

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

In Senate Chamber  
Wednesday  
April 17, 2024

Senate called to order by President Pro Tem Benjamin M. Chipman of Cumberland County.

Prayer by Pastor Glenn Peterson of Hope Baptist Church in Manchester.

**PASTOR GLENN PETERSON:** Let's pray. Heavenly Father, I would like to offer three brief prayers from the Psalms today regarding fear and sadness on behalf of these Senators. The prayer of Psalm 86:1 is bend down, oh Lord, and hear my prayer. Answer me, for I need your help. Father, the weight of the darkness makes it difficult for us to wait for our deliverance. Hold us tightly, for we feel weaker and weaker. Will the sorrow ever lift? Will our fears always outnumber our hopes? Will our hearts ever sing again? The prayer of Psalm 43:5 is why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Father, we can feel like we are depressed in a world of happy people. We can feel all alone. Who can possibly understand what it feels like to be me? Who will meet me in this pain? Only you, my God. Only you can. And the prayer of Psalm 13:1 is how long, oh Lord, will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me? Father, I want to be near you, but at the same time, I want to keep my distance. I understand why Adam hid from you after his sin. He was ashamed. But I also am angry and confused that you seem far away. Lord, I am a mess, in desperate need of your mercy. I am afraid to hope, but I am more afraid not to hope. Come, Lord, come, let us see you again through our tears. I remember you and long to be restored to the days of grace and peace. Father me, Father. In your strong name we pray, amen.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator Eric L. Brakey of Androscoggin County.

Reading of the Journal of Tuesday, April 16, 2024.

Off Record Remarks

ORDERS

Joint Orders

Expressions of Legislative Sentiment recognizing:

Christine Hastedt, of Freeport, on her retirement. Ms. Hastedt has been a tireless advocate, lobbyist and presence at the State House for 48 years. She is currently the Senior Policy Advisor at Maine Equal Justice, where she has worked since she cofounded the organization in 1996. Maine Equal Justice is a nonprofit civil legal aid and economic justice organization working to increase economic security, opportunity and equity for people in Maine. Ms. Hastedt previously worked on similar issues as a paralegal for Pine Tree Legal Services, where she started working in 1971. During her long career, she has been an effective advocate for persons with low income and has informed nearly every piece of public policy that has been developed to support people with low income in Maine over the last 40 years. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;  
SLS 1914

Sponsored by Senator DAUGHTRY of Cumberland.  
Cosponsored by Senators: CARNEY of Cumberland, ROTUNDO of Androscoggin, VITELLI of Sagadahoc, Representative: SACHS of Freeport.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

**THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM:** The Chair would call on the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Rotundo.

Senator **ROTUNDO:** Thank you, Mr. President. It's hard to know where to begin to talk about Chris Hastedt. My praise for her is unlimited. She is the most extraordinary advocate that I've worked with in my 18 years here in the State House. And one of the most effective lobbyists and advocates I have worked with. There is no one in the State House that has greater expertise in the area of Medicaid and Medicare law than Chris Hastedt, and nobody has done a better job of finding ways to compromise on issues that are important to the people of Maine. It's just really extraordinary in terms of the work that she has done across the aisle, bringing people together. I remember instances in Appropriations where there were proposed cuts to programs that Chris cared about, and we would leave the committee at 11 o'clock at night, and Chris would say I'm just going to work on this, I know there's a compromise here someplace. And when I came back to the State House at 8 o'clock the next morning, Chris would have figured it out, and it would be a compromise that everyone could live with, and the program that we had feared would be lost had been saved because of her hard work. The other thing that was always so remarkable to me about Chris is that she built a level of trust with all of the people she worked with, she -- she was believable, people trusted her, and I remember a Republican Senator on the floor praising her many years ago when she was recognized for a national award she had won that, you know, the thing he appreciated most about her was when he gave -- when she gave him information, he knew it was real information, that he could trust it. And I just thought, you know, what a wonderful tribute to her that she had built that level of support, again, on both sides of the aisle. There are so many people in this state who are leading healthier lives, with greater

economic and -- economic security and opportunity as a result of Chris's years and years and years of work. I know she inspires many of us here to follow in her footsteps in terms of her ability to find compromise to work with others and her work will continue to inspire us and her way about -- her way about doing her work will continue to inspire us. I wish her well. She will be missed terribly, but all of the good work she has done over the years will continue to have a wonderful impact, important impact on the people of Maine, and her example will continue to inspire those of us who are honored enough to be able to serve here. Thank you.

**THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM:** The Chair would now call on the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Daughtry.

Senator **DAUGHTRY:** Thank you, Mr. President Pro Tem. I rise to just speak briefly about how incredible Chris Hastedt is and how proud I am to have her as my constituent. Her work has been absolutely pivotal over the last 48 years, and we heard a little bit from the Good Senator from Androscoggin about a little bit of that. But I want to talk a little bit about what she's meant for me coming into this building in 2012 when I was 25. I always knew I could count on Chris to have firm, kind guidance that was rooted in making sure that we were constantly looking out for hardworking Mainers who might not have the same opportunities as all of us in this Chamber, and making sure that those with privileges, you know, were able to be everyone, that it wasn't just a select few. I often would jokingly refer to her as my conscience when I needed a good check-in on a policy. She was also one of those people that no matter how hard things were, you could always see a smile on her face, and a firm hand on your shoulder, telling you it'll be okay, and reminding you that you were on the right course. And I can remember some tough times when I was in the House, with state shutdowns and many other really hard, high stakes bill, and Chris would just be there to assure you that it was all going to be okay, that people would work together and find a way to get out and make sure that we were able to put our feet on the ground and move forward together. I'm going to miss having her in the State House every day, but I'm grateful that she's part of my district, and looking forward to seeing her enjoying her retirement, although I know she will be keeping all of us on our feet and making sure that we remind -- remind all of us of the policies that she holds dear. Thank you.

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

Senator **VITELLI:** Thank you, Mr. President, Women and Men of the Senate. I cannot let this moment pass without acknowledging what a pivotal person Chris Hastedt has been in my own career. We started working at the same time, we started working on many of the same issues. She was always the first person that I went to when I needed to understand the rules, the regulations, the opportunities, the people that would be involved in making some changes that we felt were important for the women that I was working with in issues around self-employment, employment, just maintaining their health and their wellbeing for themselves and their children. This program doesn't exist anymore, but the Maine Enterprise Option Program is one that we initiated - it was probably 15 years ago - to allow people who are on unemployment insurance to start small businesses. And Chris was incredibly helpful in helping me understand how we could structure that program so that people who were laid off from jobs

but had a good business idea could use their unemployment insurance to keep them going and to fund their business as they got started. She has just contributed so much to making lives -- the lives of people in Maine better and was always a delight to work with. I miss not being able to work with her as closely over these last few years, but I'm delighted that she's going to take some time for herself, and I wish her the absolute best. And maybe she and I will get together in our mutual retirement. Thank you, Mr. President.

**THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM:** The Chair would just like to make a couple comments as well about Ms. Hastedt. Ms. Hastedt's not only been an advocate here for many, many years, but she's also a close, personal friend of my mother, who's here as a guest, and my family. I've known her for my entire life but was sort of reconnected with her when I started serving up here in the Maine House of Representatives in 2010, and just been amazed to see the work that she has done to help advocate for policies that benefit low-income and working-class families like my own. We'll sadly miss her, it's a real loss for the Legislature to not have her here, but I wish her well in her retirement.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

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## PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

### Joint Resolutions

#### House

#### Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act to Automatically Seal Criminal History Record Information for Class D and Class E Crimes Relating to Marijuana Possession and Cultivation"  
H.P. 1459 L.D. 2269

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

Signed:

Senator:

CARNEY of Cumberland

Representatives:

MOONEN of Portland

ANDREWS of Paris

HAGGAN of Hampden

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 To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-972)**.

Signed:

**Senate**

Senators:

BAILEY of York  
BRAKEY of Androscoggin

Representatives:

BECK of South Portland  
POIRIER of Skowhegan

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

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

Reports **READ**.

Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report.

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

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

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The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#749)**

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BLACK, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, INGWERSON, KEIM, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT PRO TEM CHIPMAN

NAYS: Senators: BALDACCI, BRAKEY, HICKMAN, JACKSON, POULIOT, RAFFERTY

EXCUSED: Senators: FARRIN, LAFOUNTAIN

27 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 6 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report, in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

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**Divided Report**

(5-2)Eight members of the Committee on **TAXATION** on Bill "An Act to Promote Equity in the Forest Products Industry by Allowing Commercial Wood Haulers to Be Eligible for Certain Sales Tax Exemptions and Refunds"  
S.P. 994 L.D. 2279

Reported in Report "A" that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-715)**.

Signed:

Senators:

GROHOSKI of Hancock  
CHIPMAN of Cumberland  
LIBBY of Cumberland

Representatives:

PERRY of Bangor  
CROCKETT of Portland  
MATLACK of St. George  
QUINT of Hodgdon  
RANA of Bangor

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

Signed:

Representatives:

HASENFUS of Readfield  
LAVIGNE of Berwick  
LIBBY of Auburn  
RUDNICKI of Fairfield

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-716)**.

Signed:

Representative:

CARMICHAEL of Greenbush

Reports **READ**.

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

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

## ORDERS

### Joint Orders

Expressions of Legislative Sentiment recognizing:

Silver Lake Camp Owners Association, of Roxbury, 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 1922

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

The Joint Order was **READ**.

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

Senator **KEIM:** Good morning, Mr. President. I stand today to recognize the recipients of Roxbury's Spirit of America Award, the Silver Lake Camp Owners. As we know, municipalities in Maine award the Spirit of America Foundation Tribute to local individuals, organizations, and projects for commendable service each year. The Town of Roxbury chose the Silver Lake Camp Owners for this prominent award. Let me tell you a bit about the Silver Lake Camp Owners. Established 75 years ago, the Silver Lake Camp Owners are dedicated to stewardship of our environment. In 2009, the group was awarded a matching grant from the Maine DEP and received training from the Lakes Environmental Association which allowed them to launch a courtesy boat inspection program at the Roxbury Ellis Pond boat ramp. This essential program is the first line of defense in stopping the spread of invasive species, which as we know have run rampant in New England states and can be found in 34 bodies of water in Maine. The program stays true to the Association's mission to protect the integrity of Silver Lake, Roxbury Pond, or Big Ellis Pond, and the surrounding environment through good stewardship for generations to come. Today, the program runs from the middle of June through Labor Day, Friday through Monday, as well as the entire week of Fourth of July. The boat ramp is staffed in the morning by volunteers working two different two and a half hour shifts, and the ramp is tended by students from the local area for the rest of the day. Every cent of the grant money goes towards the salaries of high school students. No adult is compensated for the work they do. All expenses are covered by donations. This gives the students a great opportunity to earn while they learn skills and to protect the environment from invasives. Since the inception of the program 14 seasons ago, the group has reapplied and been awarded the grant every year. Where the program is matching -- where the program is a matching grant, a requirement of receiving, is that funding or volunteerism is at least equal to the value of the grant. They have been awarded grants of \$21,380, while volunteers delivered work back to the community and the State of Maine in the value of \$124,000, all while performing approximately 7,000

inspections. This is a great value to the State of Maine, and I would like to thank these volunteers for all that they do to protect our state's waters, and I know that you join me in this sentiment. Thank you.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

**THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM:** The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the chamber Jim Went, Matt Toll and Mike Ronan. These folks are the guests today of the Senator from Oxford, Senator Keim. Would the guests please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate.

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Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President Pro Tem **BENJAMIN M. CHIPMAN** of Cumberland County.

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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 Cumberland, Senator **CHIPMAN**, to his seat on the Floor.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

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Off Record Remarks

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

## PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

### Joint Orders

Expressions of Legislative Sentiment recognizing:

Noah Hurd, of Waldo, a student at Mount View High School and a member of the boys basketball team, who recently scored his 1,000th career point. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;  
HLS 900

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

The Joint Order was **READ**.

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

Senator **CURRY:** Thank you, Mr. President. I was pleasantly surprised to see Noah and his father, Brandon Hurd, here today. I was not anticipating that, and if I had, I would have prepared a speech about the incredibly exciting season that they have had. So, I'll just say wow, what an incredibly exciting season they have had. The Mount View School Boys Basketball won the Class C North championship, and their final game was the most exciting, heartbreaking experience I have had in sports for a long time. And just an amazing season that Noah Hurd led his team. Clearly, the 1,000th point career, just -- I just want to share my great appreciation and having been a high school athlete in multiple sports, never nearly to that level, I have great appreciation and respect for the amount of discipline and the amount of just hard work it takes to get to that level. Noah is going on -- he's a senior at Mount View, going on to play baseball at Husson University, and I wish him all the best.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**, in concurrence.

**THE PRESIDENT:** The Chair is pleased to recognize in the rear of the chamber Noah Hurd and his father Brandon Hurd of the Mount View School district. They're from the county of Waldo which is why they're the guests of the Senator from Waldo, Senator Curry. Would they please rise and accept the greetings and congratulations of the Maine State 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.

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

#### **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.

SENATE REPORTS - from the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Support Veterans' Organizations and Other Nonprofit Organizations and Federally Recognized Indian Tribes by Updating Electronic Gambling Laws" S.P. 947 L.D. 2213

**Report "A" - Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-707)** (8 members)[HICKMAN, BRENNER]

**Report "B" - Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (S-708)** (2 members)

**Report "C" - Ought Not to Pass** (2 members)[TIMBERLAKE]

Tabled - April 15, 2024 by Senator **HICKMAN** of Kennebec

Pending - motion by same Senator to **ACCEPT** Report "A" **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-707)**

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 Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

#### **ROLL CALL (#750)**

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

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, BLACK, GUERIN, KEIM, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, LYFORD, POULIOT, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: FARRIN, LAFOUNTAIN

24 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 9 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion to **ACCEPT** the **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-707)** Report, **PREVAILED**.

Report **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-707) **READ**.

Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot moved the Senate **ADOPT** Senate Amendment "A" (S-714) to Committee Amendment "A" (S-707).

**THE PRESIDENT:** The Senator from Penobscot may proceed.

Senator **BALDACCI:** Thank you, Mr. President. This amendment is similar to the others that I presented before to have this go to a public referendum, which I think is the appropriate step, really, for any gambling expansion in the state. And I understand everybody has different opinions on that, but that's my opinion. I also think that this would make it much more likely to actually become law, if it is done in this fashion. So, I would ask people to let the people decide and thank you, Mr. President.

On motion by Senator **TIMBERLAKE** of Androscoggin, 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 (#751)

YEAS: Senators: BALDACCIO, BENNETT, CARNEY, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSON, KEIM, LAWRENCE, NANGLE, RAFFERTY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BEEBE-CENTER, BLACK, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CHIPMAN, DUSON, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, PIERCE, POULIOT, RENY, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING

EXCUSED: Senators: FARRIN, LAFOUNTAIN

16 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 17 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion to **ADOPT** Senate Amendment "A" (S-714) **FAILED**.

On motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **ADOPTION** of Committee Amendment "A" (S-707).

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#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

##### House

##### Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act to Create the Data Privacy and Protection Act"  
H.P. 1270 L.D. 1977

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-975)**.

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.)

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-975)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-975) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-984)** thereto.

Reports **READ**.

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

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

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

Senator **CARNEY:** Thank you, Mr. President, Colleagues of the Senate. I rise briefly to speak in support of the pending motion. I just want to provide some additional information about this legislation and why it is important to the people of Maine. So, 16 states have enacted data privacy laws. Most of those follow a framework that is known as the Connecticut framework, it's a framework that has been put forward primarily by the tech industry, and the central feature of that framework is that businesses disclose their data collection and use practices on their terms and conditions page and then a consumer opts in or opts out of those terms and conditions. So, basically, the business is free to use the consumer's data in any way that is articulated in the business's policy. LD 1977 and the motion that's before you takes a stronger consumer data privacy protection approach. Why is this stronger approach important? Because under the other framework, the Connecticut framework, there aren't constraints onto what can or can't be put into a policy. Consumers often don't read those policies. There was a running joke in the Judiciary Committee that our dear colleague, Lois Reckitt, was the only person on the face of the earth who ever read those policies word for word. And then also there's vast amounts of information about each one of us that is out in the world and is therefore subject to some kind of a data breach. The Connecticut approach allows companies to track individuals

across different devices, across different websites, and across time in order to build a synthesized, complex, and deeply revealing profile against each one of us, and then they make money off of our profiles. Turning specifically to LD 1977, as I said, it follows a more privacy protective approach. It has a strong data minimization policy. The great thing about a data minimization policy is that it addresses data at the very start of the process, the data collection phase, in order to reduce the amount of data that is being collected, stored, processed, or sold about each one of us. There are also a couple of different tiers of access in LD 1977. There's personal data, which is -- has to be -- in order to be collected, it has to be reasonably necessary to provide the service that the consumer, that is each one of us, has requested. There's a more closely protected type of data which is called sensitive data, that can only be collected if it's strictly necessary to what the consumer is asking the collector or processor to do. And so, I just want to let you know a little bit about why -- what sensitive data is. It's information that would reveal a consumer's race or religious beliefs, their genetic or biometric data, specific financial account information, things like our Social Security Numbers. There also are special protections for very confidential information such as forbidding geofencing that goes around healthcare facilities. The data minimization standard also requires deletion of data when it's no longer necessary to perform the purpose for which it was collected and, in general, it strengthens data security because when we reduce the amount of information about each of us that is collected, processed, and sold, there's less potential damage to each of us from a breach. This legislation has strong consumer rights, it has civil rights protections that prohibit discrimination in processing for targeted advertising, sale, and profiling. It also has stronger protections for minors, notably that there's no targeted advertising permitted to persons under the age of 18 and that the data of minors can't be sold for anyone under 13, and for those minors between 13 and 18, parental consent is required. Now, I want to move on to the types of exemptions that were included in this legislation in order to address the concerns of the business community here in Maine and of the tech industry in general. The legislation contains two kinds of exemptions, depending on whether there's another federal or state law that is protective of privacy that is already in place and applicable to those -- the data. Our guiding principal in formulating the Majority Report on LD 1977 was not to impose any additional burdens when there is an existing privacy protection. And so, with that in mind, there are entity level exemptions for governments, for small businesses, for chartered banks and credit unions that are subject to the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, healthcare companies that are exempted because they are subject to HIPAA, and a few others. For businesses that have multiple -- for entities that have multiple lines of business, so imagine a pharmacy that has a non-HIPAA covered retail element as well as a HIPAA covered element, there are data level exemptions that apply to anything that HIPAA already covers that is done by that entity, while the practices of that entity that are not subject to HIPAA would come under this privacy legislation. Enforcement is through the office of the Attorney General. There is no private right of action. And then I just want to address briefly targeted advertising because I know that's something that is important both to Mainers who are protective of their own privacy and to businesses. Businesses can do targeted advertising under LD 1977 within their own ecosystems. We colloquially refer to this as first party advertising. So, for example, a retailer with a website could gather personal

information about somebody who visits that website in order to target that person with ads for what happens, again, within that website. So, if I buy a flyrod from a retailer, the retailer can target me for -- to upgrade my reel. Turning to businesses that are primarily focused on data gathering, for example, a social media website could gather personal data to build a profile about a consumer based on that consumer's interactions with the social media website. So, what you like, what you read, who your friends are, where you work, what your recreational interests are, and a retailer in Maine could purchase targeted ads on that social media site, but what can't happen is tracking of the consumer across websites. So, across the retailer's website as well as across the social media website, and then also tracking over time. In essence, a consumer's data stays local to the website that that consumer is using. That is the approach that's taken with regard to target ad advertising in LD 1977. So, I would just, in closing, urge colleagues to understand that this is a really important privacy protective piece of legislation and urge you to support the pending motion. Thank you.

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

**Senator KEIM:** Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I'm greatly discouraged to be standing here today in opposition to what should be -- what should have come out of the Judiciary Committee as a unanimous report because data protection is not a polarizing issue, it's something all of our -- all the people in Maine want, and it's certainly not a political issue. But when you look at the votes of the two bills that came out, you will see that it looks like it's entirely political. So, I'll begin by just saying that 1977 is essentially 1973 with some major rewrites that make me not able to support it, so very unfortunately. So, if I slip into talking about 1973, which was my bill, and this bill, which is 1977, it's for good reason. If we were in school, they would call this plagiarism. But this is a bill which was the Democrat redline of 1973 and the other bill, of course, which we dealt with yesterday, was the original 1973. So, the major issue -- one of the major issues with this bill is that it builds a wall, right? And in some ways, it's a good wall, but then, by exempting nonprofits, they've blown a hole right through the wall. As was mentioned yesterday, nonprofit status doesn't give someone a halo. Nonprofits are about selling data. They do it. A very thoughtful approach to dealing with nonprofits would be lump them together with businesses and say hey, if you're in the business of selling data, or at 20% of your income, then you have to fall under the data privacy, but if you're a small nonprofit, you don't have to. But this bill just exempts them carte blanche. And as I mentioned yesterday, the College Board is one of those nonprofits which has made national news many times over for tracking students and sending their information to Facebook and Google. Oh, my gosh, Facebook and Google. And they also have tracking right on their websites. And then, Summit Learning, which I also mentioned yesterday, is a nonprofit organization that is serving 75,000 students and 4,000 educators and 300 schools right here in the U.S., and they are growing since COVID because we've put all of our kids online, and they are completely exempt but guess what, they also are selling our children's data. And we've exempted them in this bill. This bill exempts them. I want you to think about why. One of the big issues with this bill is who it was written by, the rewrite; a nonprofit, EPIC. Caitriona Fitzgerald had more time in committee discussing what should happen with this legislation

than any one legislator on the committee. And I never heard Caitriona Fitzgerald once say I think we should include nonprofits with this bill. What's the irony with that? And the ACLU, who also is a big proponent of this bill, they're not even captured under it, but they're going to tell you to vote for it, this is good for Maine people. The irony is they're using targeted ads on Meta right now to say hey, call your legislator to vote for this bill. What's the irony of that? Good for ACLU. It's -- if it's good for the goose, it's good for the gander, right? But no, not if you're a nonprofit. So, there's where the problem starts, right there. You have a nonprofit outside of our state, right, absolutely not engaged in our businesses here, not engaged with our people, writing law for Mainers that we have to live with, that our businesses have to abide by, that has nothing to do with them, that we are their guinea pig. They're like hey, let's try something new in Maine, let's throw this against the wall and see if it sticks. Well, it isn't going to stick - I hope not. So, there is a real problem with targeted advertising, but this sort of comes down to who you believe. Do you believe EPIC, an out-of-state nonprofit who doesn't even covered with this? Or do you believe L.L. Bean? Maybe we shouldn't believe them anymore, I think they got rid of their, you know, lifetime guarantee. Just a joke. Longstanding, very trusted company in our state, right? Here's the list, right, that are opposed to this: L.L. Bean, Kittery Trading Post, Craignair Inn, Sea Bags, Loose Lobster, even the Portland Press Herald - well, now I'm questioning my own side here - Editorial Board is opposed to this bill. We can't take a bill that removes L.L. Bean's ability to do targeted advertising, and this is the way they do it, right, they change the definition of targeted advertising so that L.L. Bean, and you can ask them yourself, as an example, if they sell you a canoe and they want to then reach out to you and say hey, you got a canoe from us, maybe you would like life jackets and oars. They can't do that with this bill. But a third-party group could because the language is messed up. So, someone else can track you from across the web and sell to you what L.L. Bean -- sell to you as an L.L. Bean customer what L.L. Bean cannot sell themselves. When you listen to the number of businesses that are fighting this bill, it's not -- it's not big tech. These are our people. We can't hurt our people. I just recently put out a report from Maine Jobs Council on everyone's desk, I hope you had a chance to read it, it's very informative reading, and it says that Maine ranks the 40th, the 11th worst in the nation, for the cost of doing business. So, one of the problems with being the first in nation in trying to implement a totally different data minimization standard is that every single one of our businesses has to come up with their own backend programming to deal with all of that data, and it has to be completely different than it is in Maine for every other state in the nation. Guess what that is - that's costly. If they can do it at all, it's costly. So, we go from the 11th worst in the nation of cost of doing business to what? I don't know, what are we aiming for? You tell me. It seems like we're aiming to be real bad here in the state with everything we're passing. And then, we're the 12th worst in the nation just for our general business climate. Our business environment ranks 8th worst, sorry, I read that wrong, 8th worst. Our businesses can't handle us doing any more to make them unable to be doing business here in Maine. The idea with the original language of following a model that more than 15 states have used is that we would have something that's interoperable so that, like I mentioned, with the backend issues of building your website and how to deal with data, if everyone's doing it somewhat similarly and you just make it tighter, you can still use that same sort of framework and just

build it a little bit stronger. That's what -- that's what we should have done. That is not what this bill does. It turns it on its head, it makes -- it makes Maine businesses have to comply with something that is nearly impossible and that is going to make all the other businesses that want to do business and want to offer their goods and services to Maine people have an incredibly difficult time doing so. And I want to end by saying the reason we have this is a nonprofit business who is funded by trial lawyers -- and interestingly, you know what their biggest push was? You know what EPIC's biggest push is? You've got to have a private right of action. Follow the money, folks. Why does a whole bunch of trial lawyers want to make sure that Maine has a private right of action? Thankfully, the Judiciary Committee said no. But you have to look at what EPIC was doing here. They never said capture nonprofits and they sure as heck said make sure that you get a private right of action. So, do you want to pass legislation that hurts our own businesses? Desperately hurts our own businesses here in Maine on the say-so of a nonprofit who has nothing to do with Mainers and never will? That's the question before you. Do you want to make us not the 8th worst ranking for business environments in the nation? Would you like to, you know, improve our score? That's the decision before you today.

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

Senator **BALDACCI:** Thank you, Mr. President. I'm going to probably go after this issue in a little different way than either of the prior speakers. I'm just a humble country lawyer, so please bear with me. In terms of this bill, I will be voting against the Majority Ought to Pass Report because what I -- who I listen to are local businesses, who are uniformly against this and concerned about how it will hurt them in terms of competing. I had said a few days ago that Bangor has the second-largest amount of retail sales in the state, about 1.5 billion, second only to Portland. I'm not here to experiment with our local economy, I'm not here to experiment with our state economy. The last time this bill came in front of us, it had to be killed because there were so many amendments coming, it hadn't been fully thought out. This time, it still hasn't been fully thought out. I voted yesterday for a data protection bill. It's un -- we have no data protection bill right now in the state, so, when we make the good the enemy of the perfect, we have a real -- we aren't doing good public policy. What we are doing is doing public policy by sledgehammer, okay, and when we've done that over the last few years, we've had to reel these things back on a number of different issues. I think the wisest course of action would be to employ a data protection framework that has been tried in other states, and let that work, and then see how we can improve it. But to impose this on businesses is going to have a very negative impact, we're going to end up being back here trying to fix it. So, I'll be voting against this report.

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

Senator **CARNEY:** Thank you, President Jackson, and thank you, Colleagues, for a few more minutes of your time. I just want to take the heat down a little bit about this bill and respond to the allegations of plagiarism and explain the redline of 1973. It is true that as we worked on both of these pieces of legislation, 1977 was rewritten to follow the Connecticut framework, which is



primarily what 1973 did, and we did that for a couple of different reasons. One is a very dorky reason, it was easier for processing, but the other reason is that we were really struggling with which is the better approach. There is like a very legitimate policy difference here. And so, in order to compare the two bills, 1977 was written to follow the same outline as 1973 so that we could really compare, and it was a good approach, it allowed us to appreciate the provisions that were in one version or the other and as we got closer and closer toward the vote on this bill, the two bills, 73 and 77, became more and more similar with adopting provisions going back and forth between the two. And that was actually a really wonderful thing to see and I, too, was hopeful that we would come up with one unified report. But we couldn't, and that's because there is just this basic policy difference that I think people come down on different sides of. One is a more privacy protective approach, which is with a strong data minimization policy, and also greater protections for children online, and the other is a more business-oriented approach where privacy protections depend not on the provisions of state law, but on the policy that is adopted by any given business. And so, you know, again, let's take the heat out of it and look at really what -- what this proposal offers and consider that fundamental policy difference of the extent of privacy protection that you support for Maine consumers. Thank you.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

#### ROLL CALL (#752)

**YEAS:** Senators: BAILEY, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSON, LAWRENCE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, TIPPING

**NAYS:** Senators: BALDACCI, BLACK, BRAKEY, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, KEIM, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, POULIOT, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

**EXCUSED:** Senators: FARRIN, LAFOUNTAIN

15 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 18 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **CARNEY** of Cumberland to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence, **FAILED**.

The Minority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **ACCEPTED**, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Sent down for concurrence.

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:

#### PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

##### Non-Concurrent Matter

An Act to Provide Funding to Rebuild Infrastructure Affected by Extreme Inland and Coastal Weather Events (EMERGENCY)  
H.P. 1426 L.D. 2225

In Senate, April 15, 2024, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-894) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "B" (S-710)** thereto in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Comes from the House, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-894) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-980)** thereto in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

On motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, **TABLED** until Later in Today's session, pending **FURTHER CONSIDERATION**.

##### Non-Concurrent Matter

An Act to Create Economic Opportunity for Wabanaki Nations Through Internet Gaming  
H.P. 1140 L.D. 1777

In Senate, April 16, 2024, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-932)** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Comes from the House, that Body having **INSISTED** on its former action whereby the Minority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

Senator **DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland moved the Senate **ADHERE**.

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

On motion by Senator **DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland, 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 (#753)**

YEAS: Senators: BALDACCI, BENNETT, CHIPMAN, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, KEIM, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, LYFORD, POULIOT, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BEEBE-CENTER, BLACK, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSON, MOORE, NANGLE, PIERCE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

EXCUSED: Senators: FARRIN, LAFOUNTAIN

12 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 21 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook to **RECEDE** from **PASSAGE TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-932)** and **CONCUR** with the **ACCEPTANCE** of the Minority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **FAILED**.

The Senate **ADHERED**.

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**ORDERS OF THE DAY**

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Today Assigned matter:

SENATE REPORTS - from the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Support Veterans' Organizations and Other Nonprofit Organizations and Federally Recognized Indian Tribes by Updating Electronic Gambling Laws" S.P. 947 L.D. 2213  
Tabled - April 17, 2024 by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook

Pending - motion by same Senator to **ADOPT** Committee Amendment "A" (S-707)

On motion by Senator **BRENNER** of Cumberland, the Senate **RECONSIDERED** whereby Senate Amendment "A" (S-714) **FAILED ADOPTION**.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-714) was **ADOPTED**.

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Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

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**THE PRESIDENT:** The Chair wants to just explain -- try and explain a little bit where we are, because I certainly would always want the Body to have the opportunity to ask for Roll Calls or, you know, speak or anything like that; I try to be slow as possible on the hammer, unless I'm really mad. The -- what we did was we enacted the pieces of legislation, and then Senator Baldacci tried to attach an amendment that said that it put it out to referendum. That failed 16-17. Senator Stewart tabled it. We brought it back up just a minute ago, where Senator Brenner had voted against the amendment, which was the prevailing side. She asked for reconsideration, being on the prevailing side, which we did under the hammer, no one asked for a Roll Call on reconsideration, and it went under the hammer. So, then we were back to the original bill that we had passed, and we were in the position of accepting the Senate Amendment -- I don't know, 714 -- S-714, which was the referendum amendment that we had lost previously but Senator Brenner had asked for reconsideration. I clearly explained that we were in the process of accepting the amendment, and I tried to be slow to anyone ask for a Roll Call, no one asked for a Roll Call, so I hammered through the Senate Amendment, expecting a Roll Call and not having one asked for. So, again, I just want to be clear where we are. There's people that did not want that referendum amendment on the bill. I can't ask for -- I can't allow reconsideration now because that would be the second time it has been reconsidered, which is against the rules. So, we're in the position where Senator Timberlake has asked for a Roll Call on adoption of Committee Amendment "A" as amended by Senate Amendment "A" thereto, and that's what I'm going to ask the Body to approve here.

On motion by Senator **TIMBERLAKE** of Androscoggin, 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 (#754)**

YEAS: Senators: BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BRAKEY, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DUSON, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, LAWRENCE, NANGLE, RAFFERTY, STEWART, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BENNETT, BLACK, BRENNER, DAUGHTRY, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, INGWERSON, KEIM, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, PIERCE, POULIOT, RENY, ROTUNDO, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: FARRIN, LAFOUNTAIN

16 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 17 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, **ADOPTION** of Committee Amendment "A" (S-707) as Amended by Senate Amendment "A" (S-714), **FAILED**.

On motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

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

On motion by Senator **CHIPMAN** of Cumberland, the Senate removed from the **SPECIAL HIGHWAY TABLE** the following:

An Act Directing the Department of Transportation to Adopt Rules Regarding Corrosion Mitigation Methods for Steel Bridges  
S.P. 657 L.D. 1640  
(C "A" S-546)

Placed on Special Highway Table - March 6, 2024, by Senator **CHIPMAN** of Cumberland

Pending - **ENACTMENT**, in concurrence

(In Senate, February 28, 2024, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-546).**)

(In House, February 29, 2024, **PASSED TO BE ENACTED.**)

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

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On motion by Senator **CHIPMAN** of Cumberland, the Senate removed from the **SPECIAL HIGHWAY TABLE** the following:

An Act to Increase Funding for the Snowmobile Trail Fund and the ATV Recreational Management Fund  
H.P. 1463 L.D. 2276

Placed on Special Highway Table - March 28, 2024, by Senator **CHIPMAN** of Cumberland

Pending - **ENACTMENT**, in concurrence

(In Senate, March 26, 2024, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**, in concurrence.)

(In House, March 27, 2024, **PASSED TO BE ENACTED.**)

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

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

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**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:

## PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

### Non-Concurrent Matter

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Resolve, Approving the 2024 Draft and Arrangement of the Constitution of Maine Incorporating Amendments Approved at Referendum in 2023 and Providing for Its Publication and Distribution (EMERGENCY)  
H.P. 1480 L.D. 2291

In Senate, April 12, 2024, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED** in concurrence.

Comes from the House, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-983) in NON-CONCURRENCE.**

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

### Non-Concurrent Matter

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An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, Highway Fund and Other Funds and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025 (EMERGENCY)  
H.P. 1431 L.D. 2229  
(C "A" H-971)

In Senate, April 15, 2024, Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-971)** in concurrence.

Comes from the House, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-971) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-981)** thereto in **NON-CONCURRENCE.**

Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc moved the Senate **RECEDE** and **CONCUR.**

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

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

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The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#755)**

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, FARRIN, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSON, KEIM, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, NANGLE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, RENY, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: None

EXCUSED: Senators: DUSON, LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE, ROTUNDO

31 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 0 Senators having voted in the negative, with 4 Senators being excused, on motion by Senator VITELLI of Sagadahoc to **RECEDE** from **PASSAGE TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-971)** and **CONCUR** with **PASSAGE TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-971) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-981)** Report, **PREVAILED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

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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 **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act to Correct Inconsistencies, Conflicts and Errors in the Laws of Maine" (EMERGENCY)  
H.P. 1478 L.D. 2290

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-982)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-982)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-982) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

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

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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 **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Create Equity in the State's Cannabis Industry"  
H.P. 972 L.D. 1517

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-979)**.

Signed:

Senators:

HICKMAN of Kennebec  
BRENNER of Cumberland  
TIMBERLAKE of Androscoggin

Representatives:

SUPICA of Bangor  
BOYER of Poland  
COLLINGS of Portland  
MALON of Biddeford  
MONTELL of Gardiner  
RIELLY of Westbrook  
WILLIAMS of Bar Harbor

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

Signed:

Representatives:

ANDREWS of Paris  
HYMES of Waldo  
RUDNICKI of Fairfield

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-979)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-979)**.

Reports **READ**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-979) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

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

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

### **PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE**

#### **Joint Resolution**

Joint Resolution in Memoriam:

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

Michele Ann MacLean, of Freeport. Ms. MacLean began her professional career as a real estate paralegal with the Augusta law firm of Sanborn, Moreshead, Schade and Gifford. She next joined attorney Linda Gifford at her firm, where she became an integral part of the firm's real estate practice. During this period, she first became acquainted with government affairs, working on behalf of the Maine Association of Realtors. She went on to establish her own government affairs consulting practice, known as Capitol Strategies, which she ran successfully for more than 20 years, serving clients in a number of industries, including paper and forest products, telecommunications and electric utilities, pharmaceuticals and electronic gaming. Ms. MacLean will be long remembered and sadly missed by her family and friends and all those whose lives she touched;  
HLS 1058

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

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

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

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you very much, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I appreciate the opportunity to just share a few words here on what will maybe be our last day of this Legislature about Michele. And maybe that's fitting, too, because she would otherwise be here with us in the halls and in the chairs around, watching the proceedings, talking with us and engaging on the issues that really matter. I came to know Michele mostly through her work with the forest products sector. That was the sort of driving force that caused us to work together on a number of different initiatives and I came to know her more personally,

though, and through her children as well, who were closer to my age, Hannah and Cam, and just really enjoyed every opportunity to talk with her, spend time with her, whether it was in a professional setting or a more relaxed one. She was the -- really, one of the shining lights of this institution, and I know that that's being missed on these longer days, in particular, than others when we get an opportunity to, you know, have a break in between the Bodies or whatever and just maybe share frustrations or excitements or stories about what's going on at home, and her -- this gets said about a lot of people, but it's true, her infectious smile is one that's really missed, I think, around here. You know, I just want to say to Hannah and Cam, we miss your mom, just like I know you do, and just our hearts go out to you and just know that we're all thinking of you as you unfortunately, you know, go through this loss. The legislative institution is less because she's not here. She left a mark, and you should all be very proud of that, and with that, Mr. President, just condolences, sincerely, to all of Michele's family. Thank you.

The Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

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

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

### **ORDERS**

#### **Joint Order**

On motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, the following Joint Order:  
S.P. 1007

**ORDERED**, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until the call of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, respectively, when there is a need to conduct business or consider objections of the Governor.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#756)**

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

NAYS: Senators: LIBBY, POULIOT

EXCUSED: Senators: LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE, ROTUNDO

30 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 2 Senators having voted in the negative, with 3 Senators being excused, the Joint Order **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

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

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

**PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE**

**Non-Concurrent Matter**

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

In Senate, April 12, 2024, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-677) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-697)** thereto in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Comes from the House, that Body having **INSISTED** on its former action whereby the Minority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED**.

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 (#757)**

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, INGWERSON, LAWRENCE, NANGLE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

EXCUSED: Senators: LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE

13 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 20 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by the Senator from Aroostook, Senator **STEWART** to **RECEDE** from **PASSAGE TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-677) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-697)** and **CONCUR** with the **ACCEPTANCE** of the Minority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report, **FAILED**.

The Senate **INSISTED**.

**Non-Concurrent Matter**

An Act to Legalize Historical Horse Racing and Electronic Beano to Allow Maine Gaming Licensees and Federally Recognized Indian Tribes to Compete with Other Gaming States H.P. 1275 L.D. 1992

In Senate, April 15, 2024, the Minority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Comes from the House, that Body having **INSISTED** on its former action whereby the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-968)**.

Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc moved the Senate **RECEDE** and **CONCUR**.

On further motion by the same Senator, 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 (#758)**

YEAS: Senators: BLACK, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSON, LIBBY, MOORE, RENY, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, FARRIN, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, KEIM, LAWRENCE, LYFORD, NANGLE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING

EXCUSED: Senators: LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE

14 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 19 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by the Senator from Sagadahoc, Senator **VITELLI** to **RECEDE** from the **ACCEPTANCE** of the Minority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report and **CONCUR** with the **ACCEPTANCE** of the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-968)** Report, **FAILED**.

The Senate **INSISTED**.

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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 Amend the Law Governing the Disposition of Forfeited Firearms  
S.P. 879 L.D. 2086  
(C "A" S-679)

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

Senator **NANGLE** of Cumberland who would have voted NAY requested and received leave of the Senate to pair his vote with Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland who would have voted YEA.

**ROLL CALL (#759)**

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: LAFOUNTAIN

PAIRED: Senators: NANGLE, PIERCE

18 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 14 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senators being excused, was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** and, having been signed by the President, was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

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An Act to Provide Relief to Federal or State Employees Affected by a Federal Government or State Government Shutdown  
S.P. 906 L.D. 2113  
(H "A" H-970 to C "A" S-647)

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

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An Act to Amend the Mining Excise Tax Laws  
H.P. 1445 L.D. 2251  
(C "A" H-969)

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

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An Act to Establish the Criminal Records Review Commission  
H.P. 1444 L.D. 2252  
(C "A" H-973)

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

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

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## ENACTORS

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

### Acts

An Act to Address Gun Violence in Maine by Requiring a Waiting Period for Certain Firearm Purchases  
S.P. 958 L.D. 2238  
(C "A" S-684)

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. Before this legislation is enacted, I thought -- I want to share with the Body a particular absurdity that occurred to me in conversation with some others about what this legislation seeks to achieve when compared to some other goals around background checks that the Legislature is pursuing. This legislation has an exemption for the 72-hour waiting period for purchases of firearms that are not subject to a background check. And now, while I'm not a huge fan of the move towards a universal background check system like some I think in this Body are seeking to pursue, I just wanted to highlight if you're saying you have to get a -- do a 72-hour wait for a purchase of a firearm when that purchase is subject to a background check, but you don't have to wait 72 hours for purchase of a firearm for a transaction that's not subject to a background check, what are we incentivizing people to move towards? We're incentivizing people to go towards the purchases that don't require a background check. Again, folks can make up their own minds which they would -- which -- what they want to pursue in terms of these policy measures, but those two policy aims do seem to be at odds with each other, and I just wanted to bring it to the attention of the Body. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator **BLACK:** Thank you, Mr. President. Thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I just would like to read part of a letter that we had placed on our desks from Maine Professional Guides Association. Like all Mainers, our organization was horrified and saddened by the tragic events that took place in Lewiston on October 25th, and we are all mindful of the desire to discuss gun safety policies in its aftermath. Historically, MPGA has been reluctant to weigh in on gun legislation that doesn't directly impact the guiding industry. In the case of LD 2238, we remained hopeful that the Legislature would identify some significant complications associated with a 72-hour waiting period for the firearms purchases. As the legislation moves forward, we feel more compelled to share our concerns. It is not uncommon for nonresident clients to purchase a firearm on their way to a guided hunting trip or traveling through Maine. It is not hard to imagine that a client from Boston who travels by vehicle through Maine, stopping at Kittery Trading Post to purchase a new shotgun on their way to Aroostook County for a bird hunting trip,

or imagine flying from Denver to only realize that your rifle was damaged before a bear hunt in Washington County, and you need to stop at Cabela's before heading Downeast to purchase a new one. There are innumerable examples of why a client may wish or need to purchase a firearm for a hunting experience in Maine. Unfortunately, LD 2238 would add a three-day waiting period before a client would be able to pick up his new equipment, which would create a significant burden since most guided hunting trips in Maine are only five to seven days in length. This is but one possible example how LD 2238 would infringe on the rights of law-abiding sportsmen and women and complicate guiding experiences through Maine. While we know that LD 2238 is well intended, we ask you to oppose this legislation for its unintended consequences and the burden it would place on responsible law-abiding gun owners and sportsmen. Thank you.

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

Senator **ROTUNDO:** Thank you, Mr. President, Men and Women of the Senate. I just want to reiterate my motivation for having put in this bill. It really is to prevent impulse buying and the results of that and how it can result in suicide. I continue to think of the young man in Auburn who went to Walmart, purchased a gun, and killed himself, and his mother found his body a few hours later. I think for those of you who, like my family, have experienced the heartbreak of losing someone through suicide, through gun violence, you would appreciate how if we can save one family the heartbreak of having a loved one take his or her or their lives, life, through an impulsive purchase of a gun, you would consider this legislation important to support. So, thank you.

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

Senator **HARRINGTON:** Thank you, Mr. President. I would just like to point out the somewhat absurdity of the fact that when the facts of this case came forward and we finally realized that a waiting period would not have made a single difference in the case in Lewiston, we dropped back to the exact same defenses that we heard in this Chamber just ten months ago when this bill was resoundingly defeated in this Chamber. And I just find it absurd and question -- still question whether or not this bill is even properly before the Body. Thank you.

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

Senator **CARNEY:** Thank you, President Jackson. I just want to provide a few more pieces of information to my colleagues. With regard to the exemption for purchases that don't require a background check, it's envisioned that most of those purchases will be -- or transfers will be among family members, and it didn't seem appropriate to request that -- require the 72-hour waiting period. And then, with regard to this particular piece of legislation, not being able to prevent the horrible events that occurred in Lewiston on October 25th, this legislation doesn't look backwards, it looks forward at how we can prevent suicide and harmful behavior going forward. Thank you.



**THE PRESIDENT:** The pending question before the Senate is Enactment. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

Senator **RENY** of Lincoln who would have voted NAY requested and received leave of the Senate to pair her vote with Senator **PIERCE** of Cumberland who would have voted YEA.

Senator **BALDACCI** of Penobscot who would have voted NAY requested and received leave of the Senate to pair his vote with Senator **LAFOUNTAIN** of Kennebec who would have voted YEA.

#### ROLL CALL (#760)

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

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

PAIRED: Senators: BALDACCI, LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE, RENY

16 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 15 Senators having voted in the negative, was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** and, having been signed by the President, was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

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

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**THE PRESIDENT:** The Senator may proceed.

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Mr. President. Colleagues of the Senate, we as a Body may have a few days still left ahead of us - hopefully not - maybe one, a veto day, any confirmation sessions that may pop up, but this is truly the last day to recognize those who won't be returning to the Maine Senate. And as the Junior Senator from Oxford County, that brings me to the Senior Senator from Oxford County, Senator Lisa Marie Marble Keim. As much as I'd like to turn this into a roast - and boy, I actually have the goods - I will keep it simple. It's been a true pleasure and a privilege to serve with and sit next to Senator Keim and let me tell you why. She responds to every call, every Facebook message, every letter or email, regardless of where a person lives. She strongly believes that if people take the time and the effort to contact her, they deserve a thoughtful response, even if she

disagrees with them. She's incredibly hardworking and steadfast to the people of Maine. When she sees problems with how a state policy is negatively affecting people in our state, she becomes determined to find a solution, and she will continue to search for solutions until the problems are resolved, even if it takes years. Yeah, you could call her a Pitbull that never lets go, and as the new owner of a puppy Pitbull, I can assure you this is not negative, this is indeed high praise. There is no greater example of her tenacity than her work on the Government Oversight Committee, of which I've seen firsthand as a fellow committee member. She cares so deeply about children and families and cannot sit idly by as they are harmed, and she's worked tirelessly to improve our Child Protective Services. She is so dedicated to her work. In her first term, Senator Keim became the Senate Chair of the Judiciary Committee. She fully immersed herself in this committee and became an expert on all things judiciary. She did great work improving the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services. In the future, I know I will seek out her guidance, and I'm sure others will in this Chamber when considering bills in the Judiciary Committee. This past session, she's been unbelievably diligent in her work on establishing comprehensive privacy protections in Maine law, as you've heard today. She has doggedly - and I mean Pitbull worthy here - pursued this issue for four years. Yes, half of her time -- a full half of her time in the Legislature. She has carefully considered all aspects of how different policies in different states impact people, groups, businesses there and how those policies may affect the people and businesses here. And she is courageous. I can't tell you the number of times Senator Keim has taken a position that is not popular or in the mainstream - although she would argue it should be. You ever notice how good -- how very good she is at that? It must be that Pitbull thing. In the political world, our world, in my view, courage is needed in the pursuit of something greater but often is lost to self-interest or for other pettier reasons. It takes courage to hold steadfast to a position, a policy, a belief that others may not share. Maybe there's not enough of that in politics today. Frankly, she never stops working and regularly laments that there's not enough time in a day to do everything she wishes to accomplish. She is truly representative of the people and takes seriously the responsibility bestowed on her by her constituents. While I mean to embarrass my Senior Senator a bit, I do so with affection, admiration, and appreciation for the work she's done, for her service to Maine's people, and for being not only my colleague, but also my friend. I'll miss her usually friendly presence at my side. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator **VITELLI:** Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to add a few words to the accolades for our colleague, Senator Keim. Pitbulls have a reputation of being tough, ferocious, perhaps a bit dangerous, but they're actually kind, gentle, fun-loving, playful, and great companions to have around. And I would just say that those also are characteristics that I would use to describe Senator Keim. She and I worked together on a drug transparency bill, it seems like ages ago. Neither of us knew precisely what we were doing, but we stayed together, we worked it through, and little by little, we managed to make some progress. And I so much appreciated her willingness to work with me, although we were on different sides of the issue, we came together around the process of coming up with something that was good for all of Maine. So,

Senator Keim, thank you, and you and I will have to plan some play dates.

**THE PRESIDENT:** The Chair would echo everything that was said by both the two speakers. I don't have anything to hammer or anything up here, it's just, you know, words of respect and certainly appreciation for the eight years of service, the perspective on issues that may have conflicted or been the same as mine, but either way, the appreciation for bringing those items forward with passion and, like I said, respect that I think all of us -- everyone should display, and I do too very much appreciate the Senator from Oxford, Senator Keim's being. The Chair recognizes the Senator from Oxford, Senator Keim.

Senator **KEIM:** Thank you all. I appreciate that, and it's been just an incredible honor, right, to serve the people of Maine and to work in this building and to do this work. And it's sad, it's bittersweet leaving. And as many of you know, I just want to take this moment to recognize my son, Loren Keim, because it's really him that got me in office, I swear, so diligently knocking on all the doors. And so, every day that I work here and as I leave, it's really him that I carry in my heart, so a lot of the emotion is around that. So, thank you for this, and thank you for the work you all do. It's real tough, I know. And so, and I'm looking forward to whatever life brings next, and I know who has the path set out for me, and so I'm excited to see what God has in store and I'm grateful for the time that I've had here, and grateful for my family that helped, and especially, of course, my son, who I think of pretty much every day.

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

## ORDERS

### Joint Order

An Expression of Legislative Sentiment recognizing:

Rosemarie Smith, of Augusta, who is retiring as Executive Assistant to the President of the Maine State Senate after 39 years of public service. Over her career, Ms. Smith has worked for Governor John McKernan, Governor Angus King, Governor John Baldacci and Attorney General Janet T. Mills. At the State House, as well as working for Senate President Troy Jackson, she has worked for Senate President Kevin Raye and Senate President Mike Thibodeau. Her experience, diligence, bipartisanship and integrity will be greatly missed by her colleagues. We extend our congratulations and best wishes; SLS 1978

Sponsored by President JACKSON of Aroostook.  
Cosponsored by Senator: POULIOT of Kennebec,  
Representatives: BRIDGEO of Augusta, LaROCHELLE of Augusta.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

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

Senator **ROTUNDO:** Thank you, Mr. President, Colleagues of the Senate. It's just been just a pleasure over the years working with Rose, and I can't imagine this building without her professional, gracious, efficient, welcoming, wonderful sense of humor. And what I've always -- one of the things I've always appreciated about her was in those moments when you really needed someone to boost you up and to give you some kindness and support, it was Rose. And she would always ask me - not always, but often - would ask me when I came in if Appropriations had taken care of its bonus for her for her retirement. And I think at one point it was 600,000. Rose, I'm sorry. I'm sorry that we were never able to come through for you on that. But just please know how deeply we have appreciated your public service, the service to the State of Maine, but again, the kindness and the warmth that you always welcomed us with. We are going to miss you very, very much. Thank you.

**THE PRESIDENT:** The Chair would like to say from the rostrum that obviously, nothing can be surprised of anyone here. We held that Supplement No. 12 right to the end, and one of the Chamber staff, obviously, which always gives the sentiments or the supplements to our Rose, and then the secret kind of came out, which looking from her facial expressions is probably better that way, that she didn't get blindly -- blindly surprised. But I do, I mean, I think, so that all of you know, Rose will be here for a while longer, but she was -- will be retiring shortly, and so, I thought this might be our only opportunity to recognize her as a Senator. You know, I'll probably have some words later on for all of you, but it goes the same that I've met some incredible, incredible people throughout my time down here, including all of you, and a lot of the people that I've had the opportunity to meet, you know, were very strong women, you know, people like, you know, Joy O'Brien, who I've talked about before, who scared me to death until I got to know her, Marcia Homstead that it's pretty hard to be scared by Marcia but, you know, someone, too, that I couldn't ask for better. And why I bring this up is that when I had the great honor and privilege of knowing or pretty much knowing that I'd be moving into this position, you know, Marcia was moving into the Assistant Secretary position, I was going to need someone, because it takes a lot to manage me, it takes somebody that knows a lot and is -- can understand things that I'm saying that nobody else can. And to be quite honestly, I didn't know about Rose. I mean, she had worked for McKernan, she had worked for Baldacci, she was working for Senate President Thibodeau at the time, I didn't really know what her -- I mean, she was pleasant enough, but I didn't really know what her mindset was, I didn't know if she was Republican or Democrat - I still don't know, which is fine, that's the way I like it. But Marcia convinced me that she would be a good choice to replace her, and so, based on that, I said yeah, let's continue, and it's been six years, and I will be very, very remiss when she does leave because I'll still have some time here, and I won't know what to do because she is -- she definitely keeps me going straight, keeps me on task, watches out for me. As you all know, nobody gets through unless Marcia lets you through, I mean, you couldn't ask for somebody that is more dedicated, more loyal, more loving. I mean, I try not to ask staff ever to do anything extra, but Marcia happens to live in the complex that I live in when I'm down here, it's not my home, but -- and if I happen to be here late and need my cat fed, she has a key. I mean, she's just like everything, and

I will, I mean, like many of you, I'm going to miss you, but I am going to miss Rose a lot. Luckily, she's going to be fairly close for a while, even though she won't be here, but Marcia -- Rose, seriously, thanks for everything, thanks for being who you are, and thanks for the hard, hard work that you've done for a long time for a lot of people that probably weren't always as aware as how much you were doing for them and how much time and effort you were putting into the people of the State of Maine, because you have done that, and that is something that probably didn't always get noticed but should've been, and I really, really can't tell you how much I appreciate the time you've spent with me.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

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An Act to Create an Income Tax Credit for Investments in a Team's Qualified Minor League Baseball Facility to Keep the Team in the State  
S.P. 975 L.D. 2258  
(C "A" S-704)

On motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **ENACTMENT**.

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

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Off Record Remarks

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

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

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

**COMMUNICATIONS**

The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1093

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

April 15, 2024

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

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross,

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

30 Total Numbers of Bills and Papers

16 Unanimous Reports  
2 Ought Not To Pass  
2 Ought To Pass  
12 Ought To Pass As Amended

5 Divided Reports  
2 Leave to Withdraw

6 Gubernatorial Nominations

Sincerely,

S/Henry Ingwersen  
Senate Chair

S/Bill Pluecker  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1094

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

April 15, 2024

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

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross,

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

32 Total Numbers of Bills and Papers

11 Unanimous Reports  
3 Ought Not To Pass  
4 Ought To Pass  
3 Ought To Pass As Amended  
1 Referred to Another Committee

21 Divided Reports

Sincerely,

S/Pinny Beebe-Center  
Senate Chair

S/Suzanne M. Salisbury  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1095

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

April 10, 2024

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

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross,

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

43 Total Numbers of Bills and Papers

19 Unanimous Reports  
4 Ought Not To Pass  
4 Ought To Pass  
11 Ought To Pass As Amended

9 Divided Reports

15 Gubernatorial Nominations

Sincerely,

S/Joseph Rafferty  
Senate Chair

S/Michael F. Brennan  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

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The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1096

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

April 15, 2024

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

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross,

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Environment and Natural Resources during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

28 Total Numbers of Bills and Papers

18 Unanimous Reports  
1 Ought Not To Pass  
6 Ought To Pass  
11 Ought To Pass As Amended

5 Divided Reports

2 Leave to Withdraw  
3 Gubernatorial Nominations

Sincerely,

S/Stacy Fielding Brenner  
Senate Chair

S/Lori K. Gramlich  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1097

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

April 15, 2024

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

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross,

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Energy, Utilities and Technology during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

34 Total Numbers of Bills and Papers

- 19 Unanimous Reports
- 8 Ought Not To Pass
- 2 Ought To Pass
- 9 Ought To Pass As Amended

15 Divided Reports

Sincerely,

S/Mark W. Lawrence  
Senate Chair

S/St Stanley Paige Zeigler, Jr.  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1098

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

April 15, 2024

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

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross,

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services during the Second Regular Session the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

62 Total Numbers of Bills and Papers

- 52 Unanimous Reports
- 23 Ought Not To Pass
- 6 Ought To Pass
- 23 Ought To Pass As Amended

8 Divided Reports

- 1 Leave to Withdraw

Sincerely,

S/Joseph M. Baldacci  
Senate Chair

S/Michele Meyer  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1099

**STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH COVERAGE, INSURANCE AND  
FINANCIAL SERVICES**

April 15, 2024

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

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross,

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Health Coverage, Insurance and Financial Services during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

51 Total Numbers of Bills and Papers

- 26 Unanimous Reports
- 7 Ought Not To Pass
- 2 Ought To Pass
- 16 Ought To Pass As Amended
- 1 Referred to Another Committee

22 Divided Reports

3 Gubernatorial Nominations

Sincerely,

S/Donna Bailey  
Senate Chair

S/Anne C. Perry  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1100

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

April 15, 2024

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

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross,

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Housing during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

28 Total Numbers of Bills and Papers

18 Unanimous Reports  
7 Ought Not To Pass  
11 Ought To Pass As Amended

7 Divided Reports

3 Leave to Withdraw

Sincerely,

S/Teresa Pierce  
Senate Chair

S/Traci Gere  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1101

**STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY FIRST LEGISLATURE  
COMMITTEE ON INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE**

April 15, 2024

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

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross,

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Inland Fisheries and Wildlife during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

12 Total Numbers of Bills and Papers

7 Unanimous Reports  
4 Ought Not To Pass  
1 Ought To Pass  
2 Ought To Pass As Amended

3 Divided Reports

1 Leave to Withdraw

Sincerely,

S/David LaFountain  
Senate Chair

S/H. Scott Landry, Jr.  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1102

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

April 15, 2024

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

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross,

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Innovation, Development, Economic Advancement and Business during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

35 Total Numbers of Bills and Papers

16 Unanimous Reports  
3 Ought Not To Pass  
3 Ought To Pass  
10 Ought To Pass As Amended

5 Divided Reports

4 Leave to Withdraw  
10 Gubernatorial Nominations

Sincerely,

S/Glenn "Chip" Curry  
Senate Chair

S/Tiffany Roberts  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1103

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

April 15, 2024

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

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross,

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

69 Total Numbers of Bills and Papers

23 Unanimous Reports  
10 Ought Not To Pass  
13 Ought To Pass As Amended

30 Divided Reports

1 Leave to Withdraw  
15 Gubernatorial Nominations

Sincerely,

S/Anne M. Carney  
Senate Chair

S/Matthew W. Moonen  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1104

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

April 15, 2024

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

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross,

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Labor and Housing during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

56 Total Numbers of Bills and Papers

6 Unanimous Reports  
3 Ought Not To Pass  
1 Ought To Pass  
2 Ought To Pass As Amended

14 Divided Reports

5 Leave to Withdraw  
31 Gubernatorial Nominations

Sincerely,

S/Michael Tipping  
Senate Chair

S/Amy J. Roeder  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1105

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

April 15, 2024

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

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross,

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Marine Resources during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

12 Total Numbers of Bills and Papers

8 Unanimous Reports  
3 Ought Not To Pass  
1 Ought to Pass  
4 Ought To Pass As Amended

1 Divided Reports

3 Leave to Withdraw

Sincerely,

S/Cameron Reny  
Senate Chair

S/Allison Hepler

House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

---

The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1106

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

April 15, 2024

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

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross,

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on State and Local Government during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

**33 Total Numbers of Bills and Papers**

10 Unanimous Reports  
3 Ought Not To Pass  
1 Ought To Pass  
6 Ought To Pass As Amended

**19 Divided Reports**

1 Gubernatorial Nominations

Sincerely,

S/Tim Nangle  
Senate Chair

S/Holly B. Stover  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1107

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

April 15, 2024

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

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross,

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Taxation during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

**57 Total Numbers of Bills and Papers**

24 Unanimous Reports  
12 Ought Not To Pass  
2 Ought To Pass  
9 Ought To Pass As Amended  
1 Referred to Another Committee

**28 Divided Reports**

**5 Leave to Withdraw**

Sincerely,

S/Nicole Grohoski  
Senate Chair

S/Joseph C. Perry, Sr.  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1108

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

April 15, 2024

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

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross,

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Transportation during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

**24 Total Numbers of Bills and Papers**

19 Unanimous Reports  
9 Ought Not To Pass  
2 Ought To Pass  
8 Ought To Pass As Amended

**3 Divided Reports**

**2 Leave to Withdraw**



Sincerely,

S/Benjamin M. Chipman  
Senate Chair

S/Lydia Crafts  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1109

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

April 15, 2024

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

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Talbot Ross,

We are pleased to report that all business which was placed before the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs during the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature has been completed. The breakdown of bills and papers before our committee follows:

- 47 Total Numbers of Bills and Papers
- 26 Unanimous Reports
- 9 Ought Not To Pass
- 17 Ought To Pass As Amended
- 15 Divided Reports
- 3 Leave to Withdraw
- 3 Gubernatorial Nominations

Sincerely,

S/Craig V. Hickman  
Senate Chair

S/Laura D. Supica  
House Chair

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

---

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

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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 Protect Liberty and Advance Justice in the Administration and Enforcement of the Cannabis Legalization Act and the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act  
S.P. 32 L.D. 40  
(S "A" S-717 to C "A" S-709)

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 Kennebec, Senator Hickman.

Senator **HICKMAN:** Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, Women and Men of the Senate, on page 27 of the committee amendment of the bill we are about to enact, in line 26 through line 30, it reads as follows: Duties, the Director of the Office of Cannabis Policy shall promote the health and wellbeing of the people of the state and advance policies that protect public health and safety, emphasizing the health and wellbeing of minors as priority considerations in performing all duties including those listed in this subsection. That is the first priority of the new Director of the Office of Cannabis Policy in statute. Must protect the public health and safety of the people of the state, emphasizing the health and wellbeing of minors. And in the definition of minors, Mr. President, Women and Men of the Senate, it is a person who has not yet attained the age of 21 years old. Back in my day, a 19-year-old was a grown person. They could go to war, they could smoke cigarettes, they could drink alcohol, they could go to prison for life. And so, the minors whose lives were destroyed back in the day as we try to protect the health and wellbeing of the minors in Maine today could go to prison for life for the possession of an ounce of cannabis. An Act to Protect Liberty and Advance Justice in the Administration and Enforcement of the Cannabis Legalization Act and the Maine Medical Use of Cannabis Act is progress, Mr. President. And for a little black kid from the inner city who watched drive-by shootings of minors when no one cared, I am blessed beyond all belief to stand here today as the author of this bill, having worked with the Good Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Timberlake, and all of the stakeholders, and the Office of Cannabis Policy to put together a transformative piece of legislation. And Mr. President, I am humble beyond words to be able to be in this moment and in this place right now, and I thank all those who have come before me, who have fought for justice in the area of cannabis policy, and all the friends that I have lost, who didn't make it, because when you go to prison for life, you sometimes don't make it out. Thank you, Mr. President.

**THE PRESIDENT:** The pending question before the Senate is Enactment. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#761)**

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

NAYS: Senators: FARRIN, GUERIN, KEIM, LIBBY, LYFORD, STEWART

EXCUSED: Senators: LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE

27 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 6 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** and, having been signed by the President, was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

---

An Act to Increase Enforcement and Accountability for Wage Violations  
S.P. 179 L.D. 372  
(C "A" S-688)

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

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**ROLL CALL (#762)**

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE

20 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** and having been signed by the President were presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

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**Resolve**

Resolve, to Rename Bridges in the Towns of Limerick, Hiram and Limington  
S.P. 183 L.D. 402  
(S "A" S-705 to C "A" S-698)

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

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

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**PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE**

**Non-Concurrent Matter**

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An Act to Create the Data Privacy and Protection Act  
H.P. 1270 L.D. 1977

In Senate, April 17, 2024, the Minority **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Comes from the House, that Body having **INSISTED** on its former action whereby the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-975) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-984)** thereto.

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

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 Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, Highway Fund and Other Funds and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025

H.P. 1431 L.D. 2229

(H "A" H-981 to C "A" H-971)

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

Senator **CHIPMAN:** Just to speak briefly, Mr. President, Men and Women of the Senate, we did some great work this year in the Transportation Committee. This is our supplemental budget. We voted unanimously in favor of it and hope that you'll join us in supporting it with your vote. Thank you.

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

Senator **FARRIN:** Thank you, Mr. President, and I know we want to keep things moving along. I just want to clarify one thing. There's an amendment on this from what we had that was put down in the House and it has to do with some positions because we do have a two-thirds vote on this, that between AFA and DAFS need to have a gap for about three and a half weeks so that those positions don't run out of funds. And I just wanted to point that out that, you know, part of the discussions that happened down in AFA was that, you know, with a unified budget that Transportation needed some more oversight, and maybe that should be under the General Fund, and it's a little ironic here that we're going to vote two-thirds on this emergency measure for the highway fund and transportation funding to address one of those areas that was made down in AFA. So, appreciate that.

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 30 Members of the Senate, with 3 Senators having voted in the negative, and 30 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 Correct Inconsistencies, Conflicts and Errors in the Laws of Maine

H.P. 1478 L.D. 2290

(C "A" H-982)

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 33 Members of the Senate, with 0 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, Approving the 2024 Draft and Arrangement of the Constitution of Maine Incorporating Amendments Approved at Referendum in 2023 and Providing for Its Publication and Distribution

H.P. 1480 L.D. 2291

(H "A" H-983)

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 33 Members of the Senate, with 0 Senators having voted in the negative, and 33 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.

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 Establish the Social Equity Program

H.P. 972 L.D. 1517

(C "A" H-979)

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

An Act Regarding Restoration and Protection of Coastal Sand Dune Systems and Permitting of an Offshore Wind Terminal on Sears Island

H.P. 1456 L.D. 2266

(C "A" H-887)

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

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

**RECESSED** until 10 at night.

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

### House

#### Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025" (EMERGENCY)  
H.P. 1420 L.D. 2214

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-985)**.

Signed:

Senators:

ROTUNDO of Androscoggin  
DUSON of Cumberland

Representatives:

SACHS of Freeport  
ANKELES of Brunswick  
COLLINGS of Portland  
FAY of Raymond  
GATTINE of Westbrook  
MATLACK of St. George

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (H-986)**.

Signed:

Senator:

BENNETT of Oxford

Representatives:

BLIER of Buxton  
CARLOW of Buxton  
DUCHARME of Madison  
MILLETT of Waterford

Comes from the House with the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-985)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-985) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "B" (H-989)** thereto.

Reports **READ**.

Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin moved to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-985)** Report, in concurrence.

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

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

Senator **ROTUNDO:** Thank you, Mr. President, Men and Women of the Senate. I rise in support of the Majority Report to LD 2214, the supplemental budget. First, let me say how grateful I am to my Senate colleagues on the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee. Senator Duson has been a critical part of our committee. She has informed the committee's work with her decades of leadership and service to the City of Portland and to the State of Maine. She is truly a partner and all of us on AFA have benefited from her wisdom and expertise. I also have great respect for the Senator from Oxford, Senator Bennett. His knowledge and -- as well as his knowledge and experience. While we don't always agree, I'm grateful for all that he brings to our committee, and I truly enjoy working with him. A supplemental budget is just that; it's designed to address emergencies and keep our budget in balance. And like any budget, it's a statement of values. This budget underscores areas we all care about. It respects the wishes of the Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry Committee in regard to milk prices. It raises pay for ed techs and school support staff, sending a message that we value their work. It further invests in nursing facilities and veterans homes, helping staff there and the older Mainers who rely on those facilities and call them home. It maintains state kindergarten through 12 education funding at the voter mandated 55%, keeping our promise to taxpayers, families, and educators. It protects the pensions of retired Mainers who after a career of hard work deserve financial stability. It provides vital funding to victim support services, making up the gap left by congressional inaction. It preserves the Medicare savings plan, which again helps older Mainers. It puts over \$20 million into new mental health initiatives. It allocates \$76 million to badly needed housing initiatives. It maintains state-funded SNAP which provides food for lower income families. It restores \$12.9 million in childcare spending to help working families. And it provides \$13.9 million in cost-of-living adjustments for direct care providers. This is a good budget. It is a result of long hours, careful consideration, and deliberate negotiations, and it is a result of compromise. Like all good compromises, it's not the perfect budget any one person would like to see, but it is solid, responsible budget which is in balance. Before I sit down, I want to thank the members of the Appropriations Committee for their work, and everyone who reached out with support. I also want to send a huge shoutout to the extraordinary staff at OFPR and the Revisor's Office, who have worked their hearts out to get these committee reports and amendments to us tonight. I hope you know you're all heroes to me. I'm hopeful that we can now pass this budget, send it on to the Governor's desk for signing, and fund these vital programs to support all Mainers. Thank you.

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

Senator **DUSON:** Thank you, Mr. President, Honored Colleagues of the Senate. I too rise in strong support of the Majority Report on this supplemental budget. As a freshman to this esteemed body, it has been quite the learning experience and journey to get to this point. I've been honored to work through this process with experienced colleagues like Senator Rotundo and Senator Bennett. The Majority Report before us is the product of a long, thoughtful, and deliberate process by the Appropriations Committee that began all the way back in January. Over the last three months, our committee held public hearings with every single policy committee in the Legislature, where we heard directly from Mainers and members of each committee from both the House and the Senate, and both sides of the aisle, Republican and Democrat alike. This process hasn't always been easy, but it has been worth it. The Appropriations Committee does some of the most challenging and rewarding work in the Legislature. Carefully balancing the current needs of Maine people while ensuring that we make prudent, fiscally responsible decisions that also protect our state's long-term fiscal and economic health. It's a daunting task, and one that we never take lightly. For me, personally, I've strived to do the right thing for the people in my district and the State of Maine. Throughout this process, we heard directly from Mainers across the state about the many challenges they are currently facing, how they are struggling to make ends meet. We've heard from folks struggling to keep a roof over their head because they couldn't find affordable housing or afford to pay their rent. We heard from folks who can't access mental health services that they need because of a lack of providers, especially in our rural areas. And we've heard from parents who still can't access the childcare for their kids, which is preventing them from joining our workforce and contributing to our economy. This budget report makes significant strategic investments to help deliver for them. What is before us is a solid and balanced budget, and I'm going to enumerate some of its content because it's worth reciting twice. It includes a \$76 million investment to increase the amount of affordable housing available to Mainers. It includes \$19.6 million in investment in mental and public health, which includes funding for mental health crisis intervention, mobile response services, crisis receiving centers, and staff recruitment and retainment incentives for medication management services. It has a \$12.9 million investment in childcare, including \$11.8 million for one-time grants to childcare providers to support their stability. And it crucially supports VOCA funding that goes directly to help domestic abuse and sexual assault survivors. Without this budget, our providers of support services would see a 40% cut in funds this fall. It also responsibly delivers on all the promises that we have made to Mainers in previous budgets. It meets our obligations to continue fully funding 55% of public education costs. It funds \$10 million in General Assistance to our cities and towns. It fully funds the income eligibility expansion for the qualified Medicare beneficiary program, aka the Medicare savings program, which will help older Mainers who receive Medicare to better afford out-of-pocket expenses. And it ensures ongoing tax relief by removing proposed changes to the pension income tax deduction. Of course, no budget is perfect. We can't do everything that we all want. I'm sure that every Member in this Chamber has something in this budget that they aren't 100% happy with, myself included. But any good compromise has a

give and take and can't contain all of our desired legislation. Mr. President, our constituents sent us here to work together to enact good policies that deliver tangible, meaningful results, to make their lives a little bit better, a little bit easier, to help them make ends meet. This Majority Report will do just that, without advocating our responsibility as a Legislature to protect the long-term fiscal health of our state. And as I conclude my freshman session, I'm honored to have been part of this process and to vote for this budget.

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

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Mr. President, Fellow Members of the Senate. I have the utmost respect for the Chair of this committee, Senator Rotundo of Androscoggin, and I've enjoyed many, many moments next to my seatmate, Senator Duson of Cumberland. I feel like I'm living in a parallel universe. The comments about the virtues of this budget, while there is a lot of common ground, this budget is an abject failure, in my view, to deal with the substantive issues that face this state. This budget deals in one-time bases with some of the crises, providing lip service to these issues while not providing long-term solutions which our fiscal condition right now would allow us to do. And unfortunately, this budget falls far short of that. As usual in the Appropriations Committee, we spend long times sitting and listening to the members of the Administration, the Commissioners, come before us and chew up hours of time reading bullet points and scripts about each individual line item within the budget. We give them unlimited amounts of time. This is a budget which they have months to prepare for, and they come in on the day of the public hearing, and we in this Legislature give them an hour, two hours, whatever they want to read through every iota, every semicolon of their proposal. And what do we do for the advocates and the citizens of this state? We give them three minutes. There's something fundamentally wrong with the budget process that gives its weight to the Administration rather than to the people of Maine. This budget does not arrest the destruction of our nursing home facilities across rural Maine. As I've said earlier, we have lost, in my district alone, two nursing facilities in the last few years, and in rural Maine, this is destructive of communities and it's destructive of families and yet this Administration and this budget codifies that destruction by not dealing with the fundamental problems of nursing home finance but by giving the Commissioner of Human Services carte blanche to tease out over four years payments and so-called rate reform in order to fix this problem, when we have a clear and imminent danger of closures not only of nursing facilities, but of PNMI's, small residential facilities, which we are seeing across this state being destroyed, and yet we have loads of money - record, record amounts of surplus - and we bow to the altar of one-time funds in order not to solve immediate crises, but in order to just gloss it all over. Mental health is another area where we -- this budget represents all of these one-time funds for this resiliency package, but no ongoing help for people. We need to create a structure where the citizens of Maine have the opportunity, who need help with mental health, to know that that help is there. And yet, we only provide one-time funding providing no sense of security for building out an infrastructure that will support mental health services around the state. And then I hear on this floor right now congratulations about the fact that a 2 a.m. on a Saturday morning, the Legislature -- the

Appropriations Committee did a bunch of dastardly deeds, raiding the highway fund, raiding pension income, stealing money from dairy farmers, and then because we're not doing that, suddenly, that's a good thing. Really? Is that what we've been reduced to? Making huge mistakes and then patting ourselves on the back for fixing them in the light of day? I have in my possession a letter that most every person in the State Senate received this morning from the Chief Executive of the State of Maine, which reads like a letter from Vladimir Putin to his duma rather than an executive who's charged with executing the laws of a state and respecting the independent branch of government that the Legislature represents. And here it is, laying down the law about what she will accept and what she will not, and if we do not do these things, by God, nothing will happen. What have we been reduced to in this Senate, in this Legislature where we adopt whatever the Administration wants, we kowtow to the Administration, we create our processes, we create our systems, we create -- we give them carte blanche to introduce everything they want and we give three minutes - three minutes to the people affected by those policies to make their case and then they're shut off. This is a deeply flawed budget, it's a deeply flawed process that we have on our budgeting. We need to fix this process. We need to stop -- we need to stop what we're doing. We need to assert our independence as the branch of government which represents all of the people, and as messy as it is, as difficult as it all is for us to come together as people who represent all kind of disparate constituencies all across the state, we need to find common ground. We're very close, we've found that on other issues just in the last few days. This does not represent that. This does not represent the best of what we can do as a Legislature. And, you know, I would hope that the Governor would start focusing on enforcing the laws that we pass, like the Medicare savings program which this Legislature passed and she signed into law, and then she ignored. Childcare was mentioned. There was a lot of bipartisan work on childcare. And this Chief Executive chose to ignore the law that we put on her desk and that which she signed and didn't execute. And now, we're supposed to congratulate ourselves that we're doing it all again. This is appalling to the people of Maine. I'm appalled to be a part of this process. I strongly urge you to vote against this motion because we can do better. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator **VITELLI:** Thank you, Mr. President, Women and Men of the State Senate. Today is the last day of session, and it is the final statutory adjournment day of my legislative career. I have a different viewpoint on this process than my colleague from Oxford. I am proud to vote for this majority budget as one of my final acts as a State Senator. With this budget, we can ensure that the good work we have done together this year as well as in past years continues. We can close the 131st Maine Legislature proud of the transformational investments we have made for our state and, most importantly, for the people of this state. This budget is more than a commitment to individual bills or initiatives, it is a firm commitment to the people of Maine. It wisely invests in education, mental health, housing, and healthcare. That's what we promised our constituents when we were elected. We know that when people can afford these essential things - education, housing, healthcare - we move Maine forward. As a member of the Joint Select Committee on Housing, I am especially proud of

the investments we made in housing. \$10 million to the affordable home ownership program, \$10 million for the rural affordable rental housing program, \$10 million for low-income housing tax credit program, \$2 million to prevent students in elementary and secondary schools from becoming homeless, and \$16 million for emergency housing such as winter warming centers, legal services, and other wraparound services. \$2.5 million will be dedicated to low barrier shelters such as the Hope House in Bangor. Many of these vital shelters, including Hope House, could close without this funding. And as a former Head Start teacher - that was long ago - I am proud of the important investments in education. \$22 million to maintain the State's share of the total cost of funding public education from kindergarten to grade 12, \$10 million for the preschool special education program supporting special education and related services for preschool children age 3-5, and \$11 million for child development services daily rates, part of an early education solution the Education Committee worked hard to reach. And money to raise Maine's ed tech wages to 125% of minimum wage and other valuable support staff to 115%. In my years in this building, I've seen the value of compromise. My constituents appreciate that in the Maine Legislature, we still work toward that. The appropriations process is one of the hallmarks of compromise here. Every committee contributes. Members of this Body work hard to ensure that our priorities match our constituents' and ensure that members of the public who've weighed in along the way, from sometimes more than three minutes, are heard. We get a sense of what priorities rise to the moment. Knowing that resources are limited, and the need is great. I tip my hat to the Appropriations Committee, all of you who've spent months ensuring that our budget reflects these needs. They, the members of the committee, uniquely understand the complexity of the competing priorities and they've negotiated in good faith to make sure the budget reflects what each caucus, Republican and Democrat, needs to invest in. Today, I hope we can show our leadership by voting for this budget. I believe searching for common ground is the right way to approach solving our problems. So, please join me in supporting this common sense, thoughtful budget that reflects this approach and supports the needs of the people of Maine. Thank you.

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

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. You know, I have to echo, I think the remarks of the Senator from Oxford about this complete alternate universe that we're in here. Because I don't know who we're compromising with - it certainly isn't across the aisle on any part of this process. The votes out of the committee speak for themselves in that regard, as well as the amendments that you're seeing. And, you know, it's funny, when I first got elected, I was in my first term in the House, and somebody that had been here for a while, I won't share their name or anything, but they said look, governors get 90+ percent of what they want. And -- fine, yes, there's gravitas in that position. Fine. But it's a different branch of government. What the heck are we doing here? Why are we here if we're just going to be talked at and directed by a different branch of government that has different interests, constitutionally different objectives, and a different charge, and yet, we continually kowtow to the Chief Executive. And, you

know, I've seen it in both, when both Republicans are in control and Democrats are in control, and I'm just so disappointed because I didn't run for office to be a rubberstamp for any governor, and yet that's exactly what this Legislature has done. And this budget is absolutely a product of that. This is her document. I don't know what we worked on; this is what she told us to do, and we've done it. You know, and I'm so frustrated in particular at, you know, obviously everybody's heard about the Presque Isle nursing home closing, and it breaks my heart because of the families that are going to be impacted by that. And what it's going to do, the ripple effect it's going to have throughout northern Maine. That's a serious problem. This budget doesn't fix that. This budget, you know, we've had opportunities, I think, that we could've done things differently, and I'm not going to promise anybody that had we done one thing or another as it relates to nursing homes in particular that would stop Presque Isle from closing, but I can sure as heck tell you that this isn't going to help. This isn't going to do a thing. You know, I frankly feel like the Administration has put a gun to the head of different folks around this building and said take the deal, or else. And the nursing home certainly being chief among them. The unfortunate reality, I -- nobody - nobody should leave this Legislature saying that we have saved nursing homes by passing this budget. If you do, that will be a mistruth, just FYI. And when the next one closes because we have done the thing that the Administration wants done instead of what they actually need in order to stay open in this economy and this environment, reflect internally. This is the moment, this is the chance, and we're letting it slip through our fingers because the Chief Executive told us to. We don't work for the other branch of government. Really ask yourselves what you're doing here if that's going to be the approach that we're going to take as a Body, if that's going to be the approach that we're going to take as an entire branch. This process has been so broken. There have been times, Mr. President, and I've really struggled, actually, as the leader of the Senate Republican Caucus, to even send our member of the Appropriations Committee to freaking meet because of the abuse that has gone on down there that has been allowed to run rampant in this entire legislative process. It is broken, and that is the understatement of the year. To try to cobble something back together here now because of, frankly, the outcry that came from the public when this abusive and broken process played out downstairs and now, we're going to pat ourselves on the back. I - you know, so much has been said tonight, I think the Senator from Oxford put it really well. I'm just so disappointed in what has played out this year. We had a chance, folks, to actually do something impressive here in the Legislature, to assert ourselves as the superior branch of government because we are, because we're the closest to the people, and that's why they gave us so much power in the Constitution, and instead, we gave it away once again, because that's what we do. That's what we do. Please reject this motion. There's more work to be done here that could easily be done tonight that would actually make a difference for the people that we represent who sent us to the Legislative Branch of Government.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

### ROLL CALL (#763)

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

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

**EXCUSED:** Senators: LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE

20 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-985)** Report, in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

**Bill READ ONCE.**

Committee Amendment "A" (H-985) **READ**.

Senator **BRAKEY** of Androscoggin moved the Senate **ADOPT** Senate Amendment "A" (S-718) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-985).

**THE PRESIDENT:** The Senator may proceed.

Senator **BRAKEY:** Thank you, Mr. President. You know, I briefly considered attaching this amendment to the errors and omissions bill because I think this was one of the great errors and omissions of the Maine Legislature. But when the House Chairman told me that a fiscal note would be noticed on the errors and omissions bill, I figured this was the better place. The language before us in this amendment is the exact language that was the bipartisan majority report of the Taxation Committee last year, which seeks to eliminate the double taxation of gold and silver in the State of Maine that the Wall Street casino is not subject to. Only five states have this tax - only five states. And in the year since the Legislature last blocked this proposal, denying Maine people access to constitutional money and leaving them prey to the scourge of inflation as the Federal Reserve prints trillions of dollars out of thin air, the price of gold relative to the dollar has increased by 20%. We have blocked the Maine people from access to this. And Mr. President, just the other day, you spoke, I think very well, about doing what we can for those in the state who are living paycheck to paycheck. I took that to heart, and that motivated me to think well, boy, I need to file this amendment. You know, people are living paycheck to paycheck oftentimes because they cannot save in this era of inflation. What's the point of putting your dollars into a savings account when your dollars are losing value day after day after day and the State of Maine stands in your way from being able to save in precious metals, constitutional money that withstands the inflation that results from the debasement of our currency. I encourage

the Body to pass this motion before us. I've been encouraged strongly by Members of this Body to keep this remarks brief, and so I am doing that, and if we do not pass this today, as I certainly hope that we do, I do appreciate those on both sides of the aisle who have told me that they will carry on this fight to eliminate the sales tax on gold and silver in the State of Maine when I am gone in the years ahead. Thank you, Mr. President.

Senate Amendment "A" (S-718) **READ**.

Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin moved to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** Senate Amendment "A" (S-718) and accompanying papers.

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

Senator **ROTUNDO:** Thank you, Mr. President. I move indefinite postponement of this amendment and all its accompanying papers. Our budget is currently in balance, and I will be moving indefinite postponement on this amendment and other amendments that will come forward to the budget this evening. It's not necessarily because I don't agree with the contents of the amendment, but that our budget is in balance and the amendments can jeopardize that balance. Thank you.

On motion by Senator **BRAKEY** of Androscoggin, 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 Bennett.

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Mr. President. I'm looking at the fiscal note for this amendment. It's well within the monies that are left on the table by the Majority Report. It does -- no way does it jeopardize the funding; in no way does it throw this proposed budget out of balance. So, if that is the reason that you are concerned about this, it is a falsehood. Thank you, Mr. President.

**THE PRESIDENT:** The pending question before the Senate is Indefinite Postponement. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

#### ROLL CALL (#764)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, HICKMAN, INGWERSON, LAWRENCE, NANGLE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TIPPING, VITELLI

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

EXCUSED: Senators: LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE

18 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 15 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused the motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** Senate Amendment "A" (S-718), **PREVAILED**.

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Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

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On motion by Senator **DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **ADOPTION** of Committee Amendment "A" (H-985).

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

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

An Act To Implement The Recommendations Of The Maine Workforce, Research, Development And Student Achievement Institute  
H.P. 182 L.D. 284  
(C "A" H-783)

Placed on Special Appropriations Table - March 13, 2024, by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin

Pending - **ENACTMENT**

(In Senate, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-783)**, in concurrence.)

(In House, ENACTED).

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

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Mr. President. I'm having a little difficulty with my electronic device on my desk. I'm trying to understand how to access the supplements on green through that system. Could you advise, please?

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

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



An Act To Eliminate The Cannabis Advisory Commission  
S.P. 162 L.D. 355  
(C "A" S-47)

Placed on Special Appropriations Table - May 9, 2023, by  
Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin

Pending - **ENACTMENT**

(In Senate, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY  
COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-47).**)

(In House, ENACTED).

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

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

An Act Regarding Licensing Fees For Small Slot Machine  
Distributors  
S.P. 221 L.D. 504  
(C "A" S-96)

Placed on Special Appropriations Table - May 30, 2023, by  
Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin

Pending - **ENACTMENT**

(In Senate, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY  
COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-96).**)

(In House, ENACTED).

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

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

An Act Concerning Prior Authorizations For Health Care Provider  
Services  
H.P. 485 L.D. 796  
(C "A" H-954)

Placed on Special Appropriations Table - April 15, 2024, by  
Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin

Pending - **ENACTMENT**

(In Senate, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY  
COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-954),** in concurrence.)

(In House, ENACTED).

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

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

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

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-621).**)

(In House, ENACTED).

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

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Senator **ROTUNDO** of ANDROSCOGGIN moved the Senate  
removed from the Special Appropriations Table the following:

An Act Regarding Municipal Taxation Of Certain Solar Energy  
Equipment  
H.P. 725 L.D. 1153  
(C "A" H-855)

Placed on Special Appropriations Table - April 2, 2024, by  
Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin

Pending - **ENACTMENT**

(In Senate, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY  
COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-855),** in concurrence.)

(In House, ENACTED).

On motion by Senator **LIBBY** of Cumberland, 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 (#765)**

**YEAS:** Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSON, LAWRENCE, NANGLE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

**NAYS:** Senators: , BLACK, BRAKEY, FARRIN, KEIM, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, TIMBERLAKE

**EXCUSED:** Senators: LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE

25 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 8 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin to Remove from the Special Appropriations Table, **PREVAILED**.

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

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

Senator **LIBBY:** Thank you, Mr. President, Men and Women of the Senate. Just briefly, I really don't feel like we have any business changing agreements that have been made, and that's exactly what this bill does. I mean, this is the bill that addresses solar power that comes from the solar farms near -- located near you, and it will make slight changes to profitability that comes from those farms, and I don't mind that, prospectively, but in terms of like, you know, the business plans that these folks have written and now try to adhere to and then, you know, we just make a quick change like this. I've been opposed to the bill from the very beginning, and just there's no way I can stand up here and honestly support it. So, thanks for putting up with me, and we'll take the vote.

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

Senator **GROHOSKI:** Thank you, Mr. President. I just wanted to respond very quickly to the comments from the Good Senator from Cumberland. And I understand that concern, and so this bill was carefully crafted to ensure that anyone who is selling solar energy through a net energy billing agreement that is currently receiving a tax exemption is going to maintain that exemption. Anyone with a signed interconnection agreement who hasn't even built a solar farm yet but has planned the economics of that and made an agreement with the utility to build the solar farm will maintain the exemption. This removal of the exemption is happening for solar farms that have not yet been conceived of. And so, I think that they do have fair warning and can find it within their budgets to accommodate a tax on their equipment. And this tax is going to benefit municipalities, and that's the most important thing. I think if municipalities are going to host solar farms, it's entirely appropriate for them to get a benefit. And not just the

50% that the State would pay back, but actually 100%. And so, I think this corrects an error from a couple of years ago that the Legislature made before the solar farm program was really expanded, and it creates a better partnership, and that's why I worked with the Maine Renewable Energy Association, as did the bill's sponsor, to support to work on this legislation so that the solar farms and the communities that are willing to host them can be in better partnership. So, that is why I support this motion. Thank you.

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

Senator **CHIPMAN:** Thank you, Mr. President. Briefly, I do recall this bill now, and I didn't vote for it in committee because it basically is valuing solar panels differently going forward based on how they're used, and in my mind a certain solar panel is worth a certain amount of money and has a certain amount of value regardless of how it's used. I think that's the fairest way for things to be taxed, and I do believe that it will discourage the development in the future of mid-sized solar farms that we see being developing now, and I want to see more of those being developed, so that's why I opposed it.

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

Senator **GROHOSKI:** Thank you again. I just want to make a further comment to put a finer point on what the -- another Senator from Cumberland has just shared. And that is that if you're building a solar farm that's larger and does not use the net energy billing arrangement system, the crediting system that we've set up, you are paying taxes on your solar panels. And I believe and the majority of the committee believed that a 25-acre solar farm is much more similar to a 30-acre solar farm than it is to somebody having solar on the roof of their house. That is why we are making this change, because some solar panels are already taxed under Maine law. Thank you.

**THE PRESIDENT:** The pending question before the Senate is Enactment. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#766)**

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSON, KEIM, LAWRENCE, MOORE, NANGLE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: CHIPMAN, FARRIN, LIBBY, LYFORD, POULIOT, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE

27 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 6 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** and having been signed by the President, was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

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

An Act To Modernize And Consolidate Certain Court Facilities  
S.P. 883 L.D. 2090  
(C "A" S-605)

Placed on Special Appropriations Table - April 1, 2024, by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin

Pending - **ENACTMENT**

(In Senate, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-605).**)

(In House, ENACTED).

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

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

An Act To Replace The Money Transmitters Act  
S.P. 905 L.D. 2112  
(C "A" S-580)

Placed on Special Appropriations Table - March 28, 2024, by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin

Pending - **ENACTMENT**

(In Senate, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-580).**)

(In House, ENACTED).

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

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

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

An Act To Allow Equitable Compensation Of Certain Board Members  
H.P. 1376 L.D. 2152  
(C "A" H-808)

Placed on Special Appropriations Table - March 30, 2024, by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin

Pending - **ENACTMENT**

(In Senate, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-808),** in concurrence.)

(In House, ENACTED).

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

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

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

Placed on Special Appropriations Table - April 12, 2024, by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin

Pending - **FINAL PASSAGE**

(In Senate, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-675).**)

(In House, FINALLY PASSED).

Which 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:

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

Resolve, Authorizing The Director Of The Bureau Of Parks And Lands To Convey Peacock Beach State Park To The Town Of Richmond  
H.P. 1323 L.D. 2061  
(C "A" H-733)

Placed on Special Appropriations Table - February 13, 2024, by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin

Pending - **FINAL PASSAGE**

(In Senate, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-733)**, in concurrence.)

(In House, FINALLY PASSED).

In accordance with the provisions of Article IX, Section 23 of the Constitution, this requires the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the entire elected Membership of the Senate, 33 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 0 Senators having voted in the negative, and 33 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.

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

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review Of Portions Of Chapter 101: Maine Unified Special Education Regulation Birth To Age Twenty-Two, A Major Substantive Rule Of The Department Of Education  
H.P. 1395 L.D. 2180  
(C "A" H-858)

Placed on Special Appropriations Table - April 1, 2024, by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin

Pending - **FINAL PASSAGE**

(In Senate, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-858)**, in concurrence.)

(In House, FINALLY PASSED).

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 33 Members of the Senate, with 0 Senators having voted in the negative, and 33 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.

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

Resolve, Regarding Legislative Review Of Chapter 26: Producer Margins, A Major Substantive Rule Of The Maine Milk Commission  
H.P. 1402 L.D. 2188  
(C "A" H-810)

Placed on Special Appropriations Table - March 20, 2024, by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin

Pending - **FINAL PASSAGE**

(In Senate, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-810)**, in concurrence.)

(In House, FINALLY PASSED).

On motion by Senator **HICKMAN** of Kennebec, 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 Bennett.

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Mr. President. I reluctantly rise here, but a Roll Call having been requested, I just want to go on the record and state that this is insufficient, although I will be voting for it. This Legislature asked for a better understanding of the costs that dairy farmers have in real time for their production of milk under the highly regulated wage and price control system that they have. We were all shocked to learn that they're vastly undercompensated under the current regime, and the sticker shock was so high that, in fact, the dairy farmers across the state agreed to take a 75% cut on the amounts that they should be paid for production of dairy. The measure before us is representative of that 75% cut which they agreed to, but it's a sad day, because there was an effort in the Appropriations Committee to do more for them and to escalate that amount from 25% up to 100%. This measure before us is insufficient, but it's -- I will be voting for it because it's the only step forward to get them to at least a little bit recognition as to the amount of under-compensation that we are providing them. Thank you, Mr. President.

**THE PRESIDENT:** The pending question before the Senate is Final Passage. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#767)**

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

NAYS: Senators: None

EXCUSED: Senators: LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE

This being an Emergency Measure and having received the affirmative vote of 33 Members of the Senate, with 0 Senators having voted in the negative, and 33 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.

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

**COMMUNICATIONS**

The Following Communication:  
S.C. 1111

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

April 17, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Grant,

Pursuant to my authority under Title 22, MRSA, Subtitle 22, Part 4, Ch. 401, §1726.2, I am pleased to appoint Sabrina Abbott of Auburn to the *Maine Palliative Care and Quality of Life Interdisciplinary Advisory Council*, effective immediately.

Ms. Abbott will serve on this council as a representative of health insurers.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

S/Rachel Talbot Ross

Speaker of the House

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.**

Off Record Remarks

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Today Assigned matter:

The Majority of the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025" (EMERGENCY)  
H.P. 1420 L.D. 2214

(In House, April 17, 2024 the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-985) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "B" (H-989).**)

(In the Senate April 17, 2024, on motion by Senator **DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland, **TABLED** pending **ADOPTION** of **COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-985)**, in concurrence.)

Senator **GROHOSKI** of Hancock moved the Senate **ADOPT** Senate Amendment "F" (S-730) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-985).

Senate Amendment "F" (S-730) **READ**.

Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin moved to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** Senate Amendment "F" (S-730) and accompanying papers.

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. Good evening, Senate Colleagues. It's once again a pleasure to be here with you all and in the evening as we finish our work, for the past couple years. I just want to briefly describe what this amendment does. I know that information has been shared with you all earlier, but the amendment is now online so anyone can feel welcome to peruse it. And then, I would like to share a little bit

about why I think it's important that we come together to make these changes to the budget as proposed by the majority amendment. The first thing that this bill does is it transfers \$50 million from the Budget Stabilization Fund for storm damaged infrastructure as well as \$10 million for business recovery and resiliency. These are items that I think you are well familiar with from another legislative vehicle that we have. The next thing that it does is it funds a really important mental health bill which was unanimous in committee, it was LD 1178. This bill is a top priority for advocates for the resiliency package that was not funded in the majority amendment that this amendment I'm presenting seeks to make changes to. This bill will expand eligibility for targeted case management for people that are receiving treatment for substance use disorder. It costs us \$2.4 million, and the federal match is \$7.8 million. I think it is really important that we not walk away from this opportunity to get needed funding to bring people out of crisis and into health and back into our communities. The next thing that this amendment does is that it follows through on a promise that we've made to our veterans to fund the Maine veterans home not once but ongoing into the future. The Maine veterans' homes are things -- are institutions that we created as a Legislature, and I think it is very important that we ensure that Maine veterans at the ends of their lives have a place to go where their family can visit them, where they can be in community with each other, and where they can live their remaining days in dignity. The next portion of this budget amendment looks to another crisis, which is what's happening in our schools. We have serious, serious lack of ed tech and support staff to keep the school day working, to make sure kids can get to school, that the schools are clean, that they're functioning well, and so, this amendment, this portion of the amendment, increases their pay to 133% for ed techs and 125% for support staff of the minimum wage. And it does so on an ongoing basis. And most importantly to me, the State pays 100% of these costs. That, I think, is very critical because many of us represent districts where property taxpayers really cannot afford additional expense, and yet, we know that these ed techs and support staff are critical to the everyday functioning of our schools. The last thing that this does is it follows through on a commitment that I feel that I have made - at a minimum, others, I hope, agree - to our state employees. It includes language around recruitment and retention. And I'll admit, this is not an area of policy that I'm well versed in, so I hope if you have questions, there are others who might be able to help answer them. I do think this is very important because every time I get a call from a constituent with a need related to state government, the people that are helping are the state employees. And we have some phenomenal people, some of them are in the room right now, that help connect us to the state employees that are really out there doing the work every day. And I know we've all heard horror stories about things like ferry operators working untenable hours and in very dangerous circumstances that could cause an incident here that we would not want to see, and that's just one example. We know, I don't think we need to discuss what's been going on with child safety or adult protective services. I think it's very important that we make sure that the folks that are caring for our most vulnerable are being supported in doing so. So, some people are asking, and you can go online and look at the fiscal note, what does this all cost? The answer in this biennium is \$7.1 million. I think that's a very small price to pay for us to address each one of these items that I think is truly in crisis right now in our state. These are all bills that this

Legislature has considered, has supported, and hopefully will actually vote to have them come to fruition. I know and I thank all of you who listened to my speech earlier this week about the moment that I think we have, and I think many of you understood what I meant. And for those who didn't, I want to clarify. The moment that we have in front of us right now in this Chamber is to work together as Senators in our own Body, in our branch of government, parties aside, ideologies aside, concerns about process aside, I think and I hope that you will look at what is being proposed here and you will say do I agree with these things, yes or no. I personally do, and I know, and we've heard from speeches earlier tonight that no budget is perfect, no process is perfect. But I do think these take -- each of these items makes a meaningful amount of progress toward issues that we hear about every day. And so, I don't think we can wait to see if they magically fix themselves. I think that we need to put the wheels in motion now and commit to each one of these items, fund it, and make sure that the Maine people know that we hear them, we hear their concerns about what's going on with substance use disorder, what is going on with caring for people in nursing homes, especially our veterans, what is happening in our schools, what is happening with state employees, and you all know where I live, I live in a district where every single town is on the coast. And my district was hit very hard by storms in January, and many of yours were, too, and also in December. And I think it is so important that we do this work together because I understand that the Chief Executive had an intention to do certain things separately, and yet, she's asking us not to do other things separately. I think we can do things together, and I don't just mean putting the numbers together, I mean voting together, working together. I continue to believe in this Body, I continue to believe that we will not succumb, I guess, is a word I would choose, to the threats that I felt that I received earlier today regarding our independence, our separation of powers from the Executive Branch, from the second floor in this building. And so, I hope that you will put that aside and just look at what is in front of you and see is this going to be better for the people of Maine if we vote for this or is it going to be better for the people of Maine if we don't vote for this. So, I hope you will support it. I thank you for the opportunity to continue as I do here every day to work very hard on behalf of my constituents to try to honor what they are asking of me to do. And that is my effort here, and I hope that you all know from working with me, that it is only that. It is my attempt at a good policy and a good solution to problems that we face in our communities. Thank you.

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The President requested the Sergeant-At-Arms escort the Senator from York, Senator **LAWRENCE**, to the rostrum where he assumed the duties as President Pro Tempore.

The President took a seat on the floor.

The Senate called to order but President Pro Tempore **MARK W. LAWRENCE** of York County.

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

Senator **JACKSON**: Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I know the time is late and the minutes tick by is important, but I also wanted to come down. You know, we heard a lot earlier on enactment of the budget and concerns people had, and I totally understand. I felt a lot of frustration over these last two years, certainly more frustration than I think I've ever felt in my previous 18, on budgets that, you know, we were told we couldn't do anything in the biennial, we had to wait for the supplemental, the supplemental comes, we couldn't do anything in the supplemental, we had to wait for the process, we had to do all these different things, and in the end, the things that I believe that everyone in here says they cared about were not taken care of. And here we are with 35 minutes left until something either great or something very drastic would happen. And the Good Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Rotundo, the Good Senator from Cumberland, Senator Duson, my seatmate, the Good Senator from Oxford, Senator Bennett, I know tried very hard, Senator Vitelli talked about being the final day, it's my final day also. You know, I've been here 20 years, and I came here and spent a lot of time away from my family, a lot of time away from my children because I thought that I was fighting for people that needed a voice. People I cared about. And in my final day, maybe that's what makes me so stubborn, that I'm not willing to give up on something that seems so simple to all of us. Something that the Good Senator from Hancock, Senator Grohoski, laid out better than I ever will. I mean, my God, we're talking about ed techs, bus drivers, janitors, people that serve food to our children, and we can't give them a little bit more money to operate themselves, to have their selves a better life? In a time that we have a billion dollars in Rainy Day Fund, \$4 billion in a cash pool, \$500 million in OSR accounts across state government, we can't help these people out a little bit? And state employees have been yelling for years under different administrations about the problems that they're having, the problems that when even whenever they get contract language, they can't get it moved forward. I mean, I'm one of the biggest labor people in this state, in four separate unions. I have my state employees pin on today, and the largest labor violations in this state are in this building. And I'm going to walk away on my last day from that? We did nothing - nothing in this budget for state employees to make sure that they would ever be able to go forward and bring their concerns forward. Recruitment and retention is completely left off of this, and here, and something that costs nothing, we can give that to them only so that they can go forward and collectively bargain and have third-party people bring or have their complaints heard in a system that is two to one management to employee currently, and we can't allow them just to have a third-party bargainers. The people that do these jobs need our support tonight and, you know, I've been chasing these veterans homes things for -- nursing homes for the longest time, I've stood with Senator Bennett in press conferences and talked about the real, real problems that they're having across the state and it seems like people don't want to believe this is happening, but we've had 140 nursing homes in the last eight or ten years, and we're down to 80, and we're soon to be down to under 80, and we're not doing anything. And it just amazes me that this is where we're at. I mean, I think that our biggest opportunities in this Body is to help children and help older people, and even on the children side, we're failing. There was talk about the money that's in this budget for childcare, that's money that we appropriated in the biennial budget that they didn't do. You can't - you can't make it look like we're giving more to childcare, all

we're doing is giving the money that they didn't do in the first biennium. And that, you know, seems to really frustrate me that we can't do the things for the most vulnerable people on each end of the scale. I mean, housing, I was all in on that, I have been in on that, but we're talking about housing for our elderly. I mean, where do these people go as nursing homes continue to close? I don't know. I don't have that answer. I really don't. But I know that in economies like this where parents -- children of parents have -- both have to work. There is no system where they're able to take care of elderly parents anymore. It's just not financially doable. But at the same time, they have no opportunity to do anything more. It bothers me a lot, you know, these last couple weeks and trying to work with colleagues from both sides of the aisle, colleagues from the House, being told that I had to step away, let the process operate, knowing that I didn't think the process was going to fix the things that I cared about, like I said, teachers, ed techs, state employees, veterans homes. Those things did continue to get left out, and when it comes right down to it, you know, I mean, I've cried a lot in this Chamber, I cried a little bit earlier when we were talking. I could cry right now at how heartbroken I am that we're in this position because I feel very strongly about what Senator Grohoski has put forward - very strongly. As strong as anything that I would ever -- I mean, if I knew in the last day of my career here that I would have to walk away, I would've never run for this place because I will be constantly heartbroken to look at those people in the face tomorrow that I wasn't able to help them today. And it also bothers me an awful lot that some really good relationships that I've made in here, some people that I know I will be friends with for the rest of my life, I've strained that relationship because I cared so much about these issues and couldn't understand why we all couldn't come together on this. I mean, you know, some of this stuff, people will say it's a Republican issue or it's a Democrat issue, I don't know. I know that I'm a proud Democrat, but if by voting for these things today makes me a Republican, then I'm a proud Republican. Because these should not be issues that divide us, they should be issues that unite us. And we should stand up together and say no, we're not walking away, we're not going to have arbitrary deadlines put on us that makes us forget about these people, because I feel strongly - strongly, that there is still time to do the right thing. We can do that. Regardless of what anyone in any other chamber or any other floor of this institution tells us, we can take the time tonight to do the right thing, and the right thing is protecting, helping these people that have done everything for us in their time. I want to thank the Good Senator from Hancock for bringing this forward. It's not easy to get in line, I know that very well. But this is something that I believe that has to happen, we have the money, I can fund - any one of us in here can fund \$7.1 million without putting us out of balance and still having a sizable table. That idea that the world is going to end if we do this tonight is completely inaccurate, and I will defend that to the day I die.

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

Senator **BENNETT**: Thank you, Mr. President, Fellow Members of the Senate. I made a promise to myself and to the people I represent when I decided to run after a significant hiatus for election to the State Senate in 2020, that the last thing I would think about is party in making any decision here. And I have tried, I think with some success, to stay true to that. And I cannot do

anything but say that this amendment before us is, as described, is totally nonpartisan. These are -- this amendment addresses issues which we all know need to be addressed. It is, as the Senator from Hancock has said, the result of a lot of collaboration, a lot of hard committee debates, and a lot of unanimous committee reports. Not Republican, not Democrat, but us at our best, working together. Finding common ground for the people that we represent. I said last Friday evening on the other matter, which is kind of related here because the Senator's amendment folds in the disaster relief, that the Chief Executive looked me in the eye, and I know she looked other people in this Chamber in the eye and said please find middle ground. Those were her words. The work that this amendment represents is sincerely in response to that. I have to say it's our last evening here in the regular session, and I have to say a word - not to, because you can't do that - but about the Senator from Hancock, Senator Grohoski. I can't help but think that the first day of this legislative session, in December of 2022 - it seems like a long time ago - but it was the first day of this legislative session, we were confronted with a bill, LD 1. We may remember it. It was a little contentious. It was so contentious that it became LD 3. But I have to thank the Senator from Hancock, Senator Grohoski, in her first term as a State Senator for having the courage to see what was right and stand then to say why are we spending half a billion dollars of surplus to send \$950 checks to people making \$200,000 a year. That was half a billion dollars, largely spent on that - a lot of other good things. That took some courage confronting the prevailing winds and a lot of political pressure. But she had the courage to do that, and I have been so gratified to work with this courageous soul on so many issues of import to the people of Maine, even though we represent different parties, different parts of the state, and different wings of the political spectrum. And here she is again with an amendment to try to bring people together on common ground. You know, I spoke with members of the School Management Association about this ed tech issue. Let me be clear; the amendment before you does set a minimum pay of 133% for ed techs. The majority report sets a minimum pay of 125% for ed techs. The market is such for ed techs that most districts are paying well in excess of either of those numbers. It's just the truth. And the school management association knows that, and they were very gratified to hear of an approach that while it established a minimum, while the State does that, will guarantee that 100% of that cost will be borne by the State, not by the districts. They endorse this proposal right before us. These are the people who run our schools. This proposal before us improves the committee report vastly, and it deals with this issue -- we can wrap up, in fact, I think, if we adopt this amendment before us, we can get to a speedy conclusion to tonight's session and this year's session. Because it marries two intrinsically intertwined questions, which is what do we do about disaster relief and the \$50 million, the ten -- plus the \$10 million for disaster relief, and the budget. This takes care of that. If you want to go home early, you vote for this. Because it improves the measure before us a lot. And if you don't want to vote for this as amended, you don't have to, but this is an improvement, and you ought to vote for this as an improvement. If we adopt this, we can dispense with the other matter that came, sadly, out of our committee of appropriation and financial affairs, a measure that ostensibly needed a two-thirds vote and a three-way divided report, and it still hasn't been resolved. This measure is a good will faith to bring us together, and we ought to be endorsing this, we ought to embrace it, and we can -- if we do so, we can know

we've attended the peoples' business, and we can go home proud. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator **RENY:** I feel like I need to make it known, ladies and gentlemen, my district, much like many of your districts, was devastated by the storms that we have survived this past year. It is extremely important to me that the storm relief goes out. It is currently 11:40 p.m. on the last day of session, and I know we all have a lot of priorities, but this is a very, very big deal. We need to come together and make sure that this funding goes out, everyone. And I am going to stop talking right now because we do not have enough time as it is, I don't feel like.

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

Senator **CHIPMAN:** Thank you, Mr. President, Men and Women of the Senate. I rise in strong support of this amendment. I couldn't agree better with my colleague from Oxford, Senator Bennett, that this is truly bipartisan work. I'd like to remind us that this, I believe, includes all of the items that were in the amendment to LD 2225 that we voted on Friday night with a majority vote, bipartisan, that we voted on last night, bipartisan vote, I believe it had 21 votes or so in support of it. We've been told or we've heard that if we pass this, it's going to blow a huge hole in the budget for next year's biennium, but I've asked the question of Chris Nolan of OFPR whether the current amended budget out of AFA will create a hole in the next biennium, and he did say that it would. So, we're already going to have a hole in the next biennium. This would cost at most \$7 million, I believe there's \$11 million on the table, so we have money from the table to fund it, we have money surplus in a Rainy Day Fund to fund it, and the bulk of this five million or seven million goes to our veterans homes. The folks that defend our country, that defend us -- defend our freedom that are living out the rest of their lives and we can't find \$5 million to fund them ongoing is pretty sad. I mean, there's unfilled positions, there's reserve accounts, there's money all over the place, but we can't find the \$5 million to fund it. So, I hope that you can join me in a bipartisan vote in opposing this amendment, this motion in front of us to indefinitely postpone this so that we can adopt this amendment that's bipartisan to the budget. Thank you.

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

Senator **ROTUNDO:** Thank you, Mr. President, Men and Women of the Senate. I just would like to remind everyone that in the majority budget, there is a demonstrated commitment to issues of mental health, nursing homes, our veterans' homes, our educators, and if you want to get a better sense of the ongoing costs of the amendment before us, please look at the outyears. Thank you.

**THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM:** The pending question before the Senate is Indefinite Postponement. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?



The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#768)**

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BEEBE-CENTER, BLACK, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, FARRIN, INGWERSON, KEIM, RENY, ROTUNDO, TIMBERLAKE, VITELLI, PRESIDENT PRO TEM LAWRENCE

NAYS: Senators: BALDACCI, BENNETT, BRAKEY, CHIPMAN, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, JACKSON, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, NANGLE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, STEWART, TIPPING

EXCUSED: Senators: LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE

16 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 17 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** Senate Amendment "F" (S-730) **FAILED**.

Senate Amendment "F" (S-730) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Senator **JACKSON** of Aroostook moved the Senate **ADOPT** Senate Amendment "D" (S-728) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-985)

Senate Amendment "D" (S-728) **READ**.

**THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM:** The Senator may proceed.

Senator **JACKSON:** Thank you, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. This is an amendment that I was asked to put in earlier this week to once again provide funding for family planning that was left out of the budget. This is the opportunity for Members of this Body that want to make sure that real funding goes forward. The money that comes out of this or into this amendment actually comes out of the Fund for Healthy Maine for -- we had a significant amount of money in there that was kind of being held for the flavors ban, which we obviously can't do at this moment. This is an amendment that I think for many of us is very, very good for, you know, women's health, for reproductive services, and the things that I think are important across the state and are going to be in real, real trouble. And so, that's why I offered the amendment, I'd like to ask for a Roll Call on the amendment, and hope that Members of the Body will support this so we can get it down to the House and get it enacted because this is, honestly, the only opportunity left to do what is very significant for these organizations.

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

Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin moved to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** Senate Amendment "D" (S-728) and accompanying papers.

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

Senator **ROTUNDO:** Thank you, Mr. President. I would indefinitely postpone this motion and all its accompanying papers. I would also mention that today this same amendment was voted off the table in Appropriations.

On motion by Senator **JACKSON** 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, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. I just wanted to rise and explain the reason why this amendment has come forward as opposed to the normal process of moving bills off the table. One, we've been put on a deadline that nothing should be able to move off the table, but more importantly, once the budget was closed a couple weeks ago, this was an issue that I think many of the people had in front of them, amendments in front of them, the budget was reopened after significant concerns, and once again, there was opportunity for this issue to go forward, and it didn't, and the budget closed one more time. After that, people came in and asked to speak with me about it, talk about how important it was, how devastating it would be for services across the State of Maine. I agreed to put an amendment in for the budget and, unfortunately, when I talked about it this morning, all of a sudden there was a rush to get to Appropriations to draft a new amendment, a brand-new amendment that came forward today. Now, in a typical running of the table, that would make sense, but that is not what we're typically in right now. I think we all have amendments -- or excuse me, we all have bills on the table that could've been amended, could've -- we could've had a chance to operate, and I don't think it's fair that for Members that may be on Appropriations that they get to pick and choose, and that's why this is really our only opportunity to go forward on an amendment that was legally drafted, it was put in in the required amount of time, like all other amendments to the budget, as opposed to people that have more of a privilege to put amendments forward and move them off the table. That's not -- that's not a fair process, and as the Senate President, I can't allow something like that to happen when other people are going to look me squarely in the face and say well, what about my piece of legislation? So, that's why I can guarantee all of you that if you care about this issue, this is the only way that it's going to get done. And so, I think that we ought to vote on it, we ought to vote to include it, just like the previous one, to send it down to the House and get this very important issue activated, too.

**THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM:** The pending question before the Senate is Indefinite Postponement. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#769)**

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, FARRIN, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, INGWERSON, KEIM, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, NANGLE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT PRO TEM LAWRENCE

NAYS: Senators: CHIPMAN, HICKMAN, JACKSON

EXCUSED: Senators: LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE

30 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 3 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** Senate Amendment "D" (S-728) and accompanying papers, **PREVAILED**.

House Amendment "B" (H-989) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-985) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-985) as Amended by House Amendment "B" (H-989) and Senate Amendment "F" (S-730) thereto, **ADOPTED**.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#770)**

YEAS: Senators: BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, JACKSON, LAWRENCE, NANGLE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TIPPING, VITELLI

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CARNEY, FARRIN, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, INGWERSON, KEIM, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, POULIOT, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, PRESIDENT PRO TEM LAWRENCE

EXCUSED: Senators: LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE

15 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 18 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, **PASSAGE TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-985) AS AMENDED BY**

**HOUSE AMENDMENT "B" (H-989) AND SENATE AMENDMENT "F" (S-730), FAILED.**

Senator **DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland moved the Bill and accompanying papers be **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session.

**THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM:** The Member may state his point of order.

Senator **BENNETT:** Would you please inform the Senate as to the current posture of the measure before us?

**THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM:** The measure is having failed to be engrossed.

Senator **BENNETT:** What is the next action that could be tabled, Mr. President?

**THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM:** The Chair would reply that as a former Senate President, he may know the next step, but I will inquire to get him the exact answer. Because the bill failed of passage to be engrossed, the Chair will rule that the tabling motion is out of order.

The Chair ruled the motion to **TABLE** out of order.

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Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President Pro Tem **MARK W. LAWRENCE** of York County.

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Senator **BAILEY** of York moved to **RECONSIDER** whereby **PASSAGE TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-985) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "B" (H-989) AND SENATE AMENDMENT "F" (S-730)**, Failed.

Senator **DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland moved the Senate **TABLE** until Later in Today's Session, pending **RECONSIDERATION** whereby **PASSAGE TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-985) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "B" (H-989) AND SENATE AMENDMENT "F" (S-730)**, Failed.

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The following proceedings were conducted after 12:01a.m., Thursday, April 18, 2024.

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On motion by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford, 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 (#771)**

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BEEBE-CENTER, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, INGWERSON, NANGLE, RENY, ROTUNDO, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT PRO TEM LAWRENCE

NAYS: Senators: BALDACCI, BENNETT, BLACK, BRAKEY, CHIPMAN, FARRIN, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, JACKSON, KEIM, LIBBY, LYFORD, MOORE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE

14 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 19 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland to **TABLE** until Later in Today's Session, **FAILED**.

The Senate **RECONSIDERED** whereby **PASSAGE TO BE ENGROSSED FAILED**.

On motion by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford, 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 (#772)**

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HICKMAN, INGWERSON, JACKSON, NANGLE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT PRO TEM LAWRENCE

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

EXCUSED: Senators: LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE

20 Senator 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 **RECONSIDER FAILED PASSAGE TO BE ENGROSSED** as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-985) as Amended By House Amendment "B" (H-989) and Senate Amendment "F" (S-730), **PREVAILED**.

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

Senator **JACKSON:** Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Certainly playing a high-stakes game of chicken here, and people can say that I asked for it. But I, you know, definitely wanted to get up and impress on people that where you may not -- when we heard about the original budget, there was things in there that people liked, things in there people didn't like. Well, remember that now, because we are at the precipice of something that I don't know that we can get back. Again, I asked, along with many of the colleagues, to step up and fight for state workers, for ed techs, for veterans that have been long trying to understand if they would have a home, if they wouldn't have a home, people that desperately needed our help, along with everybody else that we talked about in the original budget discussion. I also want to make sure that people understand that this is the opportunity for the storm bill. I mean, we've played the game of we needed a two-thirds on the storm bill until last night where it became clear that that wasn't the point, we didn't need two-thirds, we just needed to enact. We have a chance here to enact the storm bill, to put all that money out into districts like Senator Reny's in Lincoln. I can understand that there's people that are upset and people that don't believe this is the normal process, but I have not seen the process be normal throughout the two years. And still, in all, we do have a budget that I believe strongly was good, I voted for it, we made it better, in my opinion, with the Grohoski amendment, and I'm hoping that even though people may be upset, they'll come to their senses and put this budget forward for the House to enact so that we can get a budget that is good for the people of the State of Maine and get out of here at an appropriate time. So, please vote for this budget that has all of -- all of our priorities in it.

**THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM:** I've gotten some notes at the rostrum questioning -- asking what happens if this fails to be engrossed. If this fails to be engrossed, it goes down to the House in non-concurrence having failed to be engrossed in the Senate.

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

Senator **POULIOT:** Thank you, Mr. President. And just to be clear to the Body, if this bill were to fail to be engrossed and go down to the Other Body in non-concurrence, the Other Body could recede and concur, correct, and this amendment would be placed on and kept on and come back to us for a vote. Is that correct, Mr. President?

**THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM:** Correct. The bill would come back with whatever motion the House passed.

Senator **POULIOT:** So, to be clear, Mr. President, nobody should be worried about something not being able to get done in the event that that should occur.

**THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM:** It's not my position to tell people what to be worried about and what not to be worried about. It's sufficient to say that the bill is not dead if we fail to engross it. It goes down to the House, the House can either insist, recede and concur, whatever they want, and send it back to the Senate for a vote.

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

Senator **BENNETT:** Mr. President, I just want to be clear that -- of your guidance to the Senate. If this motion fails, passage to be engrossed, and this -- and the Other Body moves to recede and concur, they will also fail of engrossment, the bill will be dead.

**THE PRESIDENT PRO TEM:** Correct, and that's why I did not advise him about that. I said it can come back with whichever motion they make, but you're correct, if they recede and concur, the bill is dead.

Senator **BENNETT:** That was one of the motions, Mr. President, that you mentioned as being an availability for keeping this bill alive, and I just wanted to be clear, engrossment of a measure, if it fails at engrossment, it is dead if both parties -- if both Chambers agree to that. So, this is, in fact, an important vote before us, and there are a lot of issues with this budget, there's lots of reasons to vote against it, there's some reasons to vote for it. I think it is vastly improved by Senator Grohoski's amendment. I know it doesn't meet the standards of some of us, but it is a -- it is an improvement over what, unhappily, I have to say, the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs on which I serve yielded in its Majority Report, to which the Senator's motion was made as an improvement. I just want to be clear about where we are. We don't usually fail an engrossment after a measure is made -- made it this far through the process. And at this late hour, there's perilous ground ahead. Thank you, Mr. President.

At the request of Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford a Division was had. 17 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 16 Senators having voted in the negative, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-985) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "B" (H-989) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "F" (S-730)**, thereto, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President Pro Tem **MARK W. LAWRENCE** of York County.

**RECESSED** until 12:30 in the morning.

After Recess the Senate was called to order by the President Pro Tem **MARK W. LAWRENCE** of York County.

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 York, Senator **LAWRENCE**, to his 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:

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

An Act To Prohibit Certain Training Repayment Agreements By Employers  
S.P. 299 L.D. 741  
(C "A" S-200)

Placed on Special Appropriations Table - June 13, 2023, by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin

Pending - **ENACTMENT**

(In Senate, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-200).**)

(In House, ENACTED).

The same Senator moved the Senate **SUSPEND THE RULES** for the purpose of **RECONSIDERING** whereby the Bill be **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-200).**

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

#### **ROLL CALL (#773)**

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: DUSON, LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE

20 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 12 Senators having voted in the negative, with 3 Senators being excused, the

motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin to **SUSPEND THE RULES** for **RECONSIDERATION**, **FAILED**.

On motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **ENACTMENT**.

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

An Act To Allow Employees To Request Flexible Work Schedules  
H.P. 516 L.D. 827  
(C "A" H-322)

Placed on Special Appropriations Table - June 20, 2023, by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin

Pending - **ENACTMENT**

(In Senate, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-322)**, in concurrence.)

(In House, ENACTED).

The same Senator moved the Senate **SUSPEND THE RULES** for the purpose of **RECONSIDERING** whereby the Bill be **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-322)**.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

#### **ROLL CALL (#774)**

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: DUSON, LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE

20 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 12 Senators having voted in the negative, with 3 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin to **SUSPEND THE RULES** for **RECONSIDERATION**, **FAILED**.

On motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **ENACTMENT**.

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

An Act To Require Employers To Disclose Pay Ranges And Maintain Records Of Employees' Pay History  
H.P. 583 L.D. 936  
(C "A" H-255)

Placed on Special Appropriations Table - June 12, 2023, by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin

Pending - **ENACTMENT**

(In Senate, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-255)**, in concurrence.)

(In House, ENACTED).

The same Senator moved the Senate **SUSPEND THE RULES** for the purpose of **RECONSIDERING** whereby the Bill be **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-255)**.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

#### **ROLL CALL (#775)**

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: DUSON, LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE

19 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, with 3 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin to **SUSPEND THE RULES** for **RECONSIDERATION**, **FAILED**.

On motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **ENACTMENT**.

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

An Act To Protect Workers From Employer Surveillance  
H.P. 596 L.D. 949  
(H "A" H-575 to C "A" H-173)

Placed on Special Appropriations Table - June 21, 2023, by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin

Pending - **ENACTMENT**

(In Senate, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-173) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-575)** thereto, in concurrence.)

(In House, ENACTED).

The same Senator moved the Senate **SUSPEND THE RULES** for the purpose of **RECONSIDERING** whereby the Bill be **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-173)**.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#776)**

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE

21 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 12 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin to **SUSPEND THE RULES**, for **RECONSIDERATION**, **FAILED**.

On motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **ENACTMENT**.

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

An Act To Require Minimum Pay For Reporting To Work  
S.P. 486 L.D. 1190  
(C "A" S-377)

Placed on Special Appropriations Table - June 21, 2023, by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin

Pending - **ENACTMENT**

(In Senate, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-377)**.)

(In House, ENACTED).

The same Senator moved the Senate **SUSPEND THE RULES** for the purpose of **RECONSIDERING** whereby the Bill be **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-377)**.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#777)**

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE

20 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin to **SUSPEND THE RULES** for **RECONSIDERATION**, **FAILED**.

On motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **ENACTMENT**.

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

An Act To Increase Affordable Housing By Expanding Tax Increment Financing  
H.P. 948 L.D. 1493  
(C "A" H-646)

Placed on Special Appropriations Table - June 21, 2023, by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin

Pending - **ENACTMENT**

(In Senate, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-646)**, in concurrence.)

(In House, ENACTED).

The same Senator moved the Senate **SUSPEND THE RULES** for the purpose of **RECONSIDERING** whereby the Bill be **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-646)**.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

#### ROLL CALL (#778)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE

21 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 12 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin to **SUSPEND THE RULES** for **RECONSIDERATION**, **FAILED**.

On motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **ENACTMENT**.

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Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

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#### ORDERS OF THE DAY

##### Unfinished Business

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

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (4/9/24) matter:

An Act to Clarify Licensing Criteria and Criminal History Record Check and Notification Requirements for Adult Use Cannabis Establishments  
H.P. 1379 L.D. 2155  
(C "A" H-878)

Tabled - April 9, 2024 by Senator **HICKMAN** of Kennebec

Pending - **ENACTMENT** in concurrence

(In Senate, April 9, 2024, on motion by Senator **HICKMAN** of Kennebec the Senate **RECONSIDERED** whereby the bill **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**.)

(In House, **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**.)

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

Senator **HICKMAN:** Thank you, Mr. President. Given that LD 40 has been enacted, and this LD presents a conflict to that bill, I move that this item and all its accompanying papers be indefinitely postponed.

On motion by Senator **HICKMAN** of Kennebec, Bill and accompanying papers **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Today Assigned matter:

SENATE REPORTS - from the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Support Veterans' Organizations and Other Nonprofit Organizations and Federally Recognized Indian Tribes by Updating Electronic Gambling Laws" S.P. 947 L.D. 2213

(In the Senate April 18, 2024, on motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook, **TABLED** pending **PASSAGE TO BE ENGROSSED**.)

Senator **MOORE** of Washington move the Senate **RECONSIDER** whereby it **FAILED** to **ADOPT COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-707) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-714)**.

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

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you, Mr. President. Just to confirm, reconsideration is a debatable motion, correct? And -- okay, for the -- sorry, it's 1:30, so. So, this is a bill that we've worked on this year. So, for those that aren't familiar, pull tabs are legal in Maine, and a lot of nonprofit entities use them. If you are a member of an Elks Lodge or something, or VFW or something to that effect, you may be familiar with it, but they are a game that right now literally exists with a paper ticket, you purchase the ticket, there's a finite pool that can be won based on that roll of tickets, but there's very little oversight in terms of the administration of these different games. So, what we have in front of us is an opportunity to -- and I want to be clear about this -- send out to referendum a question for the people to decide on whether we should allow for modernization of these games. And these more modern games are digital, there's also an element in the bill that improves accountability and tracking of these mechanisms, including the money that's spent. So, right now, your current pull tab system is largely cash based and ultimately the shrinkage that can occur with that, the illegal gaming that can occur with that, and certainly, the opportunity for theft and other problems as the cash gets moved from one location to another are all problematic. So, by shifting to this new model, you're keeping the same game structure. And I want to be clear about something here that's critically important, the way that these games work are not slot machines. Slot machines use random number generators, they have a totally different internal mechanism. Just because something has a screen on it doesn't mean that it is a slot machine, it's about how the game works, how it operates, and in this case, it's exactly the same as current pull tabs, which, again, are already legal in Maine. There's restrictions on how many can be in certain locations, only one player can play them at a time, and then on the tribal front, where tribes are already allowed to have substantially more pull tabs, we were to keep that consistent in this language here, but again -- and also, there's an element in this bill that requires local approval for the four recognized tribes if they decide to create a venue on their land that they would be able to then have a local option that they have to get approval for from a municipality. So, I want to dispel a lot of the rumors around this bill. It's actually quite narrowly tailored, it is literally a modernization bill, and the opponents, I think, are working to cast some dispersions around what these games are and what they aren't, what the impact is and what it isn't, what the protocols and procedures are and what they aren't. And as I just laid out, this proposal that we have in front of us modernizes an existing game that has to operate the exact same way, with more accountability, more safeguards in place, better tracking, and on -- and in venues that they're already legal in. This is not an expansion. Characterizing it as much is not at all fair to the bill, not at all fair to the process, and I appreciate all the work that's gone into this on the part of the committee to get us to this point. And certainly, with the amendment that we have in front of us, I think given the hostility of the Chief Executive to anything that comes even remotely close to something around gaming, this is a better option. I think,

frankly, people ought to be involved in this and, frankly, this is going to be a big help for a lot of local organizations, like I mentioned, VFWs and the like, that will be able to generate more revenue for their clubs in a safer and more accountable and transparent way. So, would appreciate the opportunity here to reconsider our action earlier where we narrowly failed to enact this bill. I do think it's important, and I appreciate the support here. Thank you.

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

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Mr. President, Fellow Members of the Senate. Well, the previous speaker mentioned opponents casting aspersions on this gaming, and I am such an opponent, and I will happily cast aspersions on it. I sent around to your desks a sheet earlier that shows pictures of these devices. In my view, electronic pull tabs, like historical horse racing machines, are just another name for video slot machines or video gaming terminals. Look at the picture, Google it, Google electronic pull tabs, and see what you see. As I say in my sheet, it is clear that what wobbles like a duck, quacks like a duck, is a duck. This bill authorizes these sort of slot machines in every Maine community with no statewide vote or local approval for anyone 18 years of age. Maine's two casinos prohibit anyone under 21 years of age from being on the casino floor. This would allow for the largest expansion of gaming in Maine history before tribal casinos in Old Town, Houlton, Calais, and Presque Isle, and slot machines for every nonprofit organization in the state. In fact, as the previous speaker said, this is so beneficial to these organizations because it is a vast expansion of gambling in this state. Mr. President, I move this bill and all its accompanying papers be indefinitely postponed.

Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford moved the Bill and accompanied papers be **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

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

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you very much, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Well, you just heard from the casinos, who obviously --

**THE PRESIDENT:** The Chair would ask why the Senator from Oxford, Senator Bennett, rises.

Senator **BENNETT:** Because the speaker, the Senator from Aroostook, Senator Stewart, said that I was a representative of the casinos, and that is false.

Senator **STEWART:** Mr. President, I did not, in fact, say that. What I said was you just heard from the casinos, and those are their words. I was present at the hearing --

**THE PRESIDENT:** The Chair would advise that the Member should not make statement about any of the other Members that they are representing or saying the mindsets of any organization.

Senator **STEWART:** Understood, Mr. President. I do disagree with the assertions that have been made by the casinos, both at the hearing, that mirror comments that were just made on the



floor. I think obviously there's a concern around whether folks, you know, have to go to a certain casino or not to play slot machines. I don't care. These are not slot machines; I reiterated that earlier. Again, just because there's a screen, doesn't mean that it's a slot machine. It does not operate like a slot machine. There is a legal definition of slot machine that involves a random number generator system internally. This is not that, we are not talking about that, the payouts are not the same, they don't operate the same way. There's limited numbers on how many you can have in a venue, you know, the -- again, all the points that were just brought up, I thought I addressed pretty clearly in my opening remarks, it seems to be more of a who do you believe. I don't buy the arguments of the casinos. I think that the protectionism that they're working towards on some of this has gone too far in some cases, and this being one of them, that frankly, what we're doing here is not going to have the devastating impact that they are blowing it out of proportion to be. I don't have an issue at all with -- to the point made by the previous speaker, around statewide vote, sure, let's do it. Because the reality is that these are not like an us versus them sort of thing. You could benefit from Kittery to Fort Kent with these local organizations and nonprofits. And again, I mentioned earlier, there is in fact a local veto option in the communities where these proposals could be around the tribes, one only needs to read the bill to discover that instead of propagating more lies and mistruths from the casinos, who are acting in a protectionist manner against this bill. I heard it from day one, I'm still hearing it tonight, they need better arguments. That is not what we're voting on today. Thank you -- oh, and with that, I would request a Roll Call. Thank you.

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 **BALDACC**: Yes, Mr. President, I just have a point of clarification. I had previously put forward an amendment, that is not part of this bill at this time. I mean, this bill would have to pass before I could present it again or is it part of this? I just wanted to know what the status of that amendment was in terms of the bill.

**THE PRESIDENT:** So, the Secretary obviously informs me that we're on reconsideration of this -- well, actually, we're on indefinite postponement of this bill and all its accompanying papers. If that was to fail, there was a previously reconsideration motion to bring the bill back up to the floor. The amendment that you offered actually failed, so we would be then -- if we were to get to that reconsideration of a failure motion, which gets kind of dicey.

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

Senator **CURRY:** Thank you. Point of clarification. I believe we were on a vote to reconsider. You can -- is it -- that was the first vote, wasn't it?

**THE PRESIDENT:** There was a motion for reconsideration and

then Senator Bennett moved to indefinitely postpone the bill and its accompanying papers.

Senator **CURRY:** Okay, so, we're at indefinite postponement. Thank you very much.

**THE PRESIDENT:** The pending question before the Senate is Indefinite Postponement. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

#### ROLL CALL (#779)

YEAS: Senators: BALDACC, BENNETT, BLACK, BRENNER, CARNEY, CURRY, FARRIN, GUERIN, KEIM, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, LYFORD, NANGLE, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, TIMBERLAKE

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BEEBE-CENTER, BRAKEY, CHIPMAN, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSON, MOORE, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

EXCUSED: Senators: LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE

16 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 17 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** the Bill and accompanied papers, **FAILED**.

On motion by Senator **TIMBERLAKE** of Androscoggin, 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 (#780)

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BEEBE-CENTER, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, GROHOSKI, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSON, MOORE, NANGLE, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: BALDACC, BENNETT, BLACK, CARNEY, FARRIN, GUERIN, KEIM, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, LYFORD, POULIOT, RAFFERTY, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE

20 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **MOORE** of Washington **RECONSIDER** whereby it **FAILED** to **ADOPT COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-707) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-714), PREVAILED.**

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

Senator **BALDACC**I: Is this the appropriate time to ask for my amendment to be offered or reconsidered? Not quite yet, okay.

Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford moved the Senate **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** the Bill and accompanying papers.

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 Cumberland, Senator Chipman.

Senator **CHIPMAN**: Thank you, Mr. President, Men and Women of the Senate. I would urge us to vote against this motion so that the Senator from Penobscot can have an opportunity to offer his amendment for consideration.

**THE PRESIDENT:** The pending question before the Senate is Indefinite Postponement. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

#### **ROLL CALL (#781)**

**YEAS:** Senators: **BALDACC**I, **BENNETT**, **BLACK**, **BRENNER**, **CARNEY**, **CURRY**, **FARRIN**, **GUERIN**, **KEIM**, **LAWRENCE**, **LIBBY**, **LYFORD**, **NANGLE**, **POULIOT**, **RAFFERTY**, **TIMBERLAKE**

**NAYS:** Senators: **BAILEY**, **BEEBE-CENTER**, **BRAKEY**, **CHIPMAN**, **DAUGHTRY**, **DUSON**, **GROHOSKI**, **HARRINGTON**, **HICKMAN**, **INGWERSON**, **MOORE**, **RENY**, **ROTUNDO**, **STEWART**, **TIPPING**, **VITELLI**, **PRESIDENT JACKSON**

**EXCUSED:** Senators: **LAFOUNTAIN**, **PIERCE**

16 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 17 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** Bill and accompanying papers, **FAILED.**

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

#### **COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-707) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-714), thereto.**

**THE PRESIDENT:** Seeing no objection.

Senator **STEWART**: Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. Perhaps it's because it's now 1:40 in the morning, it's been a long day, a long week. I would like to amend comments that I made earlier as it relates to the previous matter that we were taking up. Saying that you were hearing from the casinos is not the right way to characterize anything that my colleague and my friend, frankly, said previously. The point I think of frustration for me in all of this has been hearing talking points that are being, you know, shared again and again that have led to some internal frustrations around this bill and what it is and what it isn't. And so, I just want to apologize for any offense that may have been taken and certainly any that was given was not my intent. And just let the record reflect that that be amended in some fashion here as we try to wrap up the day hopefully soon so that folks can get to bed and try again at some point soon. Thank you, Mr. President.

**THE PRESIDENT:** The Chair would remark that it has been a long day and certainly a lot of tension, so I certainly would appreciate or appreciate the apology and certainly other members that felt it was directed to can hopefully take the sincere apology, also. And I know I have a number of people to apologize, and I do also.

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Today Assigned matter:

An Act to Create an Income Tax Credit for Investments in a Team's Qualified Minor League Baseball Facility to Keep the Team in the State  
S.P. 975 L.D. 2258  
(C "A" S-704)

Tabled - April 17, 2024 by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin.

Pending – **ENACTMENT.**

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. As far as I can tell, this is still corporate welfare, and as far as I'm concerned, if the Sea Dogs need a couple million dollars, they can open a GoFundMe page. Thank you.

**THE PRESIDENT:** The pending question before the Senate is Enactment. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#782)**

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BLACK, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, FARRIN, INGWERSON, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, MOORE, NANGLE, RAFFERTY, STEWART, TIMBERLAKE, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, BRAKEY, BRENNER, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, KEIM, LYFORD, POULIOT, RENY, ROTUNDO, TIPPING

EXCUSED: Senators: LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE

20 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, **PASSED TO BE ENACTED.**

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

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

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

An Act To Strengthen Public Safety By Improving Maine's Firearm Laws And Mental Health System  
S.P. 953 L.D. 2224  
(C "A" S-687; S "A" S-695)

Placed on Special Appropriations Table - April 16, 2024, by Senator **DUSON** of Cumberland

Pending - **ENACTMENT**

(In Senate, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-687) AND SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-695).**)

(In House, ENACTED).

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

Kennebec, Senator Hickman.

Senator **HICKMAN:** Thank you, Mr. President. I request permission to ask a question through the Chair to anyone who cares to answer it.

**THE PRESIDENT:** The Senator from Kennebec, Senator Hickman, may proceed.

Senator **HICKMAN:** Thank you, Mr. President. If I look at the fiscal note on this bill, it appears that in other special revenue fund, in this case, the adult use cannabis public health and safety and municipal opt-in fund is going to be used to cover an ongoing expense. Is that how I read this?

**THE PRESIDENT:** The pending question before the Senate is Enactment. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#783)**

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE

18 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 15 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, **PASSED TO BE ENACTED.**

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

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

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Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

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Off Record Remarks

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

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

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

**PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE**

**Non-Concurrent Matter**

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An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025  
H.P. 1420 L.D. 2214

In Senate, April 17, 2024, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-985)** Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-985) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "B" (H-989) AND SENATE AMENDMENT "F" (S-730)** thereto in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Comes from the House, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-985) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENTS "B" (H-989) AND "C" (H-990)** thereto in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc moved the Senate **RECEDE** and **CONCUR**.

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 Tipping.

Senator **TIPPING:** Thank you, Mr. President. I will be voting to recede and concur, but I just wanted to note, maybe peel back the curtain a little bit on one of the issues that's been at the heart of this drama and say that I'm very disappointed that this does not include the language for retention and recruitment for state workers. I think those of us that have served on the Government Oversight Committee, like those in many committees, have seen what happens when specific parts of state government atrophy and are turned from helping people into hurting them. I believe this relatively simple language to allow a third-party moderator to step in in certain cases when things have gotten really bad was a pretty simple step. I think it's unfortunate that we're not taking it, but I will be voting very soon to concur. Thank you.

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

Senator **BALDACCI:** Thank you, Mr. President. I want to first concur with the remarks from my fellow Senator from Penobscot. I am, too, disappointed regarding how the -- our state employees have been dealt with in this process. They deserve much better, and I'm committed, as others are, to making sure that happens at some point. I did want to just briefly go over there are several important things that are happening in this budget in terms of Health and Human Services, and I just briefly wanted to share, you know, good news with this caucus, which includes that we had -- we rejected the proposed repeal of the income eligibility expansion for the Medicare beneficiary program. That's \$54 million that's going to go to seniors making up to \$50,000 per household or less to help them with their prescription drugs. Then, there's also a total of 80 million for nursing homes in this budget, there's a total of \$38 million in pay increases for care workers. There's a little over \$3 million in increased pay for DHHS caseworkers, there's eight and a half million to keep St. Mary's Regional Hospital operating, which is a hugely important healthcare institution for western Maine, six million for supporting victims of crime, and just two -- two really kind of different efforts that haven't been done before, one is that there's two million for development of a psychiatric residential treatment facility for adolescents. This state right now sends our young people with severe behavioral problems out of state, and that's really -- that's not good for them, their families, their treatment. We haven't had an in-state facility for many, many, many years. So, our hope is to work with a provider who can provide us with a facility, someplace like Sweetser or another qualified provider. It will be a huge step forward for us to be able to not send our kids out of state and to offer quality decent treatment here in our state. And then the last thing is \$2 million for grants for physical and mental health services for public safety employees. Our committee heard significant testimony from firefighters, paramedics, police officers about the unique and constant stresses of the job. So, this money is to hopefully go out in competitive grants to local departments to promote health screens, preventative medicine, other wellness type programs for our public safety workers. There's a lot of good things in this budget, there's a lot of improvements that will be made, hospital rate reform, which has taken several years, is coming more to fruition with this budget and with the biennium budget but also this budget and the change package, because hospitals will be receiving significantly more money, and hopefully helping to lead our hospitals closer to the black. Those are all good things for us and for our state and for our fellow citizens. Thank you.

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

Senator **NANGLE:** Thank you, Mr. President, good morning. I feel like we have a choice here of either -- actually, not an either - - a choice of standing in the frying pan and in the fire. We voted earlier and passed an amendment that would've made important investments in the state's workforce, that would've given larger investments to our nursing homes and our veterans homes and school support staff and better assist those in recovery. But it's clear that all those investments are not the will of the majority here in the Capitol. So, what do we do? Do we not pass a budget that everyone that has everything of my priority and others

or do we pass a budget that does make concrete steps towards having steps towards supporting housing, strong investments for school support staff, just not as much as I would like, maintains the pension exemptions for retirees in the state and as my friend from Penobscot said, maintains the Medicare choice program. I won't make perfection the enemy of completion. Not passing the budget is not an option. I, too, will vote recede and concur.

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

Senator **POULIOT:** Thank you, Mr. President. Not passing the budget is actually an option, despite what we just heard. We could choose to vote no and move forward without passing a budget this evening. So, I just wanted the record to be clear about that. I know that everyone in this Chamber is feeling quite a bit frustrated, and so am I, too. It's kind of interesting how we've gotten to this point where this majority will that was spoke of has been literally rammed through and then now, we're kind of grumbling about a few little things on the edge here at the last moment. So, for me, Mr. President, I'm pretty frustrated this evening around this vote, as I know you are, too, Mr. President, and I hope that moving forward there will be an opportunity in this body and in this institution to get back to a time of more collaboration. I think back to the time, Mr. President, when I was sworn in to this Body, this Chamber, it was the same time that you became the president. And my dad was here, actually, to watch me get sworn in to the Senate, and he heard your speech when you became President. And I'll never forget afterwards he said wow, that guy, he really cares about the people, you know? And I'll never forget, it was -- included a story about the river up in the Allagash, the St. John River, and I've been up there a time or two, Mr. President, I've stood at the side of that river and I've looked across it to the other side in Canada, and couldn't help but think, you know, how they have a whole bunch of different rules over there and a lot of different laws and how they get impacted is a lot different than we are, and the only thing that separates us from them is this, you know, body of water. Yet, for some reason, I don't know why, it seems that that river that we all have to navigate has gotten a lot more rocks in it over the years, Mr. President, since you and I both started -- or, well, you started before I did, but since I started in this Chamber with you, and it's really concerning, you know, I have the same concerns that you shared as we wrap up our time here. It's not about who wins or loses with this budget or whatever, it's more about the process, you know, it's more about making sure that all people as part of the process are heard and that their voice is valued. And to be honest with you, Mr. President, these last two years have been quite frustrating, you know, because we have conversations that go on and then the realization in the end, just like this evening, is, you know, the votes are there. So, it's just the way it's going to be. And I'm sure you're feeling some of that frustration yourself, Mr. President, and I sure am, too, and I just hope that, you know, as we wrap up our work here and those Members who are coming back in the future, you know, hopefully we can give some consideration more to all sides of the issue and bring back that collaboration because democracy in this country is an experiment, Mr. President, and the experiment will fail if we don't find ways to value all the voices and make sure they're all heard at the table. Thank you, Mr. President.

**THE PRESIDENT:** The Chair would just like to respond to Senator Pouliot. Once again, I almost started to cry, talking about -- or him talking about the river, and I think it's just to the point where I just want to go home and see the river.

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

Senator **KEIM:** Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the Senate. As we had this bill described to us, the budget described to us earlier, I heard words like common sense and collaboration and responsible budget. And then, you know, resources are limited and so we have to, you know, judiciously move them around. And I think that given that there's been an excess in our budget every single year for the last -- every single session for the last several, the resources that are limited are the taxpayers of Maine. Their resources are limited, and they are the forgotten ones. We take more and more and more from the taxpayers and spend more and more on whatever project we think happens to be more important than actually just letting them keep the money in their own pocketbook. We're the fourth highest taxed state in the nation, and we just keep spending more and more money, and we're taking it right out of the pockets of Maine people. And we don't care because it's another majority budget. I'll be voting against this motion and this budget.

**THE PRESIDENT:** The pending question before the Senate is to Recede and Concur. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

#### ROLL CALL (#784)

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

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

**EXCUSED:** Senators: LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE

19 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 14 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc to **RECEDE** from **PASSAGE TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-985) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "B" (H-989) AND SENATE AMENDMENT "F" (S-730)** thereto and **CONCUR** with **PASSAGE TO BE ENGROSSED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-985) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENTS "B" (H-989) AND "C" (H-990)** thereto, **PREVAILED**.

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:

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

An Act To Improve Women's Health And Economic Security By Funding Family Planning Services  
S.P. 598 L.D. 1478  
(C "A" S-122)

Placed on Special Appropriations Table - June 8, 2023, by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin

Pending - **ENACTMENT**

(In Senate, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-122).**)

(In House, ENACTED).

The same Senator moved the Senate **SUSPEND THE RULES** for the purpose of **RECONSIDERING** whereby the Bill be **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-122).**

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

#### ROLL CALL (#785)

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

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

EXCUSED: Senators: LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE

20 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, **SUSPEND THE RULES** for **RECONSIDERATION**, **PREVAILED.**

On motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **ENACTMENT.**

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

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

An Act To Create A Sustainable Funding Source For Recovery Community Centers Using A Percentage Of The Adult Use Cannabis Tax Revenue  
H.P. 1103 L.D. 1714  
(C "A" H-620)

Placed on Special Appropriations Table - June 21, 2023, by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin

Pending - **ENACTMENT**

(In Senate, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-620),** in concurrence.)

(In House, ENACTED).

The same Senator moved the Senate **SUSPEND THE RULES** for the purpose of **RECONSIDERING** whereby the Bill be **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-620).**

Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook requested a Roll Call.

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

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Mr. President. I'm going to implore that we actually suspend the rules here, because in my view, this is a critically important matter that we've recognized in this Legislature it was the number one priority request from the Taxation Committee from whence it came on a unanimous -- with unanimous support. What this bill does is it provides sustainable funding for recovery centers across our state that are serving people with substance use disorder across our state. There have been growing numbers of them, there's 20 of them now, and the problem is that they don't have any regular form of income, they have been -- many of them have received \$50,000 on a patchwork basis, and these centers, like the one in my district in Norway, the Hills Recovery Center, which was opened in April of 2023, serve people who are trying to get out of their substance use crises in a tremendously effective way through peer support specialists, recovery coaches. The Hills is a comfortable place for people to go get the support they need to stay sober and the Hills, like so many of these other recovery centers, actually save peoples' lives. We need to provide them funding, and this Legislature, through the work this year, has come up with a solution through the Taxation Committee's work, and I just implore the Members of this Body to provide the funds through this source, which is the title of the fund is longer than the amount of money in it, it's Adult Use Public Safety Public Health Municipal

Opt-In Fund or some such thing. And it's currently earning about \$3 million a year. This will provide \$2 million annually starting next year for these recovery centers from that fund. We need to do this. I would hate for the last act of this Senate to be to say no to this need, particularly one that has been in a bipartisan fashion been recognized, and I hope we don't stand on concerns about process and whatnot in order to deny this need because this does save lives and this funding for this -- for these recovery centers will have impacts across the state. So, thank you, Mr. President.

Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook requested and received leave of the Senate to withdraw his request for a Roll Call.

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

Senator **BRAKEY:** Thank you, Mr. President. I'm receiving some reports from a colleague in the Other Chamber that shall not be mentioned that this -- I think it's been characterized to me as this is a raid of the cannabis fund and that it will impact other efforts around restructuring of the cannabis excise tax, which I know there's been a lot of work done in the Legislature. I wonder if any who have worked on this legislation can speak to that and the understanding of how these bills impact each other.

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

Senator **HICKMAN:** Thank you, Mr. President. Here it is, three o'clock in the morning, and you put the biggest conflict in front of me, and I'm not happy about it. We need to fund recovery centers. It's always been my understanding that we do not use other special revenue funds to fund ongoing things sustainably. I'd like to fund veterans' homes in this way, but we were told we can't do that. As I said in another bill, the excise tax that we are getting from farmers is a kind of injustice that is harmful. We need to fund recovery centers. We need another source of funding. That's all I have to say, Mr. President.

On motion by Senator **BRAKEY** of Androscoggin, 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 Bennett.

Senator **BENNETT:** I'm sorry, Mr. President, the night is late. Budgets, spending, require difficult choices. I agree with the Senator from Kennebec that it would be great to find sources of funding for this somewhere else. We do not have the time right now to do that. There is some linkage between the cannabis taxes which are already in statute funding some aspects of substance abuse. That's an established precedent. This would continue that precedent. It undoubtedly could be perfected, but I just implore you, again, let's not make this -- denying this moving forward the last act of the Senate.

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

Senator **TIPPING:** Thank you, Mr. President. I'll be brief but just felt appropriate that perhaps the last words I say in this session

are just in defense of the Save a Life Center in Lincoln, which is in pretty desperate straits. I talked to them last week; they really need this bill. I've been there, I've met the folks in recovery, the peer-to-peer work that they do, including among veterans, is amazing. They're a beating heart of the community and I hope we can support them.

**THE PRESIDENT:** The pending question before the Senate is Suspension of the Rules for the purpose or Reconsidering. A roll call has been ordered. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

#### ROLL CALL (#786)

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

NAYS: Senators: BRAKEY

EXCUSED: Senators: LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE

32 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 1 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, **SUSPEND THE RULES** for **RECONSIDERATION**, **PREVAILED**.

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Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

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On further motion by same Senator, the Senate **RECONSIDERED** whereby the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-620)**, 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-620).

On further motion by same Senator, Senate Amendment "A" (S-731) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-620) **READ**.

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

Senate at Ease.

Senator **BRAKEY**: Thank you, Mr. President. For clarity, is this the amendment that changes the funding source to the cannabis fund?

The Senate was called to order by the President.

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

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## ORDERS OF THE DAY

Senator **BENNETT**: I believe this is the amendment that does that, but it is -- the original bill actually used a tax fund from cannabis to fund the recovery centers and this is an alternative use of cannabis tax revenue to fund the recovery centers.

### Unfinished Business

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

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Today Assigned matter:

The Secretary opened the vote.

### ROLL CALL (#787)

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

SENATE REPORTS - from the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act to Support Veterans' Organizations and Other Nonprofit Organizations and Federally Recognized Indian Tribes by Updating Electronic Gambling Laws" S.P. 947 L.D. 2213

(In the Senate April 18, 2024, Senator **DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland, **TABLED** pending **PASSAGE TO BE ENGROSSED**.)

On motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook, Senate Amendment "B" (S-727) to Committee Amendment "A" (S-707) **READ**.

NAYS: Senators: BRAKEY

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

EXCUSED: Senators: LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE

Senator **STEWART**: Thank you, Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. Just very succinctly, as you'll see in this floor amendment, the justification for it is as a result of the committee process, the goal was to eliminate the fiscal impact on Maine taxpayers by paying for any sort of regulation through the profit that would be driven by any of the activity. The number in committee that was given to us by the regulator at the time was to amount to 1%. That was basically a mathematical error, so this brings it to 2%, which would be enough to then cover the cost of that. And I hope the motion gets supported. Thank you.

32 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 1 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **ROTUNDO** of Androscoggin to **ADOPT** Senate Amendment "A" (S-731) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-620), **PREVAILED**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-620) as Amended by Senate Amendment "A" (S-731) thereto, **ADOPTED**, in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford moved the Senate **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** the Bill and accompanying papers.

**PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-620) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-731) thereto, in NON-CONCURRENCE**.

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

Ordered sent down for concurrence.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

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

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The Secretary opened the vote.



**ROLL CALL (#788)**

YEAS: Senators: BALDACCI, BENNETT, BLACK, BRENNER, CARNEY, FARRIN, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, KEIM, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, NANGLE, POULIOT, TIMBERLAKE

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BEEBE-CENTER, BRAKEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSON, LYFORD, MOORE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

EXCUSED: Senators: LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE

14 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 19 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** the Bill and accompanying papers, **FAILED**.

On motion by Senator **TIMBERLAKE** of Androscoggin 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 (#789)**

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BEEBE-CENTER, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSON, KEIM, MOORE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: BALDACCI, BENNETT, BLACK, CARNEY, FARRIN, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, LYFORD, NANGLE, POULIOT, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE

20 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook to **ADOPT SENATE AMENDMENT "B" (S-727) TO COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-707)**, **PREVAILED**.

Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford moved the Senate **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** the Bill and accompanying papers.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#790)**

YEAS: Senators: BENNETT, BLACK, CARNEY, FARRIN, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, KEIM, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, LYFORD, NANGLE, POULIOT, TIMBERLAKE

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSON, MOORE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

EXCUSED: Senators: LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE

13 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 20 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** the Bill and accompanying papers, **FAILED**.

On motion by Senator **BENNETT** 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 Cumberland, Senator Chipman.

Senator **CHIPMAN:** Just a note of clarification of where we are in the process. So, this would pass the bill and then an amendment from Senator Baldacci for referendum could come at some later time after this?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#791)**

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSON, MOORE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, BLACK, CARNEY, FARRIN, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, KEIM, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, LYFORD, NANGLE, POULIOT, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE

20 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 13 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, **ADOPTION of COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-707) AS**

**AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENTS "A"(S-714) and "B" (S-727) thereto, PREVAILED.**

Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford **OBJECTED** to **SECOND READING** at this time.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#792)**

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSON, KEIM, LAWRENCE, MOORE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: BENNETT, BLACK, CARNEY, FARRIN, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, LIBBY, LYFORD, NANGLE, POULIOT, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE

22 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 11 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, **SUSPEND THE RULES** for **SECOND READING, PREVAILED.**

Under **SUSPENSION OF THE RULES**, Bill **READ A SECOND TIME.**

Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford moved the Senate **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** the Bill and accompanying papers.

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

**ROLL CALL (#793)**

YEAS: Senators: BALDACCI, BENNETT, BLACK, CARNEY, GROHOSKI, GUERIN, KEIM, LAWRENCE, LIBBY, LYFORD, NANGLE, POULIOT, TIMBERLAKE

NAYS: Senators: BAILEY, BEEBE-CENTER, BRAKEY, BRENNER, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, FARRIN, HARRINGTON, HICKMAN, INGWERSON, MOORE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, STEWART, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

EXCUSED: Senators: LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE

13 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 20 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford to **INDEFINITELY POSTPONE** the Bill and accompanying papers, **FAILED.**

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

Senator **CHIPMAN:** Thank you, Mr. President. I'd just like to clarify if the amendment requiring a statewide vote has been adopted already, so if we do pass this, would that be part of what we're passing? Would there be a statewide vote or not?

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

Senator **BENNETT:** Thank you, Mr. President. My recollection of the events of this debate would suggest that that motion for a statewide vote is not part of the engrossed version of this bill.

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

Senator **STEWART:** Thank you, Mr. President. That last response was inaccurate. It is adopted when we adopted Senate Amendment "A" in addition to Senate Amendment "B" onto Committee Amendment "A", which is what we have now as a product in front of us. So, the answer is yes.

**PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-707) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-714) and SENATE AMENDMENT "B" (S-727)**

Senator **BENNETT** of Oxford **OBJECTED** to All Matters being sent Forthwith.

On motion by Senator **STEWART** of Aroostook, the Senate **RECONSIDERED** whereby it **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-707) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-714) and SENATE AMENDMENT "B" (S-727).**

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

Senator **HICKMAN:** Mr. President, you went so fast, I couldn't ask for a Roll Call.

**THE PRESIDENT:** Would the Senator like to have reconsideration?

Senator **HICKMAN:** I can't, you just went too fast.

**THE PRESIDENT:** Hey, at 3:30 in the morning, I'm not going fast at anything.

**PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-707) AS AMENDED BY SENATE AMENDMENT "A" (S-714) AND SENATE AMENDMENT "B" (S-727), thereto.**

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

Senator **BENNETT**: Mr. President, I object to the LD 2153 being sent forthwith.

**THE PRESIDENT:** Once again, the Secretary says that we've already reconsidered passage to be engrossed, so there's no reason to not hold a bill, it can't be.

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

Senator **BENNETT**: You asked if there was objection, and I object.

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

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The President requested the Sergeant-At-Arms escort the Senator from Kennebec, Senator **HICKMAN** to the rostrum where he assumed the duties as President Pro Tem.

The President took a seat on the floor.

The Senate called to order but President Pro Tem **CRAIG V. HICKMAN** of Kennebec County.

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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:

#### **Act**

An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and to Change Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025  
H.P. 1420 L.D. 2214  
(H "B" H-989; H "C" H-990 to C "A" H-985)

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

#### **ROLL CALL (#794)**

YEAS: Senators: BAILEY, BALDACCI, BEEBE-CENTER, BRENNER, CARNEY, CHIPMAN, CURRY, DAUGHTRY, DUSON, INGWERSON, JACKSON, LAWRENCE, NANGLE, RAFFERTY, RENY, ROTUNDO, TIPPING, VITELLI, PRESIDENT PRO TEM HICKMAN

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

EXCUSED: Senators: LAFOUNTAIN, PIERCE

19 Senator having voted in the affirmative and 14 Senators having voted in the negative, with 2 Senators being excused, was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** and, having been signed by the President Pro Tem **CRAIG V. HICKMAN** of Kennebec County was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

Ordered sent forthwith.

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

#### **PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE**

##### **Non-Concurrent Matter**

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An Act to Clarify Licensing Criteria and Criminal History Record Check and Notification Requirements for Adult Use Cannabis Establishments  
H.P. 1379 L.D. 2155

In Senate, April 17, 2024, Bill and accompanying papers **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

Comes from the House, that Body having **INSISTED** on its former action whereby the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

On motion by Senator **DAUGHTRY** of Cumberland, the Senate **INSISTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

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Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President Pro Tem **CRAIG V. HICKMAN** of Kennebec County.

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

**PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE**

**Joint Order**

The following Joint Order:  
H.P. 1482

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that all legislation not finally disposed of upon adjournment sine die of the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature be carried over in the same posture to any special session of the 131st Legislature.

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

**READ** and **PASSED**, in concurrence.

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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:

**Act**

An Act to Create a Sustainable Funding Source for Recovery Community Centers Using a Percentage of the Adult Use Cannabis Tax Revenue  
H.P. 1103 L.D. 1714  
(S "A" S-731 to C "A" H-620)

**PASSED TO BE ENACTED** and having been signed by the President Pro Tem **CRAIG V. HICKMAN** of Kennebec County was presented by the Secretary to the Governor for approval.

Ordered sent forthwith.

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

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On motion by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, **ADJOURNED**, pursuant to the Joint Order, until the call of the Presiding Officers.