, which is still, of course, a very long career. During his term as chief, Chief Yates sought to find solutions to a problem affecting many of our small-town fire

departments that we're all aware of, the decline in the number of certified firefighters. It seems that fewer and fewer people are interested in such a challenging career. Admittedly, while the job can be rewarding, it is far from lucrative in terms of wages and can be tough to weigh against the incredible personal sacrifice. Spending 50 years doing such a tough but important job is beyond commendable. Mr. President, that's why I want to thank Chief Yates for his dedication, his integrity, and his commitment to the town and people of Norway, and congratulate him on a job well done and wish him and his wife Christine, who are with us in the Chamber, the best in his well-deserved retirement.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

**THE PRESIDENT:** The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the chamber Dennis Yates, his wife Christine, and Deputy Fire Chief Ryan Fox of the town of Norway. They are the guests today of the Senator from Oxford, Senator Bennett. Would they please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate.

Scott Farwell, of Windsor, on his retirement as Senior Analyst in the Legislature's Office of Program Evaluation and Accountability after over 29 years of state and legislative service. We extend our appreciation and best wishes;  
SLS 1809

Sponsored by Senator RENY of Lincoln.  
Cosponsored by Representative: SMITH of Palermo.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

**The PRESIDENT:** The Chair recognizes the Senator from Lincoln, Senator Reny.

Senator **RENY:** Thank you, Mr. President, Fellow Members of the Senate. So, this being my first term in office, I haven't had the opportunity to get to know Scott on a deeply personal level. But what is very apparent in my short time here is that this building would not run without the critical work of our nonpartisan legislative staff. Twenty-nine years of service to this state is amazing, and something that I hope he and all of his loved ones are very proud of. So, thank you for your years of service to the people of Maine.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

**THE PRESIDENT:** The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the chamber Scott Farwell, Senior Analyst in Office of Program Evaluation and Accountability, who is retiring after twenty-nine years. He is from the town of Windsor and is the guest today of the Senator from Lincoln, Senator Reny. Would he please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate.

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.

---

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

---

The Lisbon/St. Dominic Cheerleading Squad, of Lisbon, which won the Class C State Championship. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 1816

Sponsored by Senator **TIMBERLAKE** of Androscoggin.  
Cosponsored by Senator: **BRAKEY** of Androscoggin,  
Representatives: **GALLETTA** of Durham, **LEE** of Auburn, **LIBBY** of Auburn, **MASON** of Lisbon, **SHAW** of Auburn.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

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

Senator **TIMBERLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. President. And I'm organized like always. It's my great honor, and as you all know, everybody that serves in this Body, it's always such a great pleasure when you get to welcome the kids and the accomplishments that they make throughout your district. And again, this is another great honor that I get to do today is present this sentiment to the Lisbon/St. Dominic Cheerleading Squad. And the amazing thing about this squad is they've done this three years in a row, being champions, and it's just impressive. I can't say enough about them. I look forward to you recognizing them and me presenting them this sentiment. Great job, girls, great job.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

**THE PRESIDENT:** The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the chamber Lisbon and St. Dominic's Cheer Squad with coach Nicole Adams of the towns of Lisbon and Auburn. They are the guests today of the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Timberlake. Would they please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate.

### Joint Resolution

Joint Resolution in Memoriam:

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

Jon Webster Holmes, of Dixfield. Mr. Holmes worked for his parents in their local grocery market for many years before buying the market in 1976. He worked there until 2007 when he retired.

He was President of the local snowmobile club and active in the Maine Snowmobile Association; past President of the Dixfield/Dirigo Alumni Association; a charter member of the now defunct Dixfield Jaycees; head of youth sports in Dixfield for many years and coached little league during that time; active in the Cub Scouts; a 20-year member of the Dixfield Fire Department retiring as a Captain; and active in hockey playing in high school, prep school, college and then the Cardiac League, as well as helping to manage and playing in the Oxie League Softball League. He was named Dixfield's Citizen of the Year in 2008 and was also named River Valley Volunteer of the Year. He was active in the Dirigo Boosters and SCORE, served as President of WLA and worked at the Rumford Information Booth. In recent years, he enjoyed doing "Trail Magic," feeding through-hikers on the Appalachian Trail. Mr. Holmes will be long remembered and sadly missed by his family and friends and all those whose lives he touched;

SLS 1810

Sponsored by Senator **KEIM** of Oxford.  
Cosponsored by Representative: **SCHMERSAL-BURGESS** of Mexico.

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

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

Senator **KEIM:** Thank you, Mr. President, Colleagues. I rise today to recognize in sadness the passing of an extraordinary man, Jon Holmes from Dixfield. Jon began working in his father's grocery store, Holmes Market, when he was just a young boy. His parents had bought the building in 1945, and Jon grew up in one of the apartments at the top. At the time, there were many independent grocery stores scattered throughout Dixfield. After attending business school in Boston, he married the love of his life, Susan. Despite his parents wanting him to do something else with his degree, Jon knew he loved Dixfield and decided to stay. In 1976, Jon and Susan bought the market. They worked there until their retirement in 2007. During most of this time, he worked 80-90 hours a week. As he got closer to retirement, he worked a mere 50-60 hours a week. In addition to running this grocery store, which was quintessential Dixfield and almost the heartbeat of our town, you could say, he participated in many local groups and associations. He was the president of the local snowmobile club and active in the Maine Snowmobile Association. He served as past president of the Dirigo Alumni Association, founding member of the Dixfield Jaycees. He was active in the Cub Scouts, he coached Little League, he was the head of Dixfield youth sports. He spent 20 years as a member of the Dixfield Fire Department and retired at the rank of Captain. After his retirement in 2007, he became very active in Dirigo boosters, could always be seen at every football game and most all of the games, the SCORE mentor program, and other volunteer work. Unsurprisingly, he was named Dixfield Citizen of the Year. Through his years running the grocery store and his extensive activities outside of work, Jon became the most welcoming and iconic face in Dixfield. Beyond being well known and friendly, he was kind and generous. When times were tough, he would often help customers out with their grocery bills, and people would repay him when they had the ability. One time he remembered particularly was a family who was trying to support their daughter

in college. She had to write an essay about a local business that meant a lot to her, and she earned an A+ on the essay about Holmes Market. Jon was generous and funny and, for me, personally, just a really great friend. He had -- he was a gentle soul with just a warm smile. I got to know him, of course, just through sports and being a part of the Dixfield community, but then when I began to run for office, he was all in and just so encouraging and kind, always giving me opportunities to be engaged in ways and just welcoming, just open arms - to me, to everybody. I have a special fond memory of Halloween -- every Halloween being in his driveway and handing out apples to kids. One of the things about Jon is that I never knew him to do something for himself, everything was always about giving to others. And that's why our community misses him so deeply and it's like a light has gone out in Dixfield at his passing. So, I'm very grateful to the Holmes family for coming here today and allowing me to say a few words about Jon. He'll be deeply missed. Thank you.

The Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

**THE PRESIDENT:** The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the chamber the children of Jonathan Holmes: Scott and Julie and their spouses, Jennifer, and Chris. They are the guests today of the Senator from Oxford, Senator Keim. Would they please rise and accept the condolences of the Maine Senate.

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### Unfinished Business

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

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (3/21/24) matter:

**JOINT RESOLUTION** - Andrew Roosevelt Mantis, of Biddeford. Mr. Mantis served his community as a science teacher at Biddeford High School. In 1985, he became the owner of Pizza by Alex, which he operated for over 35 years. Mr. Mantis will be long remembered and sadly missed by his family and friends and all those whose lives he touched;  
SLS 1634

Sponsored by Senator INGWERSEN of York.  
Cosponsored by Representatives: GERE of Kennebunkport, MALON of Biddeford, SHEEHAN of Biddeford.

Tabled - March 21, 2024 by Senator **INGWERSEN** of York

Pending - **ADOPTION**

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

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

Senator **INGWERSEN:** Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, though Andrew's family wasn't able to be here for this session, I would like to rise today to speak a few words in memory of Andrew Mantis. Andrew grew up in Biddeford, spent his childhood there, and graduated from Biddeford High School in 1959. He was a well-rounded athlete and was well loved by his classmates. At Biddeford High School, Andrew played football, basketball, and baseball for the Biddeford Tigers, and he was elected class president all four years at Biddeford High - a testament to his service and his leadership amongst his peers. Andrew attended UMaine Orono and returned to Biddeford to teach science at his alma mater for many years. He's remembered fondly and well respected by all of the students he taught. Andrew is best known as the owner and operator of Pizza by Alex, which he bought from his uncle in 1985. Pizza by Alex has always been the classic pizzeria of Biddeford, famous for its one size, reasonably priced, quickly prepared pizza to go or to eat inside. As you drive down Alfred Street, the iconic green and red neon flashing Pizza by Alex sign is always there to greet you as you head into downtown. When you went inside, Andrew's friendly face behind the counter, it will be sorely missed. But hopefully, Pizza by Alex will go on with his classic sign, inviting us all in. I would like to send my condolences at this time to Andrew's family during this time of mourning. Andrew will be sorely missed in his community. Thank you.

The Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (4/2/25) matter:

**JOINT RESOLUTION** - Linda L. Bean, of St. George, a businesswoman and philanthropist. Ms. Bean was known for her work ethic, entrepreneurial spirit and pride and dedication to Maine and L.L. Bean, the company her grandfather founded. She bought lobster dealerships and owned the Port Clyde General Store and Tenants Harbor General Store. She founded the Perfect Maine Lobster brand in 2007. Her philanthropy centered on Life Flight of Maine medical helicopters and emergency airlift medical teams and equipment, twin helicopter landing pads atop the Coulombe Family Tower of the Maine Medical Center in Portland, cafe enlargement for the Maine Botanical Gardens at Boothbay and an upcoming St. George School System building that will specialize in the trades. She initiated the N.C. Wyeth Research Foundation and Reading Libraries, a private nonprofit entity that is building or restoring Wyeth properties in Port Clyde, in Wilmington, Delaware and in Needham, Massachusetts. Her board and trustee positions included the Maine Chapter of the Nature Conservancy, the Brandywine Conservancy and Art Museum in Pennsylvania, the Portland Museum of Art, the Collections of the Maine Historical Society, the Eagle Forum Education and Legal Defense Fund in Missouri, the Intercollegiate Studies Institute in Delaware and L.L. Bean, Inc. She ran for political office, seeking the First District Congressional seat on multiple occasions but unsuccessfully, and was a strong supporter of conservative causes. Ms. Bean will be long remembered and sadly missed by her family and friends and all those whose lives she touched;  
SLS 1816

Sponsored by Senator BRAKEY of Androscoggin.  
 Cosponsored by Senators: BALDACCI of Penobscot, BEEBE-CENTER of Knox, BENNETT of Oxford, BLACK of Franklin, CARNEY of Cumberland, CHIPMAN of Cumberland, CURRY of Waldo, DUSON of Cumberland, FARRIN of Somerset, GUERIN of Penobscot, HARRINGTON of York, HICKMAN of Kennebec, President JACKSON of Aroostook, KEIM of Oxford, LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec, LAWRENCE of York, LIBBY of Cumberland, LYFORD of Penobscot, MOORE of Washington, NANGLE of Cumberland, POULIOT of Kennebec, RAFFERTY of York, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, STEWART of Aroostook, TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin, Representatives: ADAMS of Lebanon, ALBERT of Madawaska, ANDREWS of Paris, ANKELES of Brunswick, ARATA of New Gloucester, ARDELL of Monticello, ARFORD of Brunswick, BABIN of Fort Fairfield, BAGSHAW of Windham, BELL of Yarmouth, BLIER of Buxton, BOYER of Poland, BOYLE of Gorham, BRADSTREET of Vassalboro, BRENNAN of Portland, BRIDGEO of Augusta, CAMPBELL of Orrington, CARLOW of Buxton, CARMICHAEL of Greenbush, CLOUTIER of Lewiston, CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham, COLLAMORE of Pittsfield, COLLINGS of Portland, COPELAND of Saco, COSTAIN of Plymouth, CRAFTS of Newcastle, CRAY of Palmyra, CROCKETT of Portland, CYRWAY of Albion, DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe, DAVIS of East Machias, DHALAC of South Portland, DILL of Old Town, DODGE of Belfast, DOUDERA of Camden, DRINKWATER of Milford, DUCHARME of Madison, DUNPHY of Embden, FAULKINGHAM of Winter Harbor, FAY of Raymond, FOSTER of Dexter, FREDERICKS of Sanford, GALLETTA of Durham, GATTINE of Westbrook, GEIGER of Rockland, GIFFORD of Lincoln, GRAHAM of North Yarmouth, GREENWOOD of Wales, GRIFFIN of Levant, GUERRETTE of Caribou, HAGGAN of Hampden, HALL of Wilton, HASENFUS of Readfield, HENDERSON of Rumford, HEPLER of Woolwich, HOBBS of Wells, HYMES of Waldo, JACKSON of Oxford, JAUCH of Topsham, JAVNER of Chester, KUHN of Falmouth, LAJOIE of Lewiston, LANDRY of Farmington, LANIGAN of Sanford, LaROCHELLE of Augusta, LAVIGNE of Berwick, LEE of Auburn, LEMELIN of Chelsea, LIBBY of Auburn, LYMAN of Livermore Falls, MADIGAN of Waterville, MALON of Biddeford, MASON of Lisbon, MATLACK of St. George, MILLETT of Waterford, MORRIS of Turner, MURPHY of Scarborough, NESS of Fryeburg, NEWMAN of Belgrade, NUTTING of Oakland, O'CONNELL of Brewer, O'NEIL of Saco, PARRY of Arundel, PAUL of Winterport, PERKINS of Dover-Foxcroft, PERRY of Calais, PERRY of Bangor, PLUECKER of Warren, POIRIER of Skowhegan, POLEWARCZYK of Wiscasset, POMERLEAU of Standish, PRINGLE of Windham, QUINT of Hodgdon, RISEMAN of Harrison, ROBERTS of South Berwick, RUDNICKI of Fairfield, RUNTE of York, RUSSELL of Verona Island, SACHS of Freeport, SALISBURY of Westbrook, SAMPSON of Alfred, SARGENT of York, SAYRE of Kennebunk, SCHMERSAL-BURGESS of Mexico, SHAGOURY of Hallowell, SHAW of Auburn, SHEEHAN of Biddeford, SIMMONS of Waldoboro, SKOLD of Portland, SMITH of Palermo, SOBOLESKI of Phillips, STOVER of Boothbay, STROUT of Harrington, SWALLOW of Houlton, Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland, TERRY of Gorham, THERIAULT of Fort Kent, THORNE of Carmel, UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle, WALKER of Naples, WARREN of Scarborough, WHITE of Waterville, WHITE of Guilford, WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor, WOOD of Greene, WOODSOME of Waterboro, WORTH of Ellsworth, ZAGER of Portland, ZEIGLER of Montville.

Tabled - April 2, 2024 by Senator **BRAKEY** of Androscoggin

Pending - **ADOPTION**

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

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

Senator **BRAKEY:** Thank you, Mr. President. It is my great honor to share some words today, to have those words put in the permanent record of the Maine Senate to honor my good friend, Linda Bean, whose passing, I think, was a great loss to the State of Maine. To put it succinctly, Linda Bean was a titan. She was a titan of Maine. She was a great advocate for so many causes, putting aside political causes which sometimes, I'm sure, certainly caused division within this Body, but she was a titan in her advocacy for so many causes that we all share. In particular, her fight for the Maine lobster brand. I remember Linda gave me -- she had these bumper stickers made up at one point, she gave one to me, made me put it on the back of my car, it said there's no such thing as a Maine lobster from away. She was very frustrated with the Canadians fishing up lobster from the Gulf of Maine and calling it Gulf of Maine lobster and stealing our brand and selling it, stealing the hard work that so many people have done in Maine to build up the Maine lobster brand. She was a fierce advocate for our lobstermen. I had the great pleasure to accompany her once on the christening of one of the Life Flight helicopters that she generously donated to support help individuals who find themselves in desperate need of immediate medical attention in far-flung areas of our state. There are so many things I could say about Linda Bean, but on a personal note, I thought maybe I would just share a few personal stories. I met Linda Bean for the first time, I was a much younger man, it was 2012, and I was a young ragamuffin upstart working on the Ron Paul presidential campaign. And Linda -- I didn't know who she was, she came to a debate watch party we were having with the Republican debates at the Ron Paul headquarters in 2012. I didn't know her from anyone else, but what formed out of there was a -- as I got to know her, was a really strong friendship that I've counted her as a friend and someone who I've regularly gone to for advice on so many matters over the last 12 years. But when I think of Linda, there's no fonder memory I have in my mind than a memory I have in 2012, in Tampa, Florida. There was some controversy around this, some may remember, there was a big fight. Supporters of Congressman Ron Paul, who Linda was certainly among them, we were elected as delegates to the Republican National Convention that year. The Mitt Romney campaign wasn't very happy about that, and they kicked a bunch of us out of that convention and stripped our delegate badges away, and that led to many people -- delegates from across the country exiting in protest of that convention, chanting as Maine goes, so goes the nation. And I'll always remember Linda Bean there, who, you know, they didn't take her delegate badge away, but she stood with us. We marched for like a good, long mile in the Tampa heat, away from that convention, and all along the way, there was Linda Bean, just smiling and marching along with us. At her age, in her health, and I'll always remember that. She was a fierce advocate, a fierce fighter. She had a strong sense of what was right and what was wrong, and she wasn't afraid. Certainly, as someone who certainly grew up and in one of the

great families of our state and certainly had a lot of certainly many privileges from that, but she was a fierce advocate and fighter for the little guy. And that is something I will always -- I'll always remember about Linda Bean. So, thank you for -- thank you to this Body for honoring her today. It means a great deal to me.

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

Senator **GUERIN:** Thank you, Mr. President. I, too, rise in honoring my dear friend, Linda Bean, who was such a good-old Mainer. Many people in her position financially would have been inaccessible to regular people, but Linda prided herself on being just a good-old Mainer and doing what she could to help people. Many things that she did behind the scenes that no one will ever know of. She did so many great things in philanthropy in Maine, big name things that were read in the sentiment and that my good friend, Senator Brakey, already mentioned. She also was such an encourager in places where she really didn't have to be, she just chose to be. In the lobster industry, my son was lobstering off Port Clyde for a company that didn't drop their lobsters at Linda's wharf, they went to another wharf, and at Christmastime, Linda gave her stern men a big unannounced bonus that they weren't expecting and wasn't part of their pay, she just gave that, and my son was like oh, I wish we'd been working for Linda Bean. And personally, I met her when I was a younger woman than Senator Brakey is today -- gentleman, that is -- and she was just so supportive of me and nominated me to be an Eagle for the Phyllis Schlafly Eagle Forum. And I was a new legislator with not much money, and she said, you know, I know you have a big family, Stacey, and I really want you to be there to receive the award from Phyllis, and if you want to share a hotel room with me, I'd be happy to have you. And in what is true Linda's form, we stayed up till 2:00 in the morning talking like teenagers and just having a good time. She is just such a sweet, down-to-earth person. I was up at her set of sporting camps she had bought to save them from being taken down, demolished, and I know she allowed the people that were running the camp to stay there for several years without ever making their payments that -- the lease payment on trying to keep this Maine sporting camp going. And just so many different things that Linda did. She came for the tip credit restoration and when we had record numbers of people from both sides of the aisle coming out to restore the tip credit, she was there early in the morning and when I saw her there after 1:00 at night, I said Linda, you haven't spoken yet? And she said I don't have to go to work tomorrow and a lot of these people do, I'm going to wait till the last. And she did, and at that point, she would've been in her 70s. But that was pretty telling of her generous spirit and her non-assuming ways. She never felt like because she was Linda Bean that she deserved any special treatment. I think she'd like to be remembered just as a good-old Mainer. Thank you.

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

Senator **LIBBY:** Thank you, Mr. President, Men and Women of the Senate. It was an honor in 1988 to serve on Linda Bean's committee when she ran for Congress. I believe to this day that she would have represented Maine in a very fine way in Congress. I got to spend an entire day with her in a place called Tory Hill, Maine. And it was in the hot sun and, you know, we

were having, you know, kind of a regional field day, and the one thing I honestly can say about her is that even though she believed strongly in conservatism, whenever she spoke about Maine, there was a complete compartmentalization of that. It was we're talking about Maine, that's all of Maine, all the people of Maine, and I care about all the people of Maine. And for that reason, it was just absolutely an honor to support her in that failed bid -- and then again, I believe, in 1992. Just a fine, fine human being from an incredible Maine family, and I definitely want to share my condolences today.

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

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Mr. President, Fellow Members of the Senate. Like any Republican of a certain age in this state, I had many dealings and interactions and some collaborative work with Linda Bean. We didn't always agree on the issues - in fact, the last time I spoke with her, it was about two months ago, when she called me at 7:30 in the morning on a Saturday to tell me how wrong I was about something that I was doing here - and but she did it as she also does, with grace and compassion and real interest in hearing how I'd come to the conclusion that I had on that issue. Linda was a phenomenal patron of the arts. And if you've ever spent time at her place, any of her places, you could see that on full display. She was always passionate about the causes that she adopted, whatever they were, and she threw herself into them immensely. She was an investor into our traditional industries in this state. We all know about the lobster, she also invested in maple sugar and woodlands, but this was like really important to her to keep those traditional industries going because she knew that ordinary Maine people depended on them and will for generations. And I just want to say the one thing that I think about her in all contexts is whenever I had a conversation with her, I could tell that the fundamental thing she was interested in was justice. Now, people can disagree what justice will manifest itself in various ways, but she always wanted to do the best for the people. And it was -- she always had this sense of social justice to her work and philosophy and all of her private sector and public undertakings. So, I, too, share my condolences, it's the passing of an era and should not go unnoticed. Thank you, Mr. President.

The Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (4/3/24) matter:

SENATE REPORTS - from the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** on Bill "An Act to Remove the Waiting Period for Benefits Under Maine's Unemployment Insurance System" S.P. 583 L.D. 1464

**Majority - Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-656)** (7 members)

**Minority - Ought Not to Pass** (3 members)

Tabled - April 3, 2024 by Senator **DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland

Pending - **ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT**

(In Senate, April 3, 2024, Reports **READ**.)

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

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

Senator **GUERIN:** Thank you, Mr. President, Members of the Senate. It's hard to believe that four years ago this week, Maine's unemployment system was crippled. It ground to a halt and the Department of Labor went into dark as thousands who had been laid off - due to what we now know was an ill-advised and unnecessary decision to close the state - were left in limbo. But that's not why I rise today. I rise today to object to this bill. It was during this time four years ago that I was lead on the Labor Committee, along with Chair Bellows. I remember sitting in the Appropriations Room as we tried in a bipartisan effort to get answers to DOL's paralysis. But it wasn't until later that we learned the State was defrauded of millions of taxpayer dollars. In fact, Maine had \$26.5 million in fraudulent unemployment claims between April 1, 2020, and March 31, 2021, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. How much worse could it have been if we had not had the one-week waiting period in effect? The waiting period allows the time for the Department of Labor to verify the claim before the department. If something is found out that later disqualifies the claim, it is much harder to claw it back once it has already been paid. My message today is simply caution. The pandemic taught us well and gave us invaluable knowledge. Unfortunately, with this bill, it now seems that we are forgetting what we have learned.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#685)**

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, INGWERSEN, LAFOUNTAIN, LAWRENCE, NANGLE, RAFFERTY, ROTUNDO, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CURRY, FARRIN, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, KEIM, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, PIERCE, POULIOT, RENY, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

17 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 18 Senators having voted in the negative, the motion by Senator **TIPPING** of Penobscot to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, **FAILED**.

The Minority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **ACCEPTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

---

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (4/10/24) matter:

HOUSE REPORTS - from the Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Right to Know Advisory Committee Regarding Public Records Exceptions" H.P. 1421 L.D. 2215

**Majority - Ought to Pass** (8 members)

**Minority - Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-920)** (5 members)

Tabled - April 10, 2024 by Senator **HICKMAN** of Kennebec

Pending - motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS** Report in concurrence (Roll Call Ordered)

(In House, Majority **OUGHT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**.)

(In Senate, April 10, 2024, Reports **READ**.)

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

Senator **BRAKEY:** Thank you, Mr. President. I spoke to this legislation the last time it was before us, so I'll mostly be repeating myself, but this legislation would eliminate certain privacy protections that have been longstanding in the medical cannabis program. Those protections are in place for good reason, as cannabis continues to be prohibited under federal law, and we do not want to -- certainly I do not want to see it made any easier for the federal government to go over Maine people for items that should not be a crime in the first place. And further, this is under the Right to Know laws, and I believe the spirit of our Right to Know laws are based on our right to know what the government is doing, not our right to know what private citizens are doing. So, I will be opposing the motion. Thank you.

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

Senator **CARNEY:** Thank you, Mr. President. Briefly, Colleagues, I just want to clarify some lack of clarity about this legislation. The legislation was proposed by the Right to Know advisory committee and what it does is it updates sections of Title 22 to clarify important aspects of the confidentiality of caregiver and patient information under our medical cannabis laws. It's not -- it's actually because it's dealing with confidentiality, if you narrow your view very carefully in on one or two aspects of it, it might look like it's eliminating certain privacy protections, but in fact, it's creating privacy protections and confidentiality provisions



subject to a few narrow exceptions that are necessary to protect public health. Thank you.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#686)**

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

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, FARRIN, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, KEIM, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, POULIOT, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

22 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, the motion by Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc to ACCEPT the Majority OUGHT TO PASS Report, in concurrence, PREVAILED.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ TWICE** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

---

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (4/10/24) matter:

Resolve, Directing the Department of Education to Establish the Commission to Study School Construction Policy and Funding H.P. 1476 L.D. 2285

Tabled - April 10, 2024 by Senator **DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland

Pending - **FINAL PASSAGE** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**

(In House, **FAILED FINAL PASSAGE**.)

On motion by Senator **DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland, placed on the **SPECIAL STUDY TABLE** pending **PASSAGE**, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

---

The President requested the Sergeant-At-Arms escort the Senator from Sagadahoc, Senator **VITELLI**, to the rostrum where she assumed the duties as President Pro Tempore.

The President took a seat on the Floor.

The Senate was called to order by President Pro Tempore **ELOISE A. VITELLI** of Sagadahoc County.

---

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (4/3/24) matter:

SENATE REPORTS - from the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Provide Relief to Federal Employees Affected by a Federal Shutdown" (EMERGENCY) S.P. 906 L.D. 2113

**Majority - Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-647)** (8 members)

**Minority - Ought Not to Pass** (5 members)

Tabled - April 3, 2024 by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc

Pending - **ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT**

(In Senate, April 3, 2024, Reports **READ**.)

Senator **BAILEY** of York moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report.

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 PRESIDENT PRO TEM:** The Chair recognizes the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Jackson.

Senator **JACKSON:** Thank you, Madam President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. You know, when partisan games and political dysfunction lead to government shutdowns, it's always the workers who pay the price. And I don't think any of us in here think that's right. Like the rest of us, state and federal workers have homes to heat, they have families to feed and bills to pay, and when the government shuts down, all of a sudden, that paycheck they were depending on, well, that -- that disappears through no fault of their own. And what's worse is that there's no telling how long a shutdown is going to go on, and many of these folks that are working there are expected to continue to work without pay. Now, I know from personal experience, I'm sure many of you in here know what it's like to live paycheck to paycheck and the anxiety of a single missed check can start a chain of events where it feels like there's no coming back from. I don't think anyone should have to experience that stress, especially when their stream of income is outside of their control. The bill before us would provide a state guarantee on private, interest-free loans from banks and credit unions to state and

federal government employees living here in Maine who have been furloughed without pay, who have been required to work without pay during a government shutdown lasting longer than seven days. I think that's a reasonable program that, you know, thankfully, with great, great support and, I mean, the best intention in the world. It was supported by the Maine Credit Union League and the Maine Bankers Associations. I think financial institutions like them have the option of participating, they don't actually have to do this, but, you know, what you see is these community banks and community credit unions understand what it's like for people in their community to be in hard times - again, through no fault of their own - and like the work that they put into this bill was outstanding and it would be really, you know, unfortunate that this would become a partisan thing because clearly, it isn't, it shouldn't be. You know, the loans will be repaid once the government reopens and the workers receive their back pay, that's why I think the credit unions and the banks understand that this is money that's going to come to the people, that they will have, you know, to pay these loans back. I think that's a win for everyone. And I just want to say that, you know, throughout my time here, this actually started back during the Trump Administration, we had a shutdown that was a significant amount of time, and the State of Connecticut had done something similar to this. One of the people that worked for me at the time on staff recognized that, thought this would be a good thing to put forward, and it immediately, once again, the credit unions and the banks stepped up and said yeah, we would like to be part of this, we would like to do this, we think this is a good thing. I think, you know, even back then, whenever that was, four or five years ago, the idea for me was that many of these federal workers have to continue to work. So, if you're working 40, 50, 60 hours a week or whatever for the federal government, places like Portland Naval Shipyard, you know, doing important work, you know, with our nation's defense, they're required to work. And while they're required to work, they're not getting paid. If you're talking about three, four weeks, or possibly more, of not getting paid while you're working, I think that is a tremendous burden on people. You know, it would be different if you were laid off and you were able to go and get another job in the interim and then come back to work sometime later, but if you're actually working those 50, 60 hours and not getting paid, well, where are you going to -- what time are you going to have left to go and work somewhere to make up what you're not getting during that week, during that month? I think for many people that actually does put a massive burden on them. Those are Republicans, those are Democrats. And now, you know, just recently, under a Democratic administration with Biden, we saw the same thing. So, I don't see this really as any one way as far as politics, I see this as a function of government that doesn't work right at certain times, and I'll be the biggest critic of that. I don't care if you're a Republican or Democrat, I think we have people in DC that don't understand what the problems are for everyday working-class people, and that -- when the government shuts down, that clearly becomes a problem for everyday working-class people. And when we went to the bill -- went into the committee with the bill, Senator Bailey, you know, made the question about what about state employees? And I had not considered that. I thought it was really a great question because in my time, again, under Governor LePage, you know, we had a shutdown, before that, we had a shutdown, you know, under other Democratic governors. And so, even then, it wasn't politics, it was about this government not working at times and requiring people in the state to continue

working even though they weren't getting paid. And so, I think what we have here is an opportunity to put something in place for the future, hopefully we never have a shutdown federally or on the state level, but in the case that we do, you know, people that do have to continue to work, if they want to make the decision to go in to a credit union or bank and ask for a zero interest loan, the bank still has to approve it, the bank still has to say yes, this is credible, but they can do that. And it's only in those cases that there is a shutdown, they are a federal or state worker, and it's only after seven days. I think there's a lot of safety built into this. Again, Maine bankers, Maine credit unions, FAME, all came together. It seems like -- well, it doesn't seem, they do, they have really good interest in putting this together, hopefully for a time in the future that never happens, but -- but, you know, four or five years ago when it happened and then the shutdown ended, you know, 17 days later, we weren't quick enough to enact this. Then, we just recently had the threat of another shutdown and that's why the bill is here. It obviously could happen in the future, and I just think that the State of Maine could be ready like the State of Connecticut to help our workers, both federal and state, and that's why I'm hoping that we can actually vote to support this wholeheartedly for the people in the State of Maine.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

#### ROLL CALL (#687)

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

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, FARRIN, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, KEIM, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, POULIOT, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

22 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, the motion by Senator BAILEY of York to ACCEPT the Majority OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED Report, PREVAILED.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-647) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

---

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

---

**RECESSED** until the sound of the bell.

After Recess the Senate was called to order by the President.

---

The President Pro Tem requested the Sergeant-At-Arms escort the Senator from Aroostook, Senator **JACKSON**, to the rostrum where he resumed his duties as President.

The Sergeant-At-Arms escorted the Senator from Sagadahoc, Senator **VITELLI**, to her seat on the Floor.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

---

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

## **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

### **House**

#### **Divided Report**

The Majority of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act Regarding Educational Policies and Programs"  
H.P. 219 L.D. 345

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-944)**.

Signed:

Senators:

RAFFERTY of York  
LIBBY of Cumberland  
PIERCE of Cumberland

Representatives:

BRENNAN of Portland  
DODGE of Belfast  
MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth  
MURPHY of Scarborough  
SAMPSON of Alfred  
SARGENT of York  
WORTH of Ellsworth

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

Signed:

Representatives:

BAGSHAW of Windham  
LYMAN of Livermore Falls  
POLEWARCZYK of Wiscasset

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-944)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-944)**.

Reports **READ**.

Senator **RAFFERTY** of York moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report.

On motion by Senator **KEIM** of Oxford, 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 Oxford, Senator Keim.

Senator **KEIM**: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise in opposition to the pending motion.

By and large, one of my strongest reasons for doing so is that young children do not belong in a public-school setting. And I don't believe we should be putting our youngest into the system of the Department of Education, leaving them out to have their parents find something in an environment that suits them better without having them being scooped up into the entire department I think is healthier for children. Three- and four-year-olds are babies. Not to mention the expense of this bill, which is also extraordinary. And the other thing that is of a concern here with this bill is the idea that children could be diagnosed for dollars. And that is an underlying concern in this type of policy and in this -- what's happening here with this bill, and for those reasons, I'll be voting Ought Not to Pass.

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

Senator **TIMBERLAKE**: Good afternoon, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. One of the biggest reasons I'm standing here this afternoon in opposition to the pending motion is I have a sibling at the other end of the hall, a sister, who has threatened me just shy of my life and I'm -- I agree with her 110%, to be honest. You know, 3-year-olds don't belong in public school at this point in time. This is spending about \$20 million of our money and it's not ready, you know, I should look at the bingo sheet, because I should say it's not ready for primetime, because it's the truth, it really isn't. But most importantly, there are programs set up if we're trying to find daycare for parents. There are programs already set up for daycare for these children, and I just -- I feel that we're just -- this isn't the time. It's time the parents take care of kids. If you're going to have kids, you need to take care of them, we shouldn't be putting kids -- pretty soon, they're going to be born and we're going to put them in public schools and they're going to be there till they're 18 years old. I don't think that's the right way we should be going. I think it's important that parents are part of their life, part of their training, part of their upbringing. And I look back at my life and raising my

own kids and my grandkids, and 3-year-olds don't belong there, and 4-year-olds don't belong there, you know? They're not hardly potty-trained or anything else, and I just can't imagine. So, I hope I've done a good job because if she comes through the door as I'm heading for the emergency exit, if I didn't. So, please vote no on this, I mean, she's very passionate, and so am I.

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

Senator **RAFFERTY:** Thank you, Mr. President, and Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Just a couple of clarifications. This program is the CDS program. So, we're talking about children with special needs. And no one is being pushed into a school building, no one is necessarily going to a school building, the people that provide most of these services will continue to work with private contracts with the local school units, which they will just -- they will oversee to make sure that the needs are being met. So, no one -- again, this is not a day-long daycare for anyone, it is -- we are trying to -- I've been told this is a historical piece of legislation, that this has been an ongoing issue for years and years and years. CDS hasn't been working, and I know in the four years I've been here, we've been trying to find something, and we finally have something, I believe, that everyone is -- most people are in favor of. There are -- it's a -- not going to happen overnight, it's going to take us -- schools have about -- they have four years with the financial support of the department to get things in place and there are going to be plenty of help available and guidance for them to do that. Some schools are ready to go, others aren't, but ultimately, the people that are going to benefit most from this are the kids across our state that are in most need of help. And this is how we will provide it, and I urge you strongly and any way possible, you muster up the strength to follow my light. Thank you.

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

Senator **LIBBY:** Thank you, Mr. President, Men and Women of the Senate. There are times when personal experience helps with an issue like this one, and my own son had a speech impediment. And of course, if it were up to me, I probably wouldn't've recognized it correctly, but my wife, who is in special education, is trained and was able to recognize it, and we were privately able to go out and get help for my son and he was able to work through the speech impediment and the therapy was unbelievable. So, let's transition over to this bill. I mean, this bill is, you know, part of the problem in Maine is that a lot of students that need therapies are not identified. And they're not identified because sometimes, you know, they're in the home or the parent just doesn't recognize the problem. And the great thing about this bill is we're taking a system that is clearly not working as well as we'd like it to, the CDS system is not working as well as we'd like it to, and we're transferring the responsibility over to the school systems for a free and appropriate public education. For me, it is a historic piece of legislation because there are many school systems already that have 4-year-olds in the school, and my alma mater is one of them. At Bonny Eagle High School, they went out and got a grant because they wanted to bring these students in. And yes, what do you have to do? There are special seatbelts for the buses, there's -- I mean, you have to reconfigure the rooms, there's furniture issues, there's all kinds of -- and you also have to

treat these students differently, you just do. And I don't know how I felt about 3-year-olds, but certainly the 4-year-olds, it's made a huge difference, and it has worked very well. I would invite you to come and talk to the superintendent from MSAD #6, and what you will find is successful program and they wish they didn't have to have a lottery system for the incoming students, and that's what they have, it's a lottery system, about half the students that want to come are coming, and the other half can't. And so, this is -- there's a great transition to this bill. I want to compliment everybody that was involved with it, but certainly, the Senator from Kennebunk who helped shepherded this through, for all of the work that they did to make sure that we weren't really putting a Band-Aid on much of anyone, that there was a lot of transition time, that there were grant access -- there's grant access in addition to the money that's associated with this bill -- and that we're not really forcing school districts to go ahead and make these changes, it's a slow implementation. I think there will be issues that will arise as a result of it, but it's the kind of legislation that, you know, it came from many, many, many years of study. I mean, back in the 1990s, when I was here, we were working on CDS because it was in tough shape then. Well, things haven't improved. To give you, again, a specific example, my wife will come home and tell me when she comes home from school, you know, we just had our meeting with the CDS people and there's been, unfortunately, a lot of turnover in the staff. And so, when they came in with specific students' reports on their assessment, there was almost nothing there, they weren't able to give us any advice about the student in that meeting with -- that's so critical, when they turn the students over to the schools. And I trust my wife, and she has -- thank God, I do, right? And she -- I brought this legislation home to her, and she read it, and she thinks it's pretty much the best thing that we can do in this Legislature, in this 131st is to try to do something about this age child. There are a couple of problems that I will agree with, for those that do oppose it. The one problem, the way that we identify students in the schools themselves may lead to a financial reward for the school. That may not be the incentive that we want in the long run. And we in the State of Maine are among the top states in the nation on the number of students that are identified, something like 19%, it's a really high number, the number's probably too high. And I think what you see is, of course, parents when they get the feeling that oh, my student should be identified, they just go to bat right then and there and they -- whether or not the student should be, it becomes difficult for the people who are deciding whether or not to identify them. And you have to remember these are students that should be in the correct place. If you're pulling them out of a class, then that -- that is -- that is not a circumstance that should be taken lightly at all. It is not what's call the least restrictive environment, and we have to be, I think -- maybe down the line as this rolls out, we probably have to look at some of the financial incentives behind this, but this is a greater good bill. This bill is going to do a lot of good things for a lot of school districts. And thank you for your patience, Mr. President.

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

Senator **KEIM:** Thank you, Mr. President. The Senator from Cumberland actually mentioned something that is part of the issue with this bill, and that's that in seeking help for their child with a disability, you know, they were engaged in that process.

And one of the issues with this bill is that in the committee process, when you're looking at creating an individualized education plan for a child and they are going to get diagnosed, there is a group of people that look at this issue. And they changed the language in there for the parents. So, it did -- it had originally said the parents shall have the ability to make that decision, the overall decision on that child and that diagnosis, and they've changed it to may. So, the result could mean, right, that the parent's voice is excluded. That is very problematic. And when you tie that to the fact that this bill absolutely, as the Senator from Cumberland mentioned, does tie money to a diagnosis, and we already over diagnose in Maine, you're talking about a 3-year-old who can be diagnosed then for life. That is -- that impact is pretty serious as well. So, this bill, I understand the reasons, of course, behind it. We absolutely need to be helping young children get the services that they need, but this bill is doing harm to parents, it's going to do harm to children, and it needs more work. Like, we can't pass a bill that would tie these dollars to a diagnosis and remove parents from the process.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

#### ROLL CALL (#688)

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

NAYS: Senators: BLACK, BRAKEY, FARRIN, GUERIN, KEIM, MOORE, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

27 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 8 Senators having voted in the negative, the motion by Senator **RAFFERTY** of York to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-944) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED** in concurrence.

#### Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act to Expand the List of Crimes Eligible for a Post-judgment Motion to Seal Criminal History Record Information to Include Convictions for Possession and Cultivation of Marijuana"  
H.P. 1435 L.D. 2236

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-943)**.

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland  
BAILEY of York  
BRAKEY of Androscoggin

Representatives:

MOONEN of Portland  
BECK of South Portland  
HENDERSON of Rumford  
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:

ANDREWS of Paris  
HAGGAN of Hampden  
POIRIER of Skowhegan

(Representative DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe - of the House - supports the Majority **Ought To Pass as Amended** Report.)

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-943)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-943)**.

Reports **READ**.

Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report.

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

Senator **BRAKEY:** Thank you, Mr. President. I think it's safe to say considering the topic of the legislation in front of us, we will be going into the weeds on this proposal. Because cannabis prohibition was and continues to be a historic injustice, incarcerating many people for nonviolent and victimless personal behavior which should be considered vices, at worst, not crimes, and further branding them for life with the scarlet letters of criminal records. While federal cannabis prohibition remains on the books to this day, I am proud of the Maine people for leading the nation through multiple referendums over several decades to nullify this unconstitutional federal infringement upon our natural

liberties as well as the Ninth and Tenth Amendments of our Bill of Rights. But while our state laws no longer criminalize the cultivation and personal use of cannabis within the parameters of our medical and adult use cannabis laws, we have offered little relief to date for those who were unjustly prosecuted and convicted under the dark era of prohibition. This legislation aims to provide that relief by authorizing the sealing of criminal records for those convicted of cannabis offenses that would no longer violate Maine's laws as they stand today. The individual with such a record would simply apply to the court that convicted them to have that record sealed. If they meet the criteria, the court shall seal the record. Simple as that. In speaking about this legislation with a few of my Colleagues in this Chamber, I have heard the objection, which I understand but I want to respond to, that cannabis was against the law at the time and so their record should stand. To those colleagues, I would reply that our legal system is built upon the natural law, which I would boil down to two basic principles. One, don't hurt people, and two, don't take their stuff. Since cannabis cultivation and possession violated none of these, that law itself was in violation of much higher laws. I will also note that this legislation is a product of two committees. It began in the Criminal Records Review Committee, upon which I'm proud to serve alongside our colleague, Senator Bailey, as well as Members of the Other Chamber that shall not be mentioned, but some of those Members were the Speaker of the House and my friend, Representative David Boyer, as well as many non-legislative stakeholders. There's a lot of bipartisan buy-in in this from that committee. And this session, the bill was further refined in the Judiciary Committee and the final product before us is an attempt to thread the needle, incorporating an amendment from Senator Bailey that narrows the scope. To be clear, the bill before us does not go as far as I would personally prefer. I would rather see broader latitude for sealing of records for those who grew perhaps a few too many plants or had more in their possession than the law today would allow, since they were operating in a pre-legalization Maine and there was no way to anticipate what the future legal limits would be, my preference would be to grant broader latitude. That said, at the end of the day, I'm willing to support a step in the right direction, perhaps getting the camel's nose under the tent, and perhaps the Maine Legislature can go further in the future in the deliverance of relief for those persecuted during the dark age of cannabis prohibition. In short, Mr. President, it's a good bill. I invite Members of this Body to vote in favor of the Majority Report before us right now. Thank you.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

#### ROLL CALL (#689)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, KEIM, LAWRENCE, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: BLACK, FARRIN, GUERIN, LAFOUNTAIN, LIBBY, LYFORD, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

27 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 8 Senators having voted in the negative, the motion by Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-943) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED** in concurrence.

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

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

##### Senate

##### Divided Report

Seven members of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act to Address Gun Violence in Maine by Requiring a Waiting Period for Certain Firearm Purchases" S.P. 958 L.D. 2238

Reported in Report "A" that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-684)**.

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland

BAILEY of York

Representatives:

MOONEN of Portland

BECK of South Portland

KUHN of Falmouth

MORIARTY of Cumberland

SHEEHAN of Biddeford

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

Signed:

Senator:

BRAKEY of Androscoggin

Representatives:

ANDREWS of Paris

HAGGAN of Hampden

HENDERSON of Rumford

POIRIER of Skowhegan

One member of the same Committee on the same subject reported in Report "C" that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (S-685)**.

Signed:  
Representative:  
LEE of Auburn

(Representative DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe - of the House - supports the Report "**C**" **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (S-685)** Report.)

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **ACCEPTANCE OF ANY REPORT**.

---

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

## **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

### **House**

#### **Ought to Pass As Amended**

The Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Restore Historic Community Buildings"  
H.P. 568 L.D. 912

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-938)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-938)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-938) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

---

The Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Authorize a General Fund Bond Issue to Promote the Design, Development and Maintenance of Trails for Outdoor Recreation and Active Transportation"  
H.P. 728 L.D. 1156

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-937)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-937)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-937) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

---

The Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Join the Dentist and Dental Hygienist Compact"  
H.P. 1361 L.D. 2137

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-949)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-949)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-949) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

---

The Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** on Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 10: Rules for the Administration of the Adult Use Cannabis Program, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Cannabis Policy (EMERGENCY)  
H.P. 1401 L.D. 2187

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-952)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-952)**.

Report **READ**.

On motion by Senator **HICKMAN** of Kennebec, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **ACCEPTANCE OF REPORT**.

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

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

### House

#### Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** on Bill "An Act Regarding Health Care in the State"  
H.P. 148 L.D. 227

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-953).**

Signed:

Senators:

BAILEY of York  
RENY of Lincoln

Representatives:

PERRY of Calais  
ARFORD of Brunswick  
CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham  
MASTRACCIO of Sanford  
MATHIESON of Kittery  
PRINGLE of Windham

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

Signed:

Senator:

BRAKEY of Androscoggin

Representatives:

CYRWAY of Albion  
MORRIS of Turner  
NUTTING of Oakland  
SWALLOW of Houlton

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-953)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-953).**

Reports **READ.**

Senator **BAILEY** of York moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report.

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

Senator **BAILEY:** Thank you, Mr. President, Men and Women of the Senate. Today, I rise to speak in favor of the pending motion. This crucial bill would ensure that our providers who deliver

reproductive healthcare and transgender medical care that is legal in the State of Maine are protected from hostile legal actions by out-of-state actors with different policies. Why does this matter now? The fall of Roe v. Wade changed everything. It emboldened extremists who are pushing harder than ever and now seeking to go beyond their state lines, and we are seeing novel tactics that threaten our healthcare providers and our healthcare infrastructure. The most notorious of these is Texas's SB 8 which allows anyone to file a civil suit against anyone who is believed to have abetted abortion and get a cash award for doing so. SB 8 should show us the lengths our peers in other states may go to legislate reproductive healthcare. We are in uncharted territory, and we must act now. Among other things, this bill protects providers of reproductive healthcare and essential medical care for transgender people from hostile actions by other states actors. These are lawsuits against providers as well as records requests for purposes of investigating patients who receive lawful care. The bill also protects people who are assisting providers of healthcare such as health center staff or insurance companies who cover these services in compliance with the law from hostile actions by out-of-state actors. Many states now ban or severely limit abortion or reproductive care and ban or criminalize transgender medical care. States where this care is practiced in accordance with the standards of care have enacted shield laws to protect in-state providers who are simply providing care that is lawful in their states. Seventeen states and the District of Columbia have enacted such shield laws aimed at protecting reproductive healthcare services, and 12 of those states also protect providers of transgender healthcare. In fact, Maine has had shield protections for providers of reproductive healthcare since July of 2022 by Executive Order. The good news is that these shield laws only ever come into use if a state seeks to investigate care or seeks records of patients for care that is lawful here. The Texas Attorney General has already pursued records requests from a children's hospital in Washington State and a Georgia clinic. Washington's shield law blocked that records request. To my knowledge, the Georgia situation is ongoing. Reproductive healthcare includes a spectrum of health services, including assisted reproduction with everything from medications to increase the likelihood of conception to in vitro fertilization services as well as birth control, STI testing and treatment, and abortion care. Transgender medical care, like reproductive medical care, can be a lifesaving service and our evidence-based treatments and interventions tailored to the patient, and all based on standards of care. These healthcare bans take away an adult's ability to make careful medical decisions for themselves and for their children and families, informed by guidance from trusted medical providers. LD 227 aims to shield providers in important ways when performing this care. This could include protecting them from providing testimony relating to hostile litigation unless required by federal law, prohibiting a provider's arrest, and limiting the use of public resources and public cooperation to investigate a person adhering to Maine laws in connection with legally provided healthcare activity unless required by federal law. It would also allow for the quashing of foreign subpoenas relating to legally protected healthcare activity, with certain exceptions, shielding providers from a search warrant for electronic government surveillance, and guiding the governor's discretion to extradite to shield providers of legally protected healthcare activity from extradition unless required by federal law. This bill is fundamentally about access to healthcare, and it protects the



providers who deliver reproductive healthcare to Mainers and anyone else in need without fear of punitive legal action. LD 227 means our healthcare providers can continue delivering high quality standard of healthcare and Maine law continues to govern healthcare practice and access in Maine without hostile interference from other states. Protecting our healthcare infrastructure and essential medical care means people in the Maine community can be healthy and happy and build their futures and their families. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator **GUERIN:** Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. What this bill does - one, provides a legal right under the law for kids to undergo gender transition services and abortion with or without parental permission. Two, strips parents from across the nation of their rights by making it illegal for anyone to interfere with the provision of gender-affirming care or abortion. Three, opens the door to traffickers, kidnappers, sexual predators, giving them more rights than a parent if a child is taken in the name of gender-affirming care or abortion. Talk about out-of-state operatives, that's the parents. When the Amber Alert sounds in Texas, a custodial parent will be left with no recourse as Maine law enforcement is instructed to stand down in returning the child to the custodial parent. I believe the legislators in this Chamber want to keep children safe. We want to see them grow and thrive in society and know their intrinsic God-given value and worth. And as a legislator in this great state, it is our responsibility to review bills all the time that require us to carefully consider and ask the questions what is in the child's best interest, what will keep them safe, what will help them thrive. LD 227, while it may be well intentioned, does none of these things. Instead, it ignores the risks and science, recklessly silences children's most powerful advocates, their parents, and risks the safety of our children. Chloe Cole's testimony at 19 years old. A de-transitioner, Chloe Cole's testimony before Congress last July at just 19 years old, she shared that she is a victim of so-called gender-affirming care. Keep in mind, these were medical decisions that Chloe didn't get to make as an adult after puberty, they were made before she could even drive, and she will live with the medical harm done to her body for the rest of her life. She stated in part; I was fast tracked onto puberty blockers and then testosterone. The resulting menopausal-like hot flashes made focusing on school impossible. I still get joint pains and weird pops in my back, but they are far -- they were far worse when I was on the blockers. She continued; I had a double mastectomy at 15. After my breasts were taken away from me, the tissue was incinerated before I was able to legally drive. I had a huge part of my future womanhood taken from me. I will never be able to breastfeed. She said; I have massive scars across my chest and skin grafts that they used that they took my nipples are weeping fluid today. They're grafted into a more masculine position, they said. After surgery, my grades in school plummeted. Everything that I went through did nothing to address the underlying mental health issues I had. Chloe's story is one of many heartbreaking stories, and other nations are hearing evidence like this and making changes to protect their children. Learn from Europe. In March of this year, England's state-funded National Health Services announced they would no longer be prescribing minors under the age of 18 puberty blockers. They said the decision would help

ensure, quote, care based in evidence, expert clinical opinion. This is in the best interest of the child. The decision came after England's National Health Services conducted an independent review of gender identity services for children 18 -- under 18 in 2020. Sweden also updated their healthcare guidelines preventing minors from assessing gender-affirming care. They said evidence of normal hormonal interventions for minors is of low quality and the treatment may present risks. The dangers of LD 227. In addition to the grave medical risks, LD 227 silences a child's best advocate, their parents. It's strips them of their right to make decisions for their minor child when it comes to injecting their pre-puberty bodies with hormone blockers and, worse yet, undergoing life altering surgery, subjecting a child to all the risks and known health risks associated with it before the child can even drive, vote, or make medical decisions for themselves. We would not waive a parent's legal rights to make medical decisions for their child on nearly any other front. In most schools, if your child needs an Advil or Tylenol, the parent's permission is required. But a child can take hormone blockers without their parents' consent? Why would we allow that, especially when countries such as England and Sweden have halted the practice because of the serious life-altering health risks it poses to children. This practice is physically dangerous and will not happen without parental consent, if at all. It should not happen. By removing parental rights, the very best advocate for a child, it exposes a child to predators. It opens the door to traffickers, kidnappers, and sexual predators, giving them more rights than a child if a child is taken in the name of gender-affirming care or abortion. In conclusion, this bill isn't in the best interest of the children of Maine or those brought here against their parents' wishes. It's adults' job to protect children, to guide them, to keep them safe. Children should not be able to make life altering medical decisions without parental consent. Let's learn from Europe and Sweden, who are years ahead of America in this practice. The legislative body will be reckless to pass this bill. We will be subjecting children to being exposed and exploited by predators, which is exactly what will happen when we remove parental protection. Chloe concluded her testimony in front of Congress stating; I'm making a desperate plea to my elected Representatives. Learn the lessons from other medical scandals like the opioid crisis. Recognize that doctors are human, too, and sometimes they are wrong. My childhood was ruined, along with thousands of other de-transitioners that I know through our networks. It needs to stop. You alone can stop it. Enough children have already been victimized by this barbaric pseudoscience. Please join me in voting against this anti-parental rights motion.

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

Senator **LAWRENCE:** Thank you, Mr. President, Men and Women of the Senate. I want to make one thing perfectly clear. In no way does this bill legalize or allow for kidnapping and trafficking. In no way does it give preference to people who kidnap and traffic. In no way does it give advantage to people who kidnap and traffic. That is 100% false. And I say this as a former prosecutor who read through the bill and looked at it. And this opinion is not only supported by me, but it's supported by the Maine Prosecutors Association, that said there is nothing in this bill that prevents them from enforcing Maine criminal laws. There are no changes to Maine criminal laws in here. It does not

legalize any currently illegal activity. No reading of this bill would authorize criminal acts like kidnapping and trafficking. That is a false argument. What this bill does, it protects the sovereignty of our state. And this is all about constitutional sovereignty. When we take an oath here, we take an oath to the Maine Constitution, we take an oath to the US Constitution. It's our duty to uphold those, and one of the basic principles of our constitutional system of government is that states have sovereignty over the legal actions and declaring what is legal that their citizens can do. There are now states trying to make what we have allowed legally to happen here in Maine illegal, and I encourage you all to protect the sovereignty of this state and pass this bill.

**The PRESIDENT:** The Chair recognizes the Senator from Lincoln, Senator Reny.

Senator **RENY:** Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President and Colleagues of the Senate, there's a lot of misconceptions about this bill. Despite what you've heard in the media, LD 227 is really a very straightforward bill. It's been a difficult one for me. So, I serve on the HCIFS Committee, and I was at the public hearing, I was at the work session. I, like I'm sure many of you, have received many, many, many emails and phone calls. It was a long public hearing, a lot of people showed up to testify against this bill. And it became very apparent to me during that public hearing that the messaging as to what this bill is started with disinformation. So, the people that came to testify against this bill were under the impression that this bill would allow kidnapping, promote sex trafficking, it would do things like let any doctor come to Maine and perform surgeries that do not fall under the standard of care. People were under the impression that the State of Maine and the taxpayers were going to be paying for all of these surgeries that were going to happen and the extra abortions that would happen. People were upset, and I get it. If I thought that's what this bill did, I would be upset, too. I frankly am surprised more people didn't show up to testify against it, if that is the messaging that was out there. It's really unfortunate and we have to be mindful as leaders in the state and in our districts that we make sure we have the correct information because sometimes what happens, as I'm sure you've seen, is that that misinformation gets out there and people are targeted for no good reason. I would bring up, say, the bomb threats that happened not just in this building but at peoples' personal homes. And that is something I find reprehensible. So, that aside, I understand the angst around this bill. Thank you to the Good Senator from York, who did an excellent job explaining what 227 does, what it actually does. I completely agree with my lovely seatmate, the Good Senator from Penobscot -- you're from Penobscot, right? -- that all of the members in this chamber want to do what's best for our children and for our constituents. Nobody is against them. We're on the same team. Since I was on HCIFS and worked this bill as well, I feel like it's been covered what it does. I just really want to reiterate what this bill does not do, okay? This bill does not change how these services are paid for, it does not require the State of Maine to foot the bill for any additional services, okay? This bill primarily -- please hear me, does not change anything about how or to whom reproductive healthcare or gender-affirming care is delivered in Maine. 227 does not expand or reduce medical services available in this state. This bill does not change parental rights in any way. This bill does not change licensing requirements for providers. It's still illegal to practice medicine in the State of Maine without a license. I promise. This

bill does not encourage or condone or allow sex trafficking or the kidnapping of minors. We are on the same team on this. This bill does not impede the work of law enforcement. Those concerns were addressed at the work session, and I really encourage you, if you have questions, the work session, we really break down every piece of the bill. It's a good thing to go and watch if you still have some significant concerns. What this is to me is other states should not be allowed to punish Maine citizens for providing care and services that are legal in Maine. This is protecting Maine providers from out-of-state actors who want to punish Maine providers for offering safe, legal care in the State of Maine. This is a bill about state sovereignty. This law is needed, it protects our Maine clinicians so they can do their job, and to make sure that they feel safe training here and staying here. I don't want any of our providers leaving this state. If we can keep them, please let's keep them. It helps ensure medical students don't decline opportunities here and clinicians don't leave. So, Maine citizens, we're subject to Maine laws and to federal laws, and we should be able to live our lives without fear of punishment from another state. Please vote yes on LD 227.

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

Senator **TIPPING:** Thank you, Mr. President. I don't have much to add to the eloquent words from the Senator from York, the other Senator from York, and the Senator from Lincoln. I just wanted to be very clearly on the record at this moment in history. I'll be standing with women, with trans people, with healthcare providers right now when they are most under attack, when they most need our support, and I hope this Body does the same. Thank you.

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

Senator **GUERIN:** Thank you, Mr. President. Permission to ask a question through the Chair?

**The PRESIDENT:** So moved.

Senator **GUERIN:** Where in this bill is a background check for a noncustodial parent, neighbor, counselor, or pimp who brings a child against their parents' wishes to Maine for these procedures?

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

Senator **CARNEY:** Thank you, Mr. President, and Esteemed Colleagues of the Senate. I will try to provide an answer to that question, although that is not why I rise to speak. But I think those issues are irrelevant to this law because it sounds to me like what you're describing are the criminal acts that would be covered by our criminal laws that the Good Senator from York discussed. This bill really isn't about children, this bill is about protecting healthcare providers. And I'll continue with my prepared remarks. President Jackson and Esteemed Colleagues of the Senate, I rise in support of the pending motion. In Maine, our laws recognize that healthcare decisions are complex, deeply personal, and best made by patients and their trusted healthcare providers. Lawmakers have stepped up to protect Mainers' fundamental right to reproductive healthcare. This includes

abortion care and many other types of care such as improved access to prescription contraceptives, fertility care coverage for Mainers struggling to become parents, prenatal and postpartum care for new mothers, and healthcare coverage for many kids, for Maine kids and young adults. Gender-affirming care is also legal and protected in our state. And I would note that often gender-affirming healthcare is a lifeline for Mainers with gender dysphoria. A common thread in our healthcare laws is the fundamental respect for the right of Maine people to make their own decisions when it comes to personal healthcare issues. LD 227 protects Mainers' rights to receive healthcare that is allowed under Maine law. Importantly, it also protects healthcare practitioners licensed under Maine law and physically present in Maine who provide care in accordance with Maine law. As others have noted, this bill is really about Maine's right to set and enforce our own laws without threats and interference from the Tennessee Attorney General or Attorneys General in any other state. Did any of us imagine the day that Attorneys General from other parts of the country, whose states have very different policy choices than Maine has made would insert themselves in our legislative process? Or that those Attorney Generals would call our efforts to protect patients and healthcare practitioners in Maine, quote, extraterritorial bullying in an effort to impose their own laws on our state? Having read that letter, I think the extraterritorial bullying goes in a different direction. As legislators, we surely agree that -- we surely agree on our ability to make Maine law. The Attorney General of Tennessee and 15 other Attorneys General disagree, explicitly stating that they would, quote, vigorously avail ourselves of every recourse if Maine continued our legislative work on LD 227. Before a committee work session had even been held, they were trying to intimidate us and disrupt our legislative process. It is both remarkable and extremely concerning that these Attorneys General disregarded the autonomy of Maine's legislative bodies and our state's sovereignty. We can and should defend Maine healthcare practitioners who provide reproductive and transgender care against states across the country that are banning and even criminalizing reproductive healthcare and transgender medical care. Practitioners providing care in Maine should not be punished by a hostile state for their lawful actions. As part of our federalist system, states are free to disagree with each other, with other's policies, and we do, that's obvious from the letter, from those 17 -- 16 Attorney Generals from other parts of the country. It's also obvious from the letter that the threat to practitioners and Mainers is real. Maine must pass LD 227 to ensure that our healthcare practitioners can continue to provide essential legal healthcare without fear of prosecution, civil lawsuits, or other interference from states that have made different policy choices. For these reasons, I support the pending motion and urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Senator **HARRINGTON:** Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I would just start by addressing one of the comments that law enforcement in Maine is okay with this bill. They very much are not okay with this bill. As most of you know, I've been a law enforcement officer in Maine for over 16 years, and one of the biggest reasons I ran for office ten years ago was the fact that I felt the people in this building do not listen to law enforcement, do not listen to the opinions of law enforcement,

and this bill is just one prime example of that. So, just so that everyone in this Chamber can say that they heard the testimony of the Sheriff's Association and the Maine Chiefs of Police, I will read some of it. According to the Maine Sheriff's Association, your Maine Sheriffs believe law enforcement should be completely removed from this bill. This bill has many objectives that are complicated and unrelated to law enforcement. Our collective opposition to this bill is law enforcement related. In speaking with law enforcement entities around the state, we've been unable to find anyone that was consulted on the language of this bill. We want to urge lawmakers to please consider contacting your Sheriff or the association to best offer feedback on the bill as it's constructed, which was not done. Maine Sheriffs urge you to vote unanimously to defeat LD 227. And this was the opinion of all 16 Sheriffs. And I'll read a piece of testimony from Sheriff Kevin Joyce of Cumberland County. I would not support this bill having any mention of law enforcement. We, law enforcement, can't be placed in a position whereby for some cases we act, for others, we turn a blind eye. To me, it's unethical and we are being dragged into a highly emotional and controversial issue that everyone has their own opinion on. Additionally, unless there is a bona fide crime that we are investigating that is in violation of Maine law, we generally don't investigate why someone has had a surgery or any medical treatment. Why is this any different? Why would we investigate why someone who has had an abortion or gender-affirming treatment? It is not illegal in the State of Maine, not to mention that we would never be successful in getting a search warrant for medical records at the request of another state agency. We have a difficult enough time getting records now, thankfully. It is rare that we have to get medical records in general. I'm not amenable to not cooperating as suggested with this law as written with an out-of-state law enforcement agency who is requesting assistance on checking the wellbeing of one of their citizens who may be in Maine. And then just part of the testimony from the Maine Chiefs of Police. Regardless of the scenario, law enforcement agencies always provide interagency collaboration and strive to work collaboratively with our law enforcement partners, and we do so with no questions asked. Failing to provide assistance to other law enforcement agencies when requested may have a chilling effect on the relationships we have worked so hard to build and preserve. We are fearful that sudden refusal to cooperate in matters that would otherwise be illegal could result in a breakdown of these relationships and the delay or withholding of assistance when our smaller, more rural departments need it most. Should this bill move forward as drafted, Maine's law enforcement community will be placed in a difficult position. We must provide records and information to agencies with no questions asked, yet under this legislation, no law enforcement officer may provide information or assistance to any law enforcement agency federally, locally, or across state lines in relation to any investigation or inquiry into the providing of healthcare services. We do not support being placed into a scenario where we are unable to do our jobs and if we carry out our sworn duty to work collaboratively with other agencies, we may find ourselves in conflict with this law. So, I would urge everyone in this Body, given that there is little to no law enforcement experience on that entire committee, and the will of Maine's top-ranking law enforcement officers was made very clear and ignored, I would strongly urge you to heed their advice. Thank you.

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

Senator **BAILEY:** Thank you, Mr. President. I just wanted to rise to address a few of the comments that I've heard that haven't been addressed yet. I'll start with first the comments from the Good Senator from York, Senator Harrington, in regards to law enforcement. In fact, the committee did, in fact, take their testimony and because of that at the work session we amended Section 9006, added the words knowingly or federal law. We also added an entire section on exigent circumstances and made it clear that, you know, all that we were trying to address were when law enforcement here in the State of Maine where doing this knowingly. I think knowingly is the key word. So, we did take the input of law enforcement and address those in an amendment. I would also point out on the law enforcement piece that, again, many other states have these shield laws with similar provisions and what the committee heard was that they did not have any problems in those states in terms of collaboration and cooperation. We also have had an Executive Order in place since 2022 on reproductive healthcare that has some similar provisions regarding inter-state cooperation and there have been no problems with that. So, I wanted to address those concerns. I also wanted to address, although many have already addressed it, in terms of this claim of increased trafficking that two things, one is that again, we've had the Executive Order in place in regards to reproductive healthcare and the committee heard from both the Attorney General's Office and the Maine Prosecutors Association that they have not seen any trafficking relating to that Executive Order here in the State of Maine. And those other states that have similar shield laws have also seen no trafficking related to that. So, experience shows us that that simply is not true. As far as parental rights, again, most healthcare in the State of Maine do need permission of parents. This law does not change that. Again, it does nothing to change any underlying laws regarding parenteral permission for healthcare for minors. I would also say that the committee learned because this issue kept coming up around surgery, gender-affirming care for minors, and so the committee did learn that, in fact, in the State of Maine, there are no facilities that do surgery, transgender-affirming care surgically here in the State of Maine with one exception, and that is there are rare circumstances where a child is born intersex and the parents, the parents want surgery to assign one sex or another to the child. That's the only type of gender-affirming care done here in the State of Maine, and I would posit, Mr. President, that this law, in fact, protects and promotes a parent's rights to make decisions, to make medical decisions for their child. For example, if a child was born in Texas that was intersex, transgender affirming care in the State of Texas is totally banned. So, if those parents, again, made their decision for their child that they wanted to have surgery for their intersex child to assign one sex or another, and they came to the State of Maine to do that, this law would shield the providers here in the State of Maine doing that. Likewise, and similarly, I think we all heard in the news the horrible story of the 10-year-old girl in Ohio who was raped and became pregnant and her parents, her parents made the decision that the best course of action for their child was to get an abortion. And they had to leave the State of Ohio to do that. Again, if parents make that decision for their children and come to this state for that type of care, this would shield our providers. So, I do not think this law in any way interferes with parental rights and, in fact, promotes and protects parental rights

and parental decisions. I'm just looking through my notes. As far as the comments of the Good Senator from Penobscot, I think most of them have been addressed. I would just add that what is going on in Europe and England that the exciting thing about this bill is it's all tied to standards of care, which we know in the medical field evolves and changes, that's the beauty of it, right? And so, if, in fact, the standards of care evolve and change about gender-affirming care for minors, this law will keep up with it and our healthcare providers will be held to those standards of care. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator **KEIM:** Thank you, Mr. President. Just addressing a few remarks. It was just mentioned that parents were choosing some things, but in this bill, and it's nice to use parents as an example because that's who we want to be making decisions about our children's medical concerns, but this law doesn't limit it to parents. Another issue that has been kind of glossed over is that this also goes far beyond just medical providers, and it is allowing -- the Catholic dioceses put out about the amendment saying that this would force their hospitals, their practitioners, to perform abortions and gender transition surgeries even on children. And that's the analysis that they have done. I'd also like to address the fact that there were legitimate concerns brought up during the public hearing which many are refuting now here on the floor about parental rights and religious freedom, and they were dismissed as right-wing misinformation and lies. But that was not the case, because there was a three-page amendment to LD 227 that was attempting to address some of those illegitimate concerns. However, it did not go far enough, as the dioceses has still put out an information sheet on this, saying that it absolutely impacts religious freedom. The other issue with this bill that I want to bring to the floor because it's important for us to consider the impact of this legislation on people is the fact that we've had so many issues with concept drafts this session, and this is another one such as that. A massive amendment dropped onto a committee that no one in the public had access to until practically the moment of the public hearing. And then, the amendment, another large change, and I was struggling to get the language of it myself yesterday, right? And here we are voting on it today, because we're not trying to keep the public informed. Huge issue and this is such an issue that strikes at the heart of families and children and things that we really care about, to be keeping the public in the dark is shameful. So, no one is questioning whether or not transgender altering procedures or abortion are legal in this state. They are. If this bill was meant simply to protect Maine's medical providers from hostile lawsuits while performing legal medical practices, the opposition from law enforcement and other concerned parties would be greatly reduced. What is being questioned is whether or not now is the time to elevate these medical procedures to a legal right. In regard to transgender medical procedures, LD 227 explicitly states the World Professional Association of Transgender Health is the leading influence in defining and fashioning the standard of care, which you just heard someone mention that we should be relaxed because there's a standard of care that we're going to be following. Well, what do you know about WPATH? We as a legislative body are being asked to trust WPATH, when some of the most progressive countries in the world are running away from this organization and its approach. Finland and France have

either outlawed or greatly restricted these procedures on minors. Dr. Hilary Cass, recent president of the Royal College of Pediatrics in the United Kingdom, released a report last week condemning WPATH and stating that after a four-year review, there is no good evidence that surgeries and chemical treatments to minors have any positive effect. Regardless of stating it the other way around, there are many studies that show it's harmful. As a matter of fact, the data is showing that these young people are mentally and physically worse off as a result of the years of this treatment in the United Kingdom. It seems that many of us look to Sweden and Finland for leadership in areas like climate change and healthcare access but ignore the fact that these countries were ten years ahead of us in regard to this approach to transgender treatment, and they are now condemning it. If this bill did what it purported to do in regard to simply shielding medical professionals, why is it necessary to include extensive language regarding law enforcement? Maine's Sheriffs and Municipal Chiefs steadfastly oppose 227, as you heard. And as recently as yesterday, the confirmed their steadfast opposition and disagree with the reports from proponents of the bill that their concerns have been addressed with the amended version of 227. I have here their statement which you heard already read, so I won't read it again, but the Maine Sheriff's Association and the Chiefs urge the HCIFS committee members to unanimously defeat LD 227 or, at best, remove all reference to law enforcement. Boots on the ground law enforcement were not listened in this bill or this amendment. You have to ask yourself why they were ignored and to what jeopardy. There are too many overwhelming concerns on this bill. We are endangering children, and we cannot in good conscience make this the law in Maine.

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

Senator **BRAKEY:** Thank you, Mr. President. I will say, first of all, while my name is on the reports for coming out of this committee, I want to admit up front that I don't feel like I have any specialized knowledge beyond anyone else in this Body as I've been so busy on the Judiciary Committee, I was not present for the public hearings or the work sessions on these bills, so I'm struggling to understand the details, I think, as much as anyone else. So, I want to say that up front. I also want to say I am very sympathetic to the arguments about state sovereignty. I mean, state sovereignty is something very important to me and certainly I think those who are making arguments about state sovereignty that certainly does speak to something that I care about. But one thing that sticks in my mind -- well, first of all, let me say I think on questions of -- there have been many questions before this Body over the course of this Legislature around the rights of transgender individuals, minors, and adults, and I think I find myself in a rare position, for me, of being able to describe myself, I think fairly accurately, as a moderate on these issues. There aren't many issues I would describe myself as a moderate on, but I think in this case. I -- certainly, I know transgender individuals who have benefitted from access to these types of care, and I think that when it comes to adults making decisions for themselves, I think adults have every right to make any decision they want for themselves and their own body, as long as they're not harming other people. When we start talking about minors, however, things get a lot more legally complicated, and I've fallen back on the -- I fall back on the idea that these decisions are never so clearcut as I think either stream in these debates like to

present them as. And ultimately, when we're talking about minors, the best person in a position to defer these decisions to are the parents who know their children and are going to be in their child's lives for the rest of their lives. Now, I go back to something that I heard my colleague, Senator Bailey, say that this law doesn't change anything as far as minors legally being able to get access to either abortions or for what we're calling gender-affirming care. And from my reading of the bill, that seems true, however, we do have laws in place in the State of Maine where there is not parental consent required for an abortion, and of course, last year, we lowered the age to get access without parental consent to hormones to the age of 16. And so, as I look at this, and I'm wrestling with what this bill presents, those things taken together are existing laws around this, and the proposed law around this, this does seem to me that we are saying if we pass this that someone who is 16 from another state could come without parental consent, under our laws, and get access to hormone therapy. Or someone from another state could come to Maine who is a minor and get -- have an abortion without parental consent under our laws. And I suppose I do have an issue with that, beyond the question of the ethics and rightness or wrongness of access to hormones themselves or abortion themselves, I do have a problem with -- that does seem to me like we are creating an opening for our laws in those cases to be a substitution for parental consent that would be required in other states, and it's hard for me to get beyond that. I'm incredibly sympathetic to, I think, individuals who find themselves in very difficult situations in their own personal lives. These are very individualized cases, and I know people who really struggle with especially issues around gender dysphoria, but when we are creating an opening to, I suppose, undermine parental authority in these situations, it's not something I feel comfortable voting yes on. And that's, again, with no special knowledge, that's my understanding of what this is doing here, or at least part of what this is doing here is we do have those opening in our existing law, we have -- in the State of Maine, we have resisted attempts to require parental consent for abortion, we've lowered the age for hormone therapy, and I don't see how we are not nullifying parental authority in other states by saying you can come here and a minor can have access to these treatments under our laws without their parents' consent. So, I'm somewhat conflicted, but I will be voting no on the motion in front of us.

---

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

---

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#690)**

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

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, FARRIN, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, KEIM, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, POULIOT, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: CHIPMAN

21 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, the motion by Senator **BAILEY** of York to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-953) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED** in concurrence.

---

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

---

**Divided Report**

Seven members of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Prohibit Tobacco Sales near Schools"  
H.P. 1383 L.D. 2157

Reported in Report "A" that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-842)**.

Signed:  
Senators:  
BALDACCI of Penobscot  
INGWERSEN of York

Representatives:  
MEYER of Eliot  
CRAVEN of Lewiston  
GRAHAM of North Yarmouth  
SHAGOURY of Hallowell  
ZAGER of Portland

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

Signed:

Representatives:  
FREDERICKS of Sanford  
GRIFFIN of Levant  
JAVNER of Chester  
LEMELIN of Chelsea

Two members of the same Committee on the same subject reported in Report "C" that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-843)**.

Signed:

Senator:  
MOORE of Washington

Representative:  
MADIGAN of Waterville

Comes from the House with Report "A" **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-842) READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-842) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-942)** thereto.

Reports **READ**.

Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot moved the Senate **ACCEPT** Report "A" **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-842)**, in concurrence.

---

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

---

On further motion by same Senator, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending the motion by same Senator to **ACCEPT** Report "A" **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-842)**, in concurrence.

---

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

**ENACTORS**

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

**Emergency Measure**

An Act to Provide Relief to Small Businesses, Landowners and Logging Contractors Affected by Severe Weather-related Events  
S.P. 930 L.D. 2191

(C "A" S-661)

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

---

**Emergency Measure**

An Act to Create the Lincoln Mill Facilities District  
S.P. 986 L.D. 2270  
(C "A" S-650)

---

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

---

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 34 Members of the Senate, with no Senators having voted in the negative, and 34 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 Measure**

An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission and to Reestablish the Gagetown Harmful Chemical Study Commission  
S.P. 990 L.D. 2274  
(C "A" S-660)

On motion by Senator **DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland, placed on the **SPECIAL STUDY TABLE** pending **ENACTMENT**, in concurrence.

---

**Emergency Measure**

An Act to Allow a Member of the Town of Perham Select Board to Facilitate the Election to Vacant Seats on the Select Board and to Approve and Sign Disbursement Warrants  
S.P. 1001 L.D. 2288

---

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

---

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 33 Members of the Senate, with no Senators

having voted in the negative, and 33 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, Regarding Legislative Review of Portions of Chapter 200: Metallic Mineral Exploration, Advanced Exploration and Mining, a Late-filed Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Environmental Protection  
S.P. 590 L.D. 1471  
(C "A" S-662)

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 29 Members of the Senate, with 5 Senators having voted in the negative, and 29 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.

---

**Emergency Resolve**

Resolve, to Establish the Task Force to Study Changes to the Legal Status of Scheduled Drugs  
H.P. 1266 L.D. 1975  
(C "A" H-931)

On motion by Senator **DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland, placed on the **SPECIAL STUDY TABLE** pending **FINAL PASSAGE**, in concurrence.

---

**Emergency Resolve**

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 20: Rules for the Licensure of Adult Use Cannabis Establishments, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Cannabis Policy  
H.P. 1393 L.D. 2178  
(C "A" H-918)

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 34 Members of the Senate, with no Senators having voted in the negative, and 34 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.

### Emergency Resolve

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review of Chapter 30: Compliance Rules for Adult Use Cannabis Establishments, a Major Substantive Rule of the Department of Administrative and Financial Services, Office of Cannabis Policy  
H.P. 1400 L.D. 2186  
(C "A" H-919)

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 34 Members of the Senate, with no Senators having voted in the negative, and 34 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.

---

### Emergency Resolve

Resolve, to Require a Stakeholder Group to Participate in the Development of Rules Regarding Youth Camps  
S.P. 955 L.D. 2230  
(C "A" S-645)

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 34 Members of the Senate, with no Senators having voted in the negative, and 34 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.

---

### Emergency Resolve

Resolve, to Establish the Commission to Recommend Methods for Preventing Deed Fraud in the State  
S.P. 960 L.D. 2240  
(C "A" S-672)

On motion by Senator **DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland, placed on the **SPECIAL STUDY TABLE** pending **FINAL PASSAGE**, in concurrence.

---

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

### ENACTORS

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

### Acts

An Act Regarding Spirits Price Review and Recommendations  
S.P. 836 L.D. 2014  
(C "A" S-659)

An Act to Amend the Ownership Disclosure Requirements for Applicants for Liquor Licenses and Certificates of Approval  
S.P. 870 L.D. 2069  
(C "A" S-663)

An Act to Prohibit Unfair Practices Related to the Collection of Medical Debt  
S.P. 908 L.D. 2115  
(C "A" S-667)

An Act to Implement the Recommendations Regarding the Maine Commission on Public Defense Services  
S.P. 949 L.D. 2219  
(C "A" S-674)

An Act to Amend the Process for the Sale of Foreclosed Properties Due to Nonpayment of Taxes  
H.P. 1452 L.D. 2262  
(C "A" H-939)

An Act to Establish a State Minimum Hourly Wage for Agricultural Workers  
H.P. 1462 L.D. 2273  
(C "A" H-922)

**PASSED TO BE ENACTED** and having been signed by the President were presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

---

An Act Regarding Overtime Protections for Certain Salaried Employees  
S.P. 230 L.D. 513  
(C "A" S-665)

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

An Act to Increase Cybersecurity in Maine  
S.P. 374 L.D. 877  
(C "A" S-621)

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

An Act to Establish Minimum Pay for Educational Technicians and Other School Support Staff  
H.P. 621 L.D. 974  
(C "C" H-927)

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

An Act to Review State Lands and Waterways That Have Sacred, Traditional or Other Significance to the Wabanaki People  
H.P. 863 L.D. 1349  
(C "A" H-928)



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

An Act to Require Health Insurance Coverage for Biomarker Testing  
H.P. 1022 L.D. 1577  
(C "A" H-915)

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

An Act to Address Chronic Understaffing of State Government Positions  
H.P. 1345 L.D. 2121  
(C "A" H-913; S "A" S-676)

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

An Act to Ensure Subsidy Reimbursements for Certain Child Care Providers  
S.P. 935 L.D. 2199  
(C "A" S-666)

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

An Act to Implement the Recommendations of the Commission Regarding Foreign-trained Physicians Living in Maine to Establish a Sponsorship Program for Foreign-trained Physicians  
H.P. 1458 L.D. 2268  
(C "A" H-926)

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

An Act to Strengthen Maine's Workforce Through Preapprenticeship Training Programs  
S.P. 995 L.D. 2280  
(C "A" S-657)

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

---

### Resolves

Resolve, Directing the Superintendent of Insurance to Collect Data from Health Insurers Related to Prescription Drug Coverage of Generic Drugs and Biosimilars  
S.P. 907 L.D. 2114  
(C "A" S-651)

Resolve, Regarding the Operation and Future Capacity of State-owned Landfills  
H.P. 1359 L.D. 2135  
(H "A" H-940; S "A" S-612 to C "A" H-828)

Resolve, to Establish an Automotive Right to Repair Working Group  
S.P. 1002 L.D. 2289

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

---

Resolve, to Allow Ireland Farms, Inc. to Sue the State  
S.P. 939 L.D. 2202  
(C "A" S-675)

On motion by Senator **DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **ENACTMENT**, in concurrence.

---

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

### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

#### Senate

#### Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act to Strengthen Public Safety by Improving Maine's Firearm Laws and Mental Health System"  
S.P. 953 L.D. 2224

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-687)**.

Signed:

Senators:

CARNEY of Cumberland  
BAILEY of York

Representatives:

MOONEN of Portland  
BECK of South Portland  
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:

Senator:

BRAKEY of Androscoggin

Representatives:

ANDREWS of Paris  
HAGGAN of Hampden  
HENDERSON of Rumford  
POIRIER of Skowhegan

(Representative DANA of the Passamaquoddy Tribe - of the House - supports the Minority **Ought Not To Pass** Report.)

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT**.

---

All matters thus acted upon, with the exception of those matters being held, were ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

---

**RECESSED** until the sound of the bell.

After Recess the Senate was called to order by the President.

---

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

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**Senate**

**Divided Report**

The Majority of the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** on Bill "An Act to Increase Enforcement and Accountability for Wage and Hour Violations"  
S.P. 179 L.D. 372

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-688)**.

Signed:

Senator:  
TIPPING of Penobscot

Representatives:

ROEDER of Bangor  
GEIGER of Rockland  
GERE of Kennebunkport  
MALON of Biddeford  
RUSSELL of Verona Island

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (S-689)**.

Signed:

Representatives:

BRADSTREET of Vassalboro  
DRINKWATER of Milford

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT**.

---

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

**PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE**

**Non-Concurrent Matter**

Joint Order, to Recall from the Legislative Files L.D. 275, Resolve, to Require the Maine Board of Pharmacy to Review Work Practices and Treatment of Pharmacists  
H.P. 1468

In Senate, April 10, 2024, **FAILED PASSAGE** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Comes from the House, that Body having **INSISTED** on its former action whereby the Joint Order **PASSED**.

Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc moved the Senate **RECEDED** and **CONCURRED**.

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 Chair noted the absence of the Senator from York, Senator **LAWRENCE**, the Senator from Penobscot, Senator **TIPPING**, and further excused the same Senators from today's Roll Call votes.

---

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#691)**

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

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, FARRIN, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, KEIM, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, POULIOT, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: LAWRENCE, TIPPING

20 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc to **RECEDE** and **CONCUR, FAILED**.

On motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook, the Senate **INSISTED**.

---

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

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**House**

**Divided Report**

The Majority of the Committee on **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Require Hospitals and Hospital-affiliated Providers to Provide Financial Assistance for Medical Care"  
H.P. 1257 L.D. 1955

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-946)**.

Signed:

Senators:  
BALDACCI of Penobscot  
INGWERSEN of York

Representatives:  
MEYER of Eliot  
CRAVEN of Lewiston  
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:  
FREDERICKS of Sanford  
GRIFFIN of Levant  
JAVNER of Chester  
LEMELIN of Chelsea

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-946)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-946)**.

Reports **READ**.

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

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

Senator **BALDACCI**: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I want to recommend this bill to this Chamber for a number of reasons. As we probably all know that medical debt is one of the primary drivers of bankruptcy for families and individuals and medical debt in general has weighed down many low- and middle-income families. This is an effort to standardize policies, to make sure that the patients are aware of the financial assistance that's available to them. And the two major issues in terms of the changes that are involved with this bill is that first, under current law, anyone within 150% of the federal poverty level can -- is entitled to charity care or free medical care. So, this bill changes that to 200% of the federal poverty level for charity care. And the other major change is that if your income or your family's income is 400% of the poverty level, that the maximum the hospital can take from you for payments is 3% per year. Now, I understand that this was not welcomed by our friends in the hospitals, but I have to say that Health and Human Services Committee had to reconsider this two or three times, we worked with Consumers for Affordable Healthcare, and we worked with the hospitals, because many of the changes that are in the amendment are to make it more operationally more suitable for their administrations. But the essential issue is about limiting crushing medical debt, about a slight expansion in charity care, and about requirements that basically for people that are hard of hearing or deaf or speak a different language than English that's at least spoken by at least 5% of the state or a thousand residents, that they be provided with language-appropriate information and forms to fill out. I think that this will be a major plus for hard-pressed working families all across the state who have crushing medical debt, who have either no insurance or have insurance with huge deductibles. And I think it will be welcome, you know, by low- and middle-income families because it will help their family make ends meet

in general. So, I think we're doing a lot of important things with this bill, and I would ask for your support.

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

Senator **CARNEY:** Thank you, President Jackson, Colleagues of the Senate. I rise in support of LD 1955 in order to lend a voice consistent with the Good Senator from Penobscot. This bill is really important. It makes several changes to Maine's nonprofit hospital free care program. What I hear consistently from constituents, and I'm guessing you hear it from yours as well, is that affording healthcare remains a persistent challenge. People have difficulty securing affordable insurance, they're uninsured or underinsured. And, in fact, over 15% of Mainers hold some type of medical debt that has actually gone to collections. Hospital charity care or free care plays a really important role in ensuring access to -- access to and affordability of medically necessary care for people with low incomes. However, eligibility and access to financial assistance varies by facility and depends largely on where a person seeks their care. This bill, as the Good Senator from Penobscot said, strengthens and updates a set of universal standards and patient protections for all hospitals in our state. I think of it as leveling the playing field for low-income patients and also for our healthcare systems, especially those that are going above and beyond in service to Maine's residents. What I really like about this bill is that it helps patients who may have some level of insurance but don't have enough understand that this free care is available to them to make up that gap and help them afford the care they need and also to avoid medical debt. I hope that you will join me in supporting LD 1955. Thank you.

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

Senator **BRAKEY:** Thank you, Mr. President. We all know that the healthcare system is incredibly broken. We all know that people are being bankrupted by healthcare costs. It's just very frustrating to me that we -- we're willing to tell the hospitals, like, how -- what kinds of free care they have to give and mandate all these things upon them, but we won't, you know, repeal certificate of need laws and take away their ability to monopolize the system. If we wanted to bring healthcare costs down, perhaps we could inject some competition back into the marketplace. Thank you.

**The PRESIDENT:** The Chair recognizes the Senator from Washington, Senator Moore.

Senator **MOORE:** Thank you, Mr. President. I was going to say what he said. But the reason that we oppose this in the committee is the fact that we were telling the hospitals how to handle their charity care. And all of them have their own policies and procedures in place, they're willing to work with everyone and anyone, all you had to do is, you know, meet with them, talk to them, set up a payment arrangement, and they would be able to provide that. So, we felt like we were going a little bit beyond our policy making and actually telling the hospitals what to do and how to handle it. So, that's why we voted against it and thus the divided report. Thank you, Mr. President.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

### ROLL CALL (#692)

**YEAS:** Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAFOUNTAIN, NANGLE, PIERCE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

**NAYS:** Senators: BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, FARRIN, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, KEIM, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

**EXCUSED:** Senators: LAWRENCE, TIPPING

21 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 12 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

**Bill READ ONCE.**

Committee Amendment "A" (H-946) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED** in concurrence.

---

### Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Enact the Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact" H.P. 1364 L.D. 2140

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-948)**.

Signed:

Senator:  
BRAKEY of Androscoggin

Representatives:  
PERRY of Calais  
ARFORD of Brunswick  
CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham  
MASTRACCIO of Sanford  
MORRIS of Turner  
NUTTING of Oakland  
PRINGLE of Windham  
SWALLOW of Houlton

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

Signed:

Senator:

BAILEY of York

Representatives:

CYRWAY of Albion

MATHIESON of Kittery

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-948)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-948)**.

Reports **READ**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-948) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED** in concurrence.

Sent down for concurrence.

---

#### Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Require Health Insurance Coverage for Federally Approved Nonprescription Oral Hormonal Contraceptives"  
H.P. 1411 L.D. 2203

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-958)**.

Signed:

Senators:

BAILEY of York

RENY of Lincoln

Representatives:

PERRY of Calais

ARFORD of Brunswick

CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham

MASTRACCIO of Sanford

MATHIESON of Kittery

PRINGLE of Windham

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

Signed:

Senator:

BRAKEY of Androscoggin

Representatives:

CYRWAY of Albion

MORRIS of Turner

NUTTING of Oakland

SWALLOW of Houlton

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-958)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-958)**.

Reports **READ**.

Senator **BAILEY** of York moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report.

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

Senator **BRAKEY**: Thank you, Mr. President. First, I'd like to acknowledge on the topic that this legislation seeks to address, which is access to contraception, I am very proud of the fact that last year in this Body, we passed legislation that came unanimously out of the Health and -- HCIFS Committee to expand access to many forms of contraception by making them available must easier by pharmacists prescription, getting us closer to over-the-counter coverage. And I was really proud that was something we found bipartisan agreement on and were able to move forward on. As the sponsor of that bill, I was especially happy to see it go into law. But this proposal takes things one step further in a way that I'm not comfortable with. Where last year, we increased access to contraception by getting government out of the way and increasing freedom by just letting people make their own choices, this proposal wants to increase access by forcing other people to pay for it through their insurance premiums. And so have expressed concern that as I understand this legislation includes not just preconception forms of birth control but also Plan B, which many people are uncomfortable with for ethical reasons. You can agree with that or disagree with it, but many people who would be forced to pay for it are not comfortable with that. And I just want to say that, you know, I hear a lot about people saying they don't want other people dictating their healthcare decisions, and I say one way to really help make it so that people don't dictate your healthcare decisions is to stop forcing them to pay for it. Thank you.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#693)**

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

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, FARRIN, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, KEIM, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, POULIOT, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: LAWRENCE, TIPPING

20 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **BAILEY** of York to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-958) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED** in concurrence.

---

**Divided Report**

The Majority of the Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Bill "An Act Regarding the Maine State Cemetery Preservation Commission"  
H.P. 781 L.D. 1233

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-950)**.

Signed:

Senators:  
BALDACCI of Penobscot  
LYFORD of Penobscot

Representatives:  
STOVER of Boothbay  
ABDI of Lewiston  
ADAMS of Lebanon  
COPELAND of Saco  
DHALAC of South Portland  
GREENWOOD of Wales  
POMERLEAU of Standish  
RISEMAN of Harrison  
SINCLAIR of Bath  
UNDERWOOD of Presque Isle

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

Signed:

Senator:  
NANGLE of Cumberland

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-950)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-950)**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **NANGLE** of Cumberland, Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-950) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED** in concurrence.

---

**Divided Report**

The Majority of the Committee on **TAXATION** on Bill "An Act to Change the Taxation of Rental Tangible Personal Property to Make It Consistent with the Predominant Method in Other States' Rental Industry Laws for Sales and Use Tax"  
H.P. 1278 L.D. 2000

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-947)**.

Signed:

Senators:  
GROHOSKI of Hancock  
CHIPMAN of Cumberland

Representatives:  
PERRY of Bangor  
CROCKETT of Portland  
HASENFUS of Readfield  
LAVIGNE of Berwick  
MATLACK of St. George  
RANA of Bangor

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

Signed:

Senator:  
LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

LIBBY of Auburn  
QUINT of Hodgdon  
RUDNICKI of Fairfield

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-947)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-947)**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **GROHOSKI** of Hancock, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **ACCEPTED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-947) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED** in concurrence.

---

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

**PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE**

**Non-Concurrent Matter**

An Act to Protect Consumers from Predatory Medical Credit Card Providers  
S.P. 925 L.D. 2174

In Senate, April 10, 2024, on motion by Senator **BAILEY** of York, the Minority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-678)**.

Comes from the House, the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc moved the Senate **INSIST**.

Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook moved the Senate **RECEDE** and **CONCUR**.

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 (#694)**

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: **LAWRENCE, TIPPING**

11 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 22 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook to **RECEDE** and **CONCUR, FAILED**.

The Senate **INSISTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

---

**Non-Concurrent Matter**

An Act to Establish the Maine Buy American and Build Maine Act  
S.P. 812 L.D. 1983

In Senate, April 10, 2024, on motion by Senator **NANGLE** of Cumberland, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-677)**.

Comes from the House, the Minority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc moved the Senate **INSIST**.

Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook moved the Senate **RECEDE** and **CONCUR**.

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 (#695)**

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: LAWRENCE, TIPPING

13 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 20 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook to **RECEDE** and **CONCUR, FAILED**.

The Senate **INSISTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

---

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

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

**House**

**Divided Report**

Six Members of the Committee on **TAXATION** on Bill "An Act to Make Changes to the Farm and Open Space Tax Law" H.P. 1060 L.D. 1648

Reported in Report "A" that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-945)**

Signed:

Senator:  
GROHOSKI of Hancock

Representatives:  
PERRY of Bangor  
CROCKETT of Portland  
HASENFUS of Readfield  
MATLACK of St. George  
RANA of Bangor

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

Signed:

Senator:  
LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:  
CARMICHAEL of Greenbush  
LAVIGNE of Berwick  
LIBBY of Auburn  
QUINT of Hodgdon  
RUDNICKI of Fairfield

Comes from the House with Report "A" **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-945)** READ and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-945)**.

Reports **READ**.

Senator **GROHOSKI** of Hancock moved the Senate **ACCEPT** Report "A" **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED**.

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

Senator **GROHOSKI**: Thank you, Mr. President. I'd like to just take a brief couple moments to share some more information about this bill with you all. LD 1648 adjusts the valuation method for the Open Space Tax Law, which is a constitutional tax law program that we have, to bring it into alignment with the more frequently used Maine Tree Growth Tax Program, something I'm sure you've heard of. This adjustment alone will help landowners and municipalities to better understand and implement the program. In addition to adjusting the valuation method, this bill serves to clean up and modernize the valuation categories. Current law includes vague and somewhat redundant valuation categories that aren't reflective of current management needs and trends. This bill updates the criteria that were developed in the late 1980s to focus on priorities including public access, wildlife habitat management, carbon forest management, and permanent protection. These new categories are more clearly defined to ensure accountability and compliance, which strengthens the program and supports our municipalities. LD 1648 also addresses the issue of municipal reimbursement. Currently, there is no requirement for municipal reimbursement for revenue lost as a result of being enrolled under this tax program. The Maine Tree Growth Tax Law, however, does require municipal reimbursement, and we know that municipalities have long been concerned about the lack of parity for these programs. This bill requires the state tax assessor to reimburse the municipalities in a manner similar to the method of reimbursement used under the Maine Tree Growth Tax Law. And I would just conclude by letting folks know that this bill is the outcome of a very long and, I think, well done consensus group work among stakeholders, and I just wanted to let you know the groups that are supporting this amended bill include the Nature Conservancy, Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Maine Woodland Owners, Maine Audubon, New England Forestry Foundation, Maine Municipal Association, Maine Forest Products Council, Weyerhaeuser, Professional Logging Contractors Northeast, as well as the Maine Forest



Service and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. So, I hope you'll consider supporting this stakeholder process and these improvements to current use tax law. Thank you.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#696)**

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BLACK, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, HICKMAN, INGWERSEN, LAFOUNTAIN, LYFORD, NANGLE, PIERCE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TIMBERLAKE, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: BRAKEY, FARRIN, HARRINGTON, KEIM, LIBBY, MOORE, STEWART

EXCUSED: Senators: LAWRENCE, TIPPING

26 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 7 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **GROHOSKI** of Hancock to **ACCEPT** Report "A" **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED**, in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-945) **READ** and **ADOPTED** in concurrence.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

---

**Divided Report**

Eight members of the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** on Bill "An Act Concerning Prior Authorizations for Health Care Provider Services"  
H.P. 485 L.D. 796

Reported in Report "A" that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-954)**.

Signed:

Senators:  
BAILEY of York  
RENY of Lincoln

Representatives:

PERRY of Calais  
ARFORD of Brunswick  
CLUCHEY of Bowdoinham  
MASTRACCIO of Sanford  
MATHIESON of Kittery  
PRINGLE of Windham

Four members of the same Committee on the same subject reported in Report "B" that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-955)**.

Signed:

Representatives:

CYRWAY of Albion  
MORRIS of Turner  
NUTTING of Oakland  
SWALLOW of Houlton

One member of the same Committee on the same subject reported in Report "C" that the same **Ought Not to Pass**.

Signed:

Senator:

BRAKEY of Androscoggin

Comes from the House with Report "A" **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-954)** **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-954)**.

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **BAILEY** of York, the Report "A" **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-954)** Report **ACCEPTED**, in concurrence.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-954) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

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

Senator **BAILEY:** Thank you, Mr. President. I rise today in support of the pending motion. LD 796 makes critically important changes to the prior authorization process, an administrative process used by insurance companies that when used inappropriately can delay and prevent a patient from accessing medically necessary healthcare. And as we heard from medical providers in front of our committee, prior authorizations do not support evidence-based medicine, and they do not represent a very -- but they do represent a very expensive administrative cost to the healthcare system and are a large factor in physician burnout. First, let me start with what this bill does not do. This bill does not eliminate the prior authorization process. If this bill passes, your medical provider will still need to get approval through the prior authorization process before providing medical care. LD 976 does shine a light on the impact of prior

authorizations on patient care by requiring insurance carriers to publicly report data on their use of prior authorizations, including what medical services require a prior authorization and how often carriers deny a prior authorization request. I would point out that these are not new reporting requirements, as the proposed requirements closely mirror federal data collection requirements on insurance products like Medicare Advantage. It also allows medical providers to appeal prior authorization denials to the Bureau of Insurance instead of leaving patients to fight the carriers on their own. Currently, only patients have the right to pursue an appeal of a prior authorization denial. However, prior authorization denials are often couched in complex medical terms best understood by providers. This legislation would allow provider-led appeals to happen. But in my opinion the most important thing this bill does is prohibit prior authorization practices that are abusive and delay access to care. What types of behaviors am I talking about? Well, like denying coverage of a medically necessary procedure because the surgery couldn't be completed on the exact day that was included in the prior authorization request. So, when there's a snowstorm and a procedure gets postponed for a couple of days, the carriers reject the claim and unilaterally decide to pay nothing for the care because the prior authorization was the surgery occurred on a different day than the prior authorization. A particularly egregious example of this was provided in the public hearing. In November of 2022, when school shootings were reported across the state, Maine Medical Center and Southern Maine Healthcare cleared their operating rooms to respond to the reports of mass casualties in Sanford. As we all now know, these reports were thankfully found to be hoaxes, but the surgeries that were originally scheduled that day required new authorizations because they were not performed on the approved date. That is simply a wasteful administrative expense. LD 796 provides that the prior authorization approval is good for 14 days before and 14 days after the originally scheduled date. LD 796 also provides that a carrier cannot deny coverage of medically necessary care simply because of an administrative error. For example, a patient with a particular malady is referred to a hospital for a procedure to correct the problem. Four procedure codes were approved by the carrier through a prior authorization, including the diagnosis code. The hospital billed three on the codes that received prior authorization approval, but accidentally billed the fourth code incorrectly. Instead of the carrier denying the incorrectly submitted code, which was an example we heard in our committee, a little under \$5,000, the carrier denied the entire claim, which was over \$153,000, which the provider, not the patient, had to absorb. This is simply wrong. The procedure was medically necessary, met the carrier's standards, and it should be paid by the carrier. But instead, they hid behind their bureaucratic rules and paid nothing. LD 796 prohibits a carrier from denying the claim in its entirety but allows them to impose a 15% penalty on the provider, which is significant. When our providers are operating on slim to negative operating margins, they can't afford to absorb any cuts. Who here would just ignore a 15% cut to their salaries? This is a reasonable bill and addresses a real problem that impacts patients on a daily basis. Please join me in supporting this motion. Thank you.

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

Senator **BRAKEY:** Thank you, Mr. President. I recognize and agree that prior authorizations can be very burdensome, and this is a manifestation of our third-party payment system in healthcare that's grown up over layers and layers of laws and bureaucracy over the last century. And you know who never asks me for a prior authorization on healthcare? My tax-free health savings account. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator **NANGLE:** Thank you, Mr. President. I just -- I want to say that man, this insurance free market is really working. You know, we wouldn't have bills like this if there weren't so many good examples of why we need them. Thank you.

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

Senator **BRAKEY:** I just would like to state for the record that the insurance -- the health insurance market is one of the most regulated industries in the country. I would very much hesitate to call it a free market system. I don't know that it could be called a free market system in any time in the last century. Thank you.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**, in concurrence.

---

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

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

### Senate

#### Ought to Pass As Amended

Senator BAILEY for the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Ensure Access to Nonopioid, Nonnarcotic Medication for Acute Pain Relief"  
S.P. 889 L.D. 2096

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-693).**

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-693) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

---

Senator BAILEY for the Committee on **HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND FINANCIAL SERVICES** on Bill "An Act to Improve Access to Affordable Prescription Drugs in Underserved Areas" (EMERGENCY)  
S.P. 926 L.D. 2175

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-692)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-692) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

---

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

#### ENACTORS

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

#### Acts

An Act to Enact the Agricultural Employees Concerted Activity Protection Act  
H.P. 330 L.D. 525  
(C "A" H-934)

An Act to Create a Universal Exclusion List for All Forms of Gambling in the State  
H.P. 1339 L.D. 2080  
(C "A" H-933)

**PASSED TO BE ENACTED** and having been signed by the President were presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

---

An Act to Protect Consumers by Licensing Home Building Contractors  
H.P. 1237 L.D. 1929  
(H "A" H-941 to C "A" H-929)

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

An Act to Bring Fairness in Income Taxes to Maine Families by Adjusting the Tax Brackets  
H.P. 779 L.D. 1231  
(C "A" H-924)

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

---

#### Resolve

Resolve, to Require the Office of Tax Policy to Study the Adoption of a Pass-through Entity Income Tax  
H.P. 1212 L.D. 1891  
(C "A" H-917)

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

---

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

#### PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

##### Non-Concurrent Matter

An Act to Require Health Insurance Coverage for Specialized Risk Screening for First Responders and Other Public Safety Professionals  
S.P. 199 L.D. 444

In Senate, April 2, 2024, on motion by Senator **BAILEY** of York, Report "A", **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED, READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-636)**.

Comes from the House, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-636) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-959)** thereto in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

On motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, the Senate **RECEDED** and **CONCURRED**.

---

All matters thus acted upon, with the exception of those matters being held, were ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

---

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

#### Emergency Measure

An Act to Amend the Laws Regarding Adjustments for Sudden and Severe Disruption of Municipal Valuation  
S.P. 828 L.D. 2006  
(C "A" S-606)

Placed on Special Appropriations Table - April 11, 2024, by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin

Pending - **ENACTMENT**

(In Senate, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-606)**, in concurrence.)

(In House, **ENACTED**).

On motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin, the Senate removed from the Special Appropriations Table.

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 33 Members of the Senate, with no Senators having voted in the negative, and 33 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.

---

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

An Act to Provide Natural Organic Reduction Facilities for Maine Residents for the Conversion of Human Remains to Soil  
H.P. 341 L.D. 536  
(C "A" H-129)

Placed on Special Appropriations Table - June 1, 2023, by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin

Pending - **ENACTMENT**

(In Senate, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-129)**, in concurrence.)

(In House, **ENACTED**).

On motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of ANDROSCOGGIN, the Senate removed from the Special Appropriations Table.

On further motion by same Senator, the Senate **SUSPENDED THE RULES**.

On further motion by same Senator, the Senate **RECONSIDERED** whereby the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-129)**, in concurrence.

On further motion by same Senator, the Senate **SUSPENDED THE RULES**.

On further motion by same Senator, the Senate **RECONSIDERED** whereby it **ADOPTED** Committee Amendment "A" (H-129).

On further motion by same Senator, Senate Amendment "A" (S-588) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-129) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-129) as Amended by Senate Amendment "A" (S-588) thereto, **ADOPTED**, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

**PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-129) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-588)** thereto, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Ordered sent down for concurrence.

---

An Act to Expand the Membership of the Permanent Commission on the Status of Women  
S.P. 353 L.D. 794  
(C "A" S-51)

Placed on Special Appropriations Table - May 11, 2023, by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin

Pending - **ENACTMENT**

(In Senate, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-51)**, in concurrence.)

(In House, **ENACTED**).

On motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of ANDROSCOGGIN, the Senate removed from the Special Appropriations Table.

On further motion by same Senator, the Senate **SUSPENDED THE RULES**.

On further motion by same Senator, the Senate **RECONSIDERED** whereby the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-51)**.

On further motion by same Senator, Senate Amendment "A" (S-589) to LD 794 **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

**PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-51) and SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-589)** thereto, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Ordered sent down for concurrence.

---

An Act to Facilitate the Provision of Medically Appropriate Levels of Care for Clients of Correctional Facilities  
H.P. 1193 L.D. 1863  
(C "A" H-621)

Placed on Special Appropriations Table - June 22, 2023, by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin

Pending - **ENACTMENT**

(In Senate, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-621)**, in concurrence.)

(In House, **ENACTED**).

On motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of ANDROSCOGGIN, the Senate removed from the Special Appropriations Table.

On further motion by same Senator, the Senate **SUSPENDED THE RULES.**

On further motion by same Senator, the Senate **RECONSIDERED** whereby the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-621)**, in concurrence.

On further motion by same Senator, the Senate **SUSPENDED THE RULES.**

On further motion by same Senator, the Senate **RECONSIDERED** whereby it **ADOPTED** Committee Amendment "A" (H-621).

On further motion by same Senator, Senate Amendment "A" (S-587) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-621) **READ** and **ADOPTED.**

Committee Amendment "A" (H-621) as Amended by Senate Amendment "A" (S-587) thereto, **ADOPTED**, in **NON-CONCURRENCE.**

**PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-621) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-587)** thereto, in **NON-CONCURRENCE.**

Ordered sent down for concurrence.

---

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

---

All matters thus acted upon, with the exception of those matters being held, were ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

---

On motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, **ADJOURNED** until Friday, April 12, 2024 at 10:00 in the morning in memory of and lasting tribute to Jon Webster Holmes of Dixfield, Andrew Roosevelt Mantis of Biddeford, and Linda L. Bean of St. George.