

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION
JOURNAL OF THE SENATE**

In Senate Chamber
Thursday
March 12, 2020

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

Prayer by Reverend Mark Tanner of Skowhegan Federated Church.

REVEREND TANNER: Let us pray. Gracious God, where did I see You yesterday? Where will I encounter You today? Give me eyes to see, a heart to respond, and hands and feet to serve whoever I may encounter. Let us continue to work together to make a difference in the lives of people throughout this state and may we look to You for strength, guidance, healing peace in the days ahead. Hold us today and always in the palm of Your hand. This we ask in Your tender and most precious name. Amen.

Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator Robert A. Foley of York County.

Reading of the Journal of Tuesday, March 10, 2020.

Doctor of the day, Lisa Letourneau, MD of Portland.

Off Record Remarks

The Chair noted the absence of the Senator from Somerset, Senator **FARRIN**, the Senator from Hancock, Senator **ROSEN**, the Senator from York, Senator **WOODSOME**, the Senator from Oxford, Senator **KEIM**, the Senator from Lincoln, Senator **DOW**, and the Senator from York, Senator **LAWRENCE**, and further excused the same Senators from today's Roll Call votes.

Off Record Remarks

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, on motion by Senator **LIBBY** of Androscoggin, the following Joint Order:
S.P. 781

Ordered, the House concurring, that when the Senate and House adjourn, they do so until Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 10:00 in the morning, or at the call of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House, respectively.

READ and PASSED.

Ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

PAPERS FROM THE HOUSE

Non-Concurrent Matter

RESOLUTION, Proposing an Amendment to the Constitution of Maine To Establish a Right to Food

H.P. 583 L.D. 795
(C "A" H-430; H "A" H-541)

In Senate, June 17, 2019, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-430) AND HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-541)** in concurrence.

Comes from the House, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-430) AND HOUSE AMENDMENT "B" (H-675) in NON-CONCURRENCE.**

On motion by Senator **LIBBY** of Androscoggin, the Senate **RECEDED** and **CONCURRED.**

Non-Concurrent Matter

An Act To Create Jobs and Slow Climate Change by Promoting the Production of Natural Resources Bioproducts

H.P. 1213 L.D. 1698
(C "A" H-552)

In Senate, June 19, 2019, **PASSED TO BE ENACTED** in concurrence.

In House, **RECALLED** from the Governor's Desk, pursuant to Joint Order (H.P. 1422).

Comes from the House, **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-552) AS AMENDED BY HOUSE AMENDMENT "A" (H-731)** thereto in **NON-CONCURRENCE.**

Senator **LIBBY** of Androscoggin moved the Senate **RECEDE** and **CONCUR.**

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 (#421)

YEAS: Senators: BELLOWS, BREEN, CARPENTER, CARSON, CHENETTE, CHIPMAN, CLAXTON, DESCHAMBAULT, DILL, GRATWICK, HERBIG, LIBBY, LUCHINI, MILLETT, MIRAMANT, SANBORN H, SANBORN L, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: BLACK, CYRWAY, DAVIS, DIAMOND, FOLEY, GUERIN, HAMPER, MOORE, POULIOT, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: DOW, FARRIN, KEIM, LAWRENCE, ROSEN, WOODSOME

19 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 10 Senators having voted in the negative, with 6 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **LIBBY** of Androscoggin to **RECEDE** and **CONCUR PREVAILED**.

Joint Order

The following Joint Order:

H.P. 1534

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that the Joint Standing Committee on Health and Human Services shall report out, to the House, a bill to implement recommendations of the Commission To Study Long-term Care Workforce Issues.

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

READ and **PASSED**, in concurrence.

Joint Resolutions

The following Joint Resolution:

H.P. 1522

**JOINT RESOLUTION
COMMEMORATING THE FIRST STRIKE OVER
WORKING CONDITIONS IN WHAT WOULD BECOME
THE UNITED STATES**

WHEREAS, Richmond Island, Maine, a small 226-acre island off the coast of Cape Elizabeth in Saco Bay, was the site of a permanent colonial fishing post owned by English merchant Robert Trelawny between 1633 and 1643; and

WHEREAS, Richmond Island has been listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 1978 for the significance of the fishing post's archaeological remains; and

WHEREAS, Robert Trelawny's fishing post employed between 40 and 60 fishermen, artisans, servants and farmers to support its operation exporting dried fish, cod liver oil, pipe staves and beaver skins to Europe; and

WHEREAS, workers on Richmond Island were bonded by their employer and forced to work off their debts before they could earn enough money to live independent lives; and

WHEREAS, fishermen at the Richmond Island post often risked their lives on stormy seas in 20-foot vessels with minimal shelter from the elements and worked long hours, day and night, 6 days a week, to the point of exhaustion; and

WHEREAS, in the spring of 1636, fishermen at the Richmond Island post ceased working and left the island to protest the withholding of their wages for over a year, marking the first labor strike over working conditions in what would become the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the collective action of the Richmond Island fishermen in standing up for their rights to dignity and fair treatment is an inspiration to all Maine workers; and

WHEREAS, the Richmond Island strike deserves to be honored and remembered as part of Maine's long and proud tradition of working class struggles in this year of our bicentennial celebrations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize and honor the courage and resolve of the Richmond Island fishermen in furthering the cause of workers' rights.

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

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

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

Senator **MILLETT:** Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, I have walked up and down one of our most beautiful state beaches, Crescent Beach, countless times with friends and family, enjoying the natural beauty and sharing the outdoors with other families with their young children and dogs, watching the lobster boats come and go about their business and enjoying the dramatic vistas that overlook Richmond Island. It was only earlier this year when I was made aware of the significant history that occurred out on the island. I am so appreciative of Maine AFLCIO for shining a light on this little known but essential part of America's labor history and it seems fitting to commemorate the first organized labor strike over wages and working conditions in what would become the United States of America at a time of rising economic inequality in our country and the marking of Maine's bicentennial. Our walks in sight of Richmond Island are now all the richer. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

The following Joint Resolution:

H.P. 1537

**JOINT RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING MARCH AS
COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH**

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is the 3rd most commonly diagnosed cancer and the 2nd most common cause of cancer deaths for men and women combined in the United States and it affects men and women equally; and

WHEREAS, more than 50,000 people die every year from colorectal cancer; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of colorectal cancer deaths could have been prevented through proper screening and early detection but only 39% of colorectal cancer patients are diagnosed at an early stage; and

WHEREAS, the survival rate of individuals who have early-stage colorectal cancer is 90% but the survival rate is only 14% for individuals diagnosed in the so-called distant stage after the cancer has spread to other organs; and

WHEREAS, the American Cancer Society recommends that all men and women without a family history of colorectal cancer begin colorectal cancer screenings at 45 years of age; and

WHEREAS, colorectal cancer is preventable, treatable and survivable in most cases; and

WHEREAS, observing a Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month provides a special opportunity to offer education on the importance of early detection and screening; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize March as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month.

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

READ and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

The following Joint Resolution:

H.P. 1539

**JOINT RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING MARCH 10, 2020
AS SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS DAY**

WHEREAS, suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States and the 2nd leading cause of death among individuals 10 to 34 years of age; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, one person dies by suicide every 11.14 minutes, resulting in over 47,000 suicides each year; and

WHEREAS, suicide is the only leading cause of death in the United States that has increased every year for the past decade; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that there are over 1.4 million suicide attempts each year; and

WHEREAS, suicide is the 9th leading cause of death in Maine; on average, one person dies by suicide every 32 hours in Maine; and more than 5 times as many people died by suicide in Maine in 2017 than in alcohol-related motor vehicle accidents; and

WHEREAS, over 90% of the people who die by suicide have a diagnosable and treatable mental health condition, which is often not recognized or treated; and

WHEREAS, suicide resulted in an estimated \$69 billion in combined medical and work loss costs nationally in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the stigma associated with mental health conditions and suicidality works against suicide prevention by discouraging persons at risk for suicide from seeking life-saving help and further traumatizes survivors of suicide loss and survivors of suicide attempts; and

WHEREAS, suicide is a preventable national and state public health problem and suicide prevention must be a priority; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize March 10, 2020 as Suicide Prevention Awareness Day and to recognize the importance of the development and implementation of strategies to increase access to mental health and suicide prevention services.

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

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

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

Senator **MILLETT:** Thank you, Mr. President. I rise again because just several weeks ago in my community we lost another one of our children to suicide. The 126th enacted a law to increase suicide prevention and awareness in public schools, requiring that all school personnel receive one to two hour trainings and minimally two personnel in each district receive a one day course in prevention and awareness. Then in the 128th we required all districts to have protocols for suicide prevention and intervention and counseling services after an incident of youth suicide in place. Then we went further to insure that mental health first aid training would be made required of secondary school health teachers. But the fact is that, despite these efforts, our young people still are committing suicide or attempting suicide. Our schools are often the frontline of our children's mental health struggles and they need our help and attention. As we mark March 10th as Suicide Awareness and Prevention Day, let us recommit ourselves to making sure our schools have the resources and partnerships necessary to help our students and their families deal with their struggles. Let us do all we can to protect the lives of our children. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: S.C. 1034

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

March 10, 2020

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

RE: Appointment of Jane Hecker-Cain of Kennebunk to the School Board of the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf

Dear Mr. President:

This is to inform you that I am today re-nominating Jane F. Hecker-Cain of Kennebunk to the School Board of the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and the Governor Baxter School for the Deaf. This is necessary because she was not able to have a hearing within 30 days of the original posting.

Pursuant to Title 20-A §7406, this appointment is contingent on the Maine State Senate's confirmation after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1035

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

March 11, 2020

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

RE: Appointment of The Honorable Richard W. Mulhern as a Justice of the Maine Superior Court

Dear President Jackson:

This is to inform you that I am today nominating The Honorable Richard W. Mulhern of Falmouth for appointment as a Justice of the Maine Superior Court.

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

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1036

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

March 11, 2020

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

RE: Appointment of Sarah A. Churchill as a Judge to the Maine District Court

Dear President Jackson:

This is to inform you that I am today nominating Sarah Churchill of Windham for appointment as a Judge to the Maine District Court.

Pursuant to Title 4, MRSA § 157, this appointment is contingent on the Maine Senate confirmation after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1037

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

March 11, 2020

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

RE: Appointment of The Honorable Rob A. Langner as a Judge to the Maine District Court

Dear President Jackson:

This is to inform you that I am today nominating The Honorable Rob A. Langner of Fort Fairfield for appointment as a Judge to the Maine District Court.

Pursuant to Title 4, MRSA § 157, this appointment is contingent on the Maine Senate confirmation after review by the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary.

Thank you.

Very truly yours,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1038

**STATE OF MAINE
129TH LEGISLATURE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
SPEAKER'S OFFICE**

March 11, 2020

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

Dear Secretary Grant:

Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (I) (a), I have appointed Representative Kevin O'Connell of Brewer to the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs, replacing Representative Brian Hubbell, effective immediately.

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

Sincerely,

S/Sara Gideon
Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1033

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

March 6, 2020

Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, Senate President
Honorable Sara Gideon, Speaker of the House
129th Maine State Legislature
State House
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Gideon,

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

L.D. 1873 An Act To Improve Response to Sudden Cardiac Arrest by Requiring Training in the Delivery of Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation Methods by Telecommunications Technology

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Susan Deschambault Senate Chair S/Rep. Charlotte May Warren House Chair

READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1040

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

March 06, 2020

Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
Honorable Sara Gideon, Speaker of the House
129th Legislature
State House
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Gideon:

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

L.D. 1950 An Act To Advance Palliative Care Utilization in the State (EMERGENCY)

L.D. 1951 An Act To Assist Persons with Disabilities Who Are Subject to Pill Count Requirements

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Geoff Gratwick Senate Chair S/Rep. Patty Hymanson House Chair

READ and with accompanying papers ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The Following Communication: S.C. 1039

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

March 09, 2020

Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
Honorable Sara Gideon, Speaker of the House
129th Legislature
State House
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Gideon:

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

- L.D. 51 An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Task Force on Health Care Coverage for All of Maine
- L.D. 366 An Act To Protect Elderly Persons from Financial Abuse
- L.D. 1085 An Act To Ensure That Maine Residents Have Adequate and Affordable Access to Health Care
- L.D. 1673 An Act To Prohibit Prescription Drug Advertising
- L.D. 2116 An Act To Improve Prescription Information Access

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Heather B. Sanborn S/Rep. Denise A. Tepler
Senate Chair House Chair

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

The Following Communication: S.C. 1041

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY NINTH LEGISLATURE
COMMITTEE ON TAXATION**

March 04, 2020

Honorable Troy Dale Jackson, President of the Senate
Honorable Sara Gideon, Speaker of the House
129th Legislature
State House
Augusta, Maine 04333

Dear President Jackson and Speaker Gideon:

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

- L.D. 731 An Act To Amend the Maine Tax Laws

This is notification of the Committee's action.

Sincerely,

S/Sen. Ben Chipman S/Rep. Ryan Tipping
Senate Chair House Chair

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

Off Record Remarks

SENATE PAPERS

Bill "An Act To Permit Naloxone Possession and Administration in Public and Private Schools"

S.P. 776 L.D. 2152

Presented by Senator MILLETT of Cumberland.
Submitted by the Department of Education pursuant to Joint Rule 205.

On motion by Senator **MILLETT** of Cumberland, **REFERRED** to the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** and ordered printed.

Sent down for concurrence.

Bill "An Act To Establish an Accidental Drug Overdose Death Review Panel" (EMERGENCY)

S.P. 779 L.D. 2153

Presented by Senator CARPENTER of Aroostook.
(GOVERNOR'S BILL)

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

Sent down for concurrence.

ORDERS

Joint Order

Expression of Legislative Sentiment recognizing:

Dave Ross, of China, a Maine Game Warden, who has been named the 2019 Conservation Officer of the Year by the National Wildlife Turkey Federation. We extend our congratulations and best wishes;

SLS 1119

Sponsored by Senator **POULIOT** of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Representative: **THERIAULT** of China.

The Joint Order was **READ**.

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

Senator **POULIOT:** Thank you, Mr. President. I think Senator Luchini took my little tip sheet on what to say. Good morning, ladies and gentlemen of the Senate. I'm pleased that Game Warden Dave Ross is able to join us today. Warden Ross was recently named 2019 Conservation Officer of the Year by the National Wildlife Turkey Federation. Warden Ross was honored for his ability to put a case together and apprehend the intentional Fish and Game violator to protect Maine's natural resources, as well as his dedication to supporting landowners who have kept their land open for hunting. He consistently goes above and beyond the call of duty. Last winter he volunteered his time, property, and home to the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to help with the wild turkey study. As a sportsman personally and game warden professionally, he also spends countless hours introducing men and women into the outdoors, both on and off duty. I would like to congratulate Warden Ross on this well-deserved award and thank him for all of his hard work in keeping Maine's outdoors a safe and enjoyable place for all to enjoy. Thank you, Mr. President.

The Joint Order was **PASSED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would very much like to recognize in the rear of the Chamber Warden Dave Ross, Commissioner Judy Camuso, Colonel Dan Scott, and Captain Shan Theriault. They are all guests today of the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Pouliot, and the entire Maine Senate. Would they please rise and accept the greetings of the Maine Senate.

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

Senator **HERBIG:** Thank you, Mr. President. Women and men of the Senate, I'd really like to welcome Alex Tripp of Northport here in the Senate Chamber today. Alex lives in Northport. She is a junior at Belfast Area High School and this past year was named the Youth Volunteer of the Year from the Game Loft in Belfast. How she achieved this really impressive recognition is

that she actually served 294 volunteer hours last year. Mainly this was done as a mentor to 8th graders. The majority of this was mentoring children in the 'I Know ME' program, the 'I Know Maine' program, which is a program, fabulous, that the Game Loft started to instill a real pride in the fact that children are growing up here in Maine and this is our home. So they are learning about wonderful things about our state and how they should be proud to be from here. I can't think of something that is more relevant right now, as we look to keep young people in our state, and I just want to thank Alex for this tremendous accomplishment, the service she has given to our community. Congratulations.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would like to recognize in the rear of the Chamber Ray and Patricia Estabrook and the students from the 'I Know ME' program based at Mt. View Middle School, including Alex Tripp who will be receiving a sentiment. They are all the guests today of the Senator from Waldo, Senator Herbig. Would they please accept the congratulations from the Maine State Senate.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (2/4/20) matter:

JOINT RESOLUTION - Memorializing Todd N. Tolhurst, of South China. Mr. Tolhurst was an early information technology adopter and started his career at Radio Shack. For the past 20 years, he has served as Director of Development at InforME in Augusta. He pursued a variety of interests, was a member of MENSA, the high IQ society, and was a leader in the Gun Owners of Maine organization, as he strongly believed in the 2nd Amendment and working to preserve gun rights and foster gun safety. Mr. Tolhurst will be long remembered and sadly missed by his family and friends and all those whose lives he touched;

SLS 1025

Tabled - February 4, 2020 by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc

Pending - **ADOPTION**

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

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

Senator **POULIOT:** Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I rise today to enter into the record of the deliberations of this Body a moment of recognition and thanks for the life and work of the late Todd Tolhurst of China. Todd is remembered, depending on your perspective, with either fondness or frustration for his contributions to the discourse on issues here at the Capital. But regardless of differences of political opinion, all who met, worked with, and debated Todd admired his frank honesty, respect, and love for this institution and his gentle and kind demeanor. But there's much, much more of a legacy that Todd Tolhurst leaves behind, in which I believe elevates this moment at this point, for his professional work and expert guidance to those around him in that realm that impacts

everything that we engage in in our work, in not only our government service but in our professional and personal lives as well. In 1998, the 118th Legislature passed into law L.D. 2112, An Act Creating the InforME Public Information Act, to ensure access to electronic public records, which was sponsored by the Senator from York, President Lawrence. For the first time, Maine State government would offer public services in a coordinated, secure way on-line. Today, Maine.Gov is the primary source of information for citizens looking to do everything from purchase fishing licenses to filing a non-profit corporation, and from checking the abandon property list to inquiring about the rules for a professional license, and so much more. InforME provides hundreds of services to the citizens of Maine, far beyond what could have been envisioned by the members of the 118th Legislature. Todd may not have been there at the very beginning but he arrived soon after. As the Senior Developer of Services within InforME, Todd's work lives on, whether our neighbors are looking for a burn permit or an absentee ballot. Todd's lasting imprint goes beyond his expertise, although that was prodigious. A Senior Department Executive told me the story of receiving a Facebook message early one weekend morning that a particular service was down. Ten minutes after a note to Todd the issue was resolved. Many of Todd's co-workers are here with us today and I hope you have the opportunity to meet them. They are devoted a group of experts with a passion for service as we may ever get to know. Todd supported them, trained many of them, and was a friend to all. This winter Todd was stricken by a swift-moving and aggressive cancer that took him away from his work, his passions, his co-workers, and his beloved wife. It's not fair but it's life and we bear the loss and the pain and continue on. As we bend to the work before us, our work is made more efficient, more responsive, and, indeed, made a pleasure by the legacy of the work of Todd Tolhurst. His friendship to so many and his love for our democracy should shine a light for all of us. Thank you, Mr. President.

The Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would like to recognize in the rear of the Chamber Mr. Tolhurst's wife, Elizabeth Curtis; and many of his former co-workers from InforME. Ms. Curtis is from the town of South China and she's the guest today of the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Pouliot. Would they all please stand and accept our condolences.

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:

Jeffrey A. Cammack, of Dedham. Mr. Cammack served with the Bangor Fire Department from 1979 to 2012, retiring as Chief after sixteen years of service in that position. He went on to serve as the Executive Director and legislative advocate for the Maine Fire Chiefs' Association. Mr. Cammack will be long remembered and sadly missed by his family and friends and all those whose lives he touched;

HLS 912

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

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

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

Senator **GRATWICK:** Thank you, Mr. President and colleagues here in the Senate. I, too, would just like to express my great appreciation of Chief Cammack. His wife is here, Carmen, as well as daughters, Jessica and April, and brother, Joey, who is the Fire Chief in Brewer. He was truly a remarkable man. He was a people person. He was a family man above all else, but he was a very efficient man. Extraordinary department in Bangor. We greatly regret his passing. Thank you, Mr. President.

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

Senator **GUERIN:** Thank you, Mr. President. I, too, wanted to join in honoring Jeff's memory and sending my condolences to his family. He had been a high school friend of my husband's and I know a fierce competitor. I especially appreciated the work that I was able to do with Jeff in bringing the fire safety program to Eastern Maine Community College and many of our local firefighters have stayed in Eastern Maine because of that program's location at the college and that was in great part due to Jeff's work. Thank you.

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

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would like to recognize up in the Gallery Mrs. Cammick and members of her family, members of the Bangor Fire Department. Would they please stand and accept the condolences of the Maine State Senate.

ORDERS

Joint Resolutions

On motion by Senator **MILLETT** of Cumberland (Cosponsored by Representative **MARTIN** of Eagle Lake and Senators: **BELLOWS** of Kennebec, **BREEN** of Cumberland, **CARSON** of Cumberland, **CHENETTE** of York, **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc, Representatives: **DUNPHY** of Old Town, **JORGENSEN** of Portland, **PIERCE** of Falmouth), the following Joint Resolution:

S.P. 777

**JOINT RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING APRIL 22, 2020 AS
ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION DAY**

WHEREAS, April 22, 2020 marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day; and
WHEREAS, the first Earth Day in 1970 included teach-ins across the country focused on environmental education; and
WHEREAS, environmental education builds emotional and social skills, including self-esteem, character development, teamwork and leadership skills and climate literacy by encouraging students to research and think critically about complex environmental issues; and
WHEREAS, environmental education improves overall academic performance by embracing many other disciplines such as science, social studies, language arts, mathematics, engineering, fine arts and technology; and
WHEREAS, outdoor learning may contribute to greater long-term retention of academic material through hands-on, experiential learning; and
WHEREAS, green schoolyards promote physical health by providing many active and cooperative play options for children of different abilities, ages and genders; and
WHEREAS, healthy school meals support brain power with vitamins and nutrients needed for focus and energy, promote healthy eating habits outside of the classroom and decrease childhood obesity rates; and
WHEREAS, environmental education prepares students for careers in green and STEM industries, which are high in demand, contribute to economic development and are expected to grow in the future; and
WHEREAS, environmental education promotes civic engagement and environmental awareness, fostering an ability to participate in lifelong environmental decision making and stewardship; and
WHEREAS, environmental education continues to gain support from individuals, educational institutions, nonprofit organizations, governments and commercial enterprises across the world; now, therefore, be it
RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize April 22, 2020 as Environmental Education Day and encourage educators and schools to conduct environmental activities so students will understand the importance of these practices.

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

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

Senator **MILLETT**: Thank you, Mr. President. Men and women of the Senate, I rise today as a parent who is greatly concerned about the planet we are leaving for our children. That is the reason why I sponsored this Joint Resolution declaring April 22nd as Environmental Education Day. Fifty years ago, at a time when few protections existed for our environment, polluted waterways and polluted air were the norm. Nationwide, Americans began to increase our environmental conscientiousness, culminating with 20 million Americans gathering on one day in 1970. That movement lasted well beyond one day, as we all know. Although most of us now are far more aware of environmental issues than we were back then, there is still much more yet to be done and understood. We're realizing now that future generations are going to be the ones to live with the consequences of climate

change and the ones who will figure out how to address many of the issues that are bound to become a part of daily life. It's with this knowledge that we, the current leaders of our state, must do all we can to continue educating our younger generations about the environment and prepare them for the future in the best way we can. Whether this means hands-on learning outside civic engagement or training in green sciences and technology, it will all contribute to a more prepared society as we transition to a world where climate change continues to impact our daily lives in more ways. I hope you will all join me in spreading awareness and knowledge about Environmental Education Day on April 22nd. Thank you, Mr. President.

The Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

On motion by Senator **CLAXTON** of Androscoggin (Cosponsored by Representative **FAY** of Raymond and Senators: **BLACK** of Franklin, **DOW** of Lincoln, **HAMPER** of Oxford, President **JACKSON** of Aroostook, **LIBBY** of Androscoggin, **ROSEN** of Hancock, **TIMBERLAKE** of Androscoggin, Representatives: **ARATA** of New Gloucester, **BICKFORD** of Auburn, **CLOUTIER** of Lewiston, **DILLINGHAM** of Oxford, **LANDRY** of Farmington, **MAREAN** of Hollis, **NADEAU** of Winslow, **SHEATS** of Auburn, **THERIAULT** of China), the following Joint Resolution:
S.P. 778

**JOINT RESOLUTION
RECOGNIZING POLAND SPRING
ON ITS 175TH ANNIVERSARY AS ONE OF
MAINE'S OLDEST AND MOST ICONIC BUSINESSES**

WHEREAS, the Poland Spring Company was founded in 1845 by the Ricker family when Hiram Ricker began selling the clean, refreshing natural spring water he had discovered surfacing deep in the woods of Poland, Maine; and
WHEREAS, since 1845, Maine settlers and dignitaries have flocked to Poland Spring for its picturesque setting and its spring waters and, since the early 1900s, to visit the state-of-the-art bottling facility and springhouse; and
WHEREAS, in the late 1800s, the Poland Spring Company began receiving recognition and earning accolades at the World's Columbian Exposition of 1893 in Chicago and then earned the grand prize at the St. Louis World's Fair of 1904, propelling the Poland Spring area and the company to international fame; and
WHEREAS, the company established offices in locations as diverse as Boston, Portland, New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, London and Cairo, and the water was served on Pullman cars throughout the United States, on transatlantic ships and on zeppelins; and
WHEREAS, in 1976, the Poland Spring Preservation Society was created to preserve the rich history of Poland Spring, including its grounds and artifacts from over a century of doing business; and
WHEREAS, in 2001, the original bottling facility and springhouse were converted into the Poland Spring Museum, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places; and
WHEREAS, Poland Spring 100% Natural Spring Water has become an iconic Maine product and a leading brand of spring water; and

WHEREAS, today the Poland Spring Company provides almost 900 jobs in rural counties of Maine with an annual payroll exceeding \$49 million, provides over 260 Maine vendors with sales exceeding \$136 million and supports a combined 2,300 jobs across the State generating incomes totaling approximately \$120 million; and

WHEREAS, the Poland Spring Company is a valued community partner, supporting highly regarded Maine nonprofit organizations including The Ecology School, the Gulf of Maine Research Institute, the Children's Museum & Theatre of Maine, the Saco Watershed Collaborative and many others; and

WHEREAS, the Poland Spring Company has committed to selling 100% of its bottled still water products in 100% recycled plastic by 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Poland Spring Company celebrates its 175th anniversary this year; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Twenty-ninth Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to recognize this occasion and offer the Poland Spring Company our heartiest congratulations on this milestone, with continued good wishes for many years of service to the people of Maine; and be it further

RESOLVED: That suitable copies of this resolution, duly authenticated by the Secretary of State, be transmitted to the Poland Spring Company.

The Joint Resolution was **READ**.

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

Senator **CLAXTON:** Thank you, Mr. President. I think at a time when our world changes hour by hour and minute by minute, it's worth taking the time to step back and appreciate a company whose past includes 175 years of employment. Its current commitment includes about 900 jobs in the state and whose future includes a commitment to getting rid of plastic and wood product alternatives after its 100% recycled plastic in 2022. Based on those things, especially its track record, I think Poland Springs deserves significant recognition for a long-term service and career and look forward to its joining Maine for the next 175 years. Thank you, Mr. President.

The Joint Resolution was **ADOPTED**.

Sent down for concurrence.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair would like to recognize in the rear of the Chamber a number of representatives from the Poland Spring Company. Thomas Brennan, he's the Senior Natural Resources Manager; Dana Pinkham, who is the Community Relations Specialist. They are the guests today of the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Claxton, and the entire Maine Senate. Would they please rise and accept the greetings and congratulations of the Maine Senate.

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

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Ought to Pass Pursuant to Statute

The Committee on **ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES** on Bill "An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Department of Environmental Protection Regarding the State's Plastic Bag Reduction Law"
H.P. 1538 L.D. 2148

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass**, pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 38, section 1772, subsection 5.

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

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

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

Ought to Pass

The Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** on Bill "An Act To Amend Maine's Fish and Wildlife Licensing and Registration Laws"
H.P. 1368 L.D. 1920

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

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

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

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

Ought to Pass As Amended

The Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** on Bill "An Act To Amend the Laws Relating to Harness Racing"
H.P. 1149 L.D. 1590

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-727)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-727)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-727) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

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

The Committee on **AGRICULTURE, CONSERVATION AND FORESTRY** on Bill "An Act To Protect the Products of Maine Farmers"

H.P. 1355 L.D. 1889

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-726)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-726)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-726) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

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

The Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** on Bill "An Act To Strengthen Maine's Landowner Relations Program"

H.P. 471 L.D. 650

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-722)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-722)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-722) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

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

The Committee on **INLAND FISHERIES AND WILDLIFE** on Bill "An Act To Clarify and Enhance Maine's Fish and Wildlife Laws"

H.P. 1369 L.D. 1921

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-721)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-721)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-721) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

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

The Committee on **JUDICIARY** on Bill "An Act To Reduce the Period of Enforcement for Judgments Based upon Consumer Obligations"

H.P. 776 L.D. 1053

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-716)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-716)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-716) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

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

The Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** on Bill "An Act To Create a Commercial Menhaden Fishing License"

H.P. 1370 L.D. 1922

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-723)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-723)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-723) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

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

The Committee on **STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** on Resolve, Authorizing the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry To Convey Certain Land in the Little Moose Unit of Moosehead Junction Township

H.P. 1280 L.D. 1799

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-728)**.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Resolve **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-728)**.

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

Resolve **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-728) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

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

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Bill "An Act To Require a Cable System Operator To Provide a Pro Rata Credit When Service Is Cancelled by a Subscriber"

H.P. 1441 L.D. 2031

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-717)**.

Signed:

Senators:

LAWRENCE of York
MIRAMANT of Knox

Representatives:

BERRY of Bowdoinham
CAIAZZO of Scarborough
DOUDERA of Camden
FOSTER of Dexter
GROHOSKI of Ellsworth
KESSLER of South Portland

RILEY of Jay
RYKERSON of Kittery

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

Signed:

Representatives:

GRIGNON of Athens
HANLEY of Pittston

Comes from the House with 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-717)**.

Reports **READ**.

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

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#422)

YEAS: Senators: BELLOWS, BLACK, BREEN, CARPENTER, CARSON, CHENETTE, CHIPMAN, CLAXTON, CYRWAY, DAVIS, DESCHAMBAULT, DIAMOND, DILL, FOLEY, GRATWICK, GUERIN, HAMPER, HERBIG, LIBBY, LUCHINI, MILLETT, MIRAMANT, MOORE, POULIOT, SANBORN H, SANBORN L, TIMBERLAKE, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: None

EXCUSED: Senators: DOW, FARRIN, KEIM, LAWRENCE, ROSEN, WOODSOME

29 Senators having voted in the affirmative and no Senators having voted in the negative, with 6 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **LIBBY** of Androscoggin to **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report, in concurrence, **PREVAILED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-717) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

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

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **LABOR AND HOUSING** on Bill "An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Subminimum Wage" H.P. 1340 L.D. 1874

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-724)**.

Signed:

Senators:

BELLOWS of Kennebec
GUERIN of Penobscot

Representatives:

SYLVESTER of Portland
AUSTIN of Gray
BRADSTREET of Vassalboro
CARNEY of Cape Elizabeth
CUDDY of Winterport
DOORE of Augusta
MORRIS of Turner
RYKERSON of Kittery

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

Signed:

Representative:

LOCKMAN of Bradley

Comes from the House with 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-724)**.

Reports **READ**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (H-724) **READ** and **ADOPTED**, in concurrence.

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

Senate
Ought to Pass As Amended

Senator MIRAMANT for the Committee on **MARINE RESOURCES** on Bill "An Act To Make Technical Changes to Maine's Marine Resources Laws"

S.P. 667 L.D. 1925

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-420)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-420) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Senator LUCHINI for the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act To Impose Further Restrictions on where Marijuana May Be Smoked"

S.P. 313 L.D. 1081

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-425)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-425) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Senator LUCHINI for the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act To Clarify the Laws Governing Financial Relationships between Entities within the Three-tier System for Distribution of Alcohol"

S.P. 737 L.D. 2088

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-426)**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-426) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act To Increase Funding for Career and Technical Education Programs"

S.P. 512 L.D. 1606

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-423)**.

Signed:

Senators:

MILLETT of Cumberland
CARSON of Cumberland

Representatives:

KORNFIELD of Bangor
BRENNAN of Portland
DODGE of Belfast
FARNSWORTH of Portland
INGWERSEN of Arundel
McCREA of Fort Fairfield

The Minority of the same Committee on the same subject reported that the same **Ought To Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (S-424)**.

Signed:

Senator:

POULIOT of Kennebec

Representatives:

DRINKWATER of Milford
PECTEAU of Augusta
RUDNICKI of Fairfield
SAMPSON of Alfred

Reports **READ**.

On motion by Senator **MILLETT** of Cumberland, the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-423)** Report **ACCEPTED**.

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-423) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-423)**.

Sent down for concurrence.

Divided Report

The Majority of the Committee on **TRANSPORTATION** on Resolve, Directing the Department of Transportation To Erect and Maintain Markers To Commemorate and Recognize the Lafayette Trail

S.P. 669 L.D. 1927

Reported that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-427)**.

Signed:

Senators:

DIAMOND of Cumberland
CHIPMAN of Cumberland

Representatives:

McLEAN of Gorham
AUSTIN of Skowhegan
BRYANT of Windham
COLLINGS of Portland
MARTIN of Greene
PERKINS of Oakland
SHEATS of Auburn
WHITE of Waterville
WHITE of Mars Hill

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

Signed:

Senator:

FARRIN of Somerset

Reports **READ**.

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

Bill **READ ONCE**.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-427) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Divided Report

Eight members of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** on Bill "An Act To Incentivize the Purchase of Electric Public School Buses" (EMERGENCY)
S.P. 646 L.D. 1894

Reported in Report "A" that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-421)**.

Signed:

Senators:

MILLETT of Cumberland
CARSON of Cumberland

Representatives:

KORNFIELD of Bangor
BRENNAN of Portland
DODGE of Belfast
FARNSWORTH of Portland
INGWERSEN of Arundel
McCREA of Fort Fairfield

Three members of the same Committee on the same subject reported in Report "B" that the same **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "B" (S-422).**

Signed:

Senator:

POULIOT of Kennebec

Representatives:

DRINKWATER of Milford
SAMPSON of Alfred

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

Signed:

Representatives:

FECTEAU of Augusta
RUDNICKI of Fairfield

Reports **READ.**

Senator **MILLETT** of Cumberland moved the Senate **ACCEPT** Report "A", **UGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-421).**

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

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

Senator **TIMBERLAKE:** Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I have a real concern about this bill. A paper we were handed out today says 'An Act to Transition the Public School Bus Fleets to 100% Zero Emissions.' Well, I don't believe it's 100% zero emissions because we have to charge them and I don't believe that we're charging them with zero emissions. I believe that there will be coal-fired, propane, and oil-fired generation at some point in time charging them. Also the one thing that I bring to attention is I have owned electric vehicles in our farm operation for a number of years, the forklifts and everything else, and this is a strong, bold standard to try to put the state of Maine in because electrically charged vehicles work great in 75 and 80 degree weather but when you get to sub-zero

temperatures the battery life and the capacity drops at a very high rate of speed and cuts basically in less than half. I would more than support the Committee Amendment "B" to be moved forward which looks into other alternatives to reduce carbon emissions. I'm not against reducing carbon emissions. I'm not against the other things but the cost of these buses is astronomically more than what a conventional bus would be that we could get better emissions out of and so that's why I'm opposing this. You know, I've lived it, worked with it, worked with it with my hands every day, and this isn't the solution. The batteries are nasty, they're hard to maintain, they're hard to keep maintained, and the cost of operation is substantially higher than a fossil fuel vehicle. So I hope we can find another way to do this. I want to lower the emissions. I'm not against that but I think there's a better way and I don't think this bill is the way to do it. So please join me in opposing this motion. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Knox, Senator Miramant.

Senator **MIRAMANT:** Thank you, Mr. President. Men and women of the Senate, some of the things that my colleague has pointed out are true of smaller vehicles. One of the things we're going to see is great leaps in technology and it's not really technology, it's how many batteries can you carry. The trucks, buses, those will be the first to have ranges that we need for a vehicle to be successful, even in cold weather, even when you cut down in half the range of something that can carry enough batteries with no problem to go 600 miles in a day, 800 miles on a charge. I say a day because these buses sit overnight, so they can charge at the lowest rate that they can get electricity. They can carry enough so that on the coldest day they can do its job. There are zero emissions coming out of the vehicle. How we do charging by the date 2045 is a goal, it's not a mandate, it's a goal, will be determined by how well we reach other goals that we have of producing our power from clean, alternative sources, which I think by 2045 we'll be looking at how fast we got to it before that date. So, we need incentives to make this transition. The cost of the batteries is coming down. The technology and the batteries are about to turn another corner. Within a couple of years it won't make sense to buy an internal combustion engine vehicle at all, and I may be off by a year or two but that's okay. The ranges are increasing. The cost per kilowatt is reducing. Everything's heading that way but we need infrastructure for it to work. We need to provide some incentives for the infrastructure and, if we ever take into account the cost of carbon emissions, you wouldn't even blink at the cost of these buses but even that's going to keep coming down. So, this is a great bill, incentivizes everyone to know that this is the direction we should be heading and I support it for that reason. Thank you.

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

Senator **LIBBY:** Thank you, Mr. President. Men and women of the Senate, two very brief points. The first is that the cost of electric vehicles and the batteries are dropping dramatically as adoption increases and it is not going to be long when the cost to operate electric buses drop below the cost of operating fossil fuel vehicles. Really what this bill is about, it's not a mandate, it's not saying that the schools shall adopt the new form of technology, but it's really about planning for the future. This bill is about

helping school districts who are interested in going down this road, helping them figure out how to transition to using more electric buses in their fleet in a way that is realistic and practical for them because we all know what makes sense in Southern Maine may not make sense in Northern Maine and that sort of thing. So it's for those reasons I'm supporting the Majority Report and I'd ask you to join me. Thank you.

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

Senator **CARSON:** Thank you, Mr. President. I rise briefly to echo and support the comments made by my colleagues from Knox and Androscoggin. Importantly, the cost of electric buses and the batteries is coming down. The operational costs, according to my research of an electric school bus, saves roughly \$8,400 per year over that of maintaining a standard diesel bus. The useful life of school buses, again according to my research, is 15 to 16 years, so by the end of the useful life, and this is today, we're actually saving money over the life of that bus and I have every confidence that 5, 10, 15 or more years out the calculus will show that we can save a lot more money in addition to the greenhouse gases that we are saving. So I urge members to support the pending motion. Thank you.

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

Senator **H. SANBORN:** Thank you, Mr. President. I hadn't intended to rise on this bill but I just wanted to underscore one thing that my good friend, Senator Libby, said which is that this is about the future. This is about planning for the future and it's about the future of our planet and I heard some comments earlier that are not about the future. They are about the past or the current day and the current technological limitations that one might either think exists or fear exists. This is about 2045. This is about whether we're going to have a cleaner planet for all of the kids that are going to be living here at that point and riding on those school buses and it's just about planning to get us to a place where they can still breathe the air and live in Maine and where there is, hopefully, still snow on our ski mountains. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: The pending question before the Senate is Acceptance of Report "A", Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-421). If you are in favor of accepting that report you will be voting yes. If you are opposed you will be voting no. Is the Senate ready for the question?

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#423)

YEAS: Senators: BELLOWS, BREEN, CARPENTER, CARSON, CHENETTE, CHIPMAN, CLAXTON, DESCHAMBAULT, DIAMOND, GRATWICK, HERBIG, LIBBY, LUCHINI, MILLETT, MIRAMANT, SANBORN H, SANBORN L, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: BLACK, CYRWAY, DAVIS, DILL, FOLEY, GUERIN, HAMPER, MOORE, POULIOT, TIMBERLAKE

EXCUSED: Senators: DOW, FARRIN, KEIM, LAWRENCE, ROSEN, WOODSOME

19 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 10 Senators having voted in the negative, with 6 Senators being excused, the motion by Senator **MILLETT** of Cumberland to **ACCEPT** Report "A", **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-421), PREVAILED.**

Bill **READ ONCE.**

Committee Amendment "A" (S-421) **READ** and **ADOPTED.**

Under suspension of the Rules, **READ A SECOND TIME** and **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-421).**

Sent down for concurrence.

ENACTORS

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

Emergency Measure

An Act To Provide Critical Communications for Family Farms, Businesses and Residences by Strategic Public Investment in High-speed Internet and Broadband Infrastructure
H.P. 136 L.D. 173
(C "A" H-698)

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

Emergency Measure

An Act To Increase the State Share of the Cost of Health Insurance for Retired Teachers
H.P. 141 L.D. 178
(C "A" H-701)

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

Emergency Resolve

Resolve, To Ensure Safe and Inclusive Learning Environments
H.P. 1291 L.D. 1813
(C "A" H-702)

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

An Act To Provide Women Access to Affordable Postpartum Care
H.P. 1401 L.D. 1957
(C "A" H-704)

Acts

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

An Act To Penalize Violators of Wood Shipment and Quarantine Laws

S.P. 575 L.D. 1726
(C "A" S-412)

An Act To Provide for Judicial Review in Compliance with the Federal Legislation Known as the Family First Prevention Services Act

H.P. 1450 L.D. 2039
(C "A" H-700)

An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Composition of the Shellfish Advisory Council

H.P. 1360 L.D. 1906
(C "A" H-697)

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

An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System

S.P. 668 L.D. 1926
(C "A" S-411)

An Act To Encourage the Development of Broadband Coverage in Rural Maine

S.P. 498 L.D. 1563
(C "A" S-405)

An Act To Amend the Law Governing Maximum Length Limits for Truck Tractor Semitrailers

S.P. 707 L.D. 2005

An Act To Modify Teacher Certification Expiration Dates for Teachers Who Use Family Medical Leave

H.P. 1445 L.D. 2035
(C "A" H-703)

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

An Act To Consolidate Certain Reporting Requirements of the Department of Health and Human Services

S.P. 727 L.D. 2054

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

An Act To Clarify the Provision for Care of Infants after Birth

H.P. 1463 L.D. 2059

Off Record Remarks

An Act To Clarify Certificate of Approval Requirements under the State's Liquor Laws

S.P. 738 L.D. 2089
(C "A" S-407)

RECESSED until the sound of the bell.

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

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

Off Record Remarks

An Act To Establish the Maine Community College System Pell Grant Match Program

H.P. 634 L.D. 860
(C "A" H-692)

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Unfinished Business

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

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

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (2/20/20) matter:

Bill "An Act To Require Background Investigations for Certain Individuals To Receive Federal Tax Information in Accordance with Federal Standards" (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 1375 L.D. 1931

Tabled - February 20, 2020 by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc

Pending - **PASSAGE TO BE ENGROSSED** in concurrence

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

The Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED**, in concurrence

The Chair laid before the Senate the following Tabled and Later Assigned (3/5/20) matter:

SENATE REPORTS - from the Committee on **ENERGY, UTILITIES AND TECHNOLOGY** on Bill "An Act To Provide Funding for Broadband Internet Infrastructure in Unserved and Underserved Areas"

S.P. 711 L.D. 2021

Majority - **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-414)** (8 members)

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

Tabled - March 5, 2020 by Senator **VITELLI** of Sagadahoc

Pending - **ACCEPTANCE OF EITHER REPORT**

Senator **LIBBY** of Androscoggin moved the Senate **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report.

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

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

Senator **HERBIG:** Thank you, Mr. President. Women and men of the Senate, I just want to share with you, pretty much when I left the office yesterday until I came here today I spent most of my time on the phone with my step-daughter who is a student at the University of Maine and she just found out yesterday that her classes for the rest of her semester are going to be on-line. She told me that she's really hoping this is going to happen until it actually happened. Now she's sort of a young person processing all this because this is a really big change in her life. What I will also, an additional stress that our family has is that Anna's talking about how she's going to complete her on-line classes and at our house we don't have access to reliable high speed internet. So if you see Anna here in the halls with me over the next few weeks she may be doing a lot of her studies here. It's nice that we have an option. It's nice that my job offers some flexibility, that we can provide that. Most families in the state, in rural parts of the state,

don't have access to this very vital service to participate in today's economy and today's education system and today's healthcare systems. A lot of people in our state still don't have access to that. A lot of times in my drive between here and Belfast I stop at the Palermo Library. People, my constituents, love seeing me there. They wave to me and say, 'Hey, how's it going?' I'm like, 'I'm just here using the internet,' because I don't have it at my house. But I think that also makes them realize that I'm in it with them. I've been working on this issue for ten years. I'm frustrated because I feel like people in this Chamber keep saying that this is not a priority. I think that those people have access to reliable high speed internet at their home and their business. In fact, I know they do. I'm tired of being told that this is not a priority. So I give you a really extreme example of the Corona Virus. It's something on my mind. It's something that's very much on the mind of my step-daughter right now and our family. But I often use the argument in this Chamber that extreme examples don't make great laws. So in case you're saying that, let me give you some really concrete, solid examples right now. Number one, students. Talk about snow days: schools are talking about moving to internet access for our students so they can continue with their education. In Waldo County that won't work. That won't work in a lot of your towns, those of you that represent small communities especially, more rural areas. Continuing education: we've a changing economy in which people are required to get more skills to make a higher wage, to provide more for their families, be more successful in Maine's economy. You can't do that at your house if you don't have connection to the reliable high speed internet. Businesses: just as important as a road right now to access the market. Farmers in my district tell me that they're in a field all day, all summer, and they come in and then they have to wait until midnight to log onto the internet when the speed is slow enough just so they can send out invoices. That is ridiculous. That is not good enough. We are not doing well here. Seniors: telehealth, telemedicine. This is something that is such an incredible part of our healthcare system, one that is really struggling right now. This is an opportunity for savings, to be able to provide to seniors in our state. Again, I am tired of being told by people that have access to reliable high speed internet that this is not a priority. My communities are falling behind when we do not make a sizeable investment. This cannot wait any longer. This should not have waited as long as it has and this needs to happen this year. Thank you.

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

Senator **BELLOWS:** Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, first let me just thank the good Senator from Waldo. She is going to be deeply missed for many reasons, but her vision and leadership on economic development and broadband have been extraordinary and those were incredible remarks that are difficult to follow. My district is closer to anybody's district except for the good Senator from Augusta. All of my district is within 50 miles of Maine's capital. While I have rural areas, some might say it's Central Maine. It's not as rural as the rest of the state. When I first started meeting with constituents, and I've now met with well over 10,000 constituents, people told me time and time again that high speed reliable internet was a major issue. Now I have it on my street in Manchester, but when I learned that there were people in my town and people in surrounding towns that didn't I was

incredulous. The market is not filling the need for infrastructure investment and I would liken this to rural electrification because high speed reliable internet is no longer a luxury that those who can afford have. It's something that's basic to our daily lives. Perhaps being the only one in this Chamber who grew up without electricity, I know what it's like for a child not to have access to the same basic services and infrastructure that other children do in my town or in my community. So just like in the 1930's and 1940's, federal government and the State of Maine made a significant investment in rural electrification. This is the time for significant investment in broadband and you may say, 'Why now? We're entering into a crisis downstairs?' The Chief Executive just announced that the first phase of Corona Virus has, in fact, been identified in a person quarantined.

My mother is a home healthcare nurse and she will be traveling into the homes of the seniors as she does every day in Hancock County for the duration of this crisis and beyond. Her employer encourages the home healthcare nurses to use telehealth when they can but many of my mother's clients don't have access to the internet. They won't be able to join a Zoom or a video conference to show my mother what their symptoms are. My mother just moved from dial up to DSL. So what I'm asking you today is to see this as a basic need, as a public responsibility. The time for investment in broadband is now, both because of the circumstances that we find ourselves in today and for the future of our state. Please join me and the good Senator from Waldo County in voting ought to pass. Let's invest in broadband today. Thank you.

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

Senator **GRATWICK:** Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I'll simply note that telemedicine is a major part of medical care now. It's going to become much more so in the future and I think that everybody's aware that at this particular time, this very moment, downstairs in the hall we're emphasizing how important it is to be able to communicate with healthcare providers by some other way than face to face. This is an extraordinarily important initiative. You cannot contact your healthcare providers unless you have broadband.

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

Senator **POULIOT:** Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to let the good Senator from Kennebec, Senator Bellows, know that I've been in communication with a constituent recently that lives about 300 yards beyond the entrance to the dump in Augusta, which if you look on a map is actually at the geographic center of Augusta. A lot of people don't know it's over on the east side. A lot of people think it's on the fringe of Augusta but it's really at the geographic center. This gentleman lives about 300 yards past the entrance to that, cannot get broadband internet at his home and an organization, that shall remain nameless, is wanting to charge him exorbitant rates to try to run line to his house. So, I'll be supporting this measure. I hope the rest of the member of this Body will as well. Thank you.

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

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

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#424)

YEAS: Senators: BELLOWS, BLACK, BREEN, CARPENTER, CHENETTE, CHIPMAN, CLAXTON, CYRWAY, DAVIS, DESCHAMBAULT, DIAMOND, DILL, FOLEY, GRATWICK, GUERIN, HERBIG, LIBBY, LUCHINI, MILLETT, MIRAMANT, MOORE, POULIOT, SANBORN H, SANBORN L, TIMBERLAKE, VITELLI, PRESIDENT JACKSON

NAYS: Senators: HAMPER

EXCUSED: Senators: CARSON, DOW, FARRIN, KEIM, LAWRENCE, ROSEN, WOODSOME

27 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 1 Senator having voted in the negative, with 7 Senator being excused, the motion by Senator **LIBBY** of Androscoggin **ACCEPT** the Majority **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report **PREVAILED**.

Bill READ ONCE.

Committee Amendment "A" (S-414) **READ** and **ADOPTED**.

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

Sent down for concurrence.

Off Record Remarks

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

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

House

Pursuant to Joint Order

The Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY** on Bill "An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Maine Juvenile Justice System Assessment and Reinvestment Task Force" (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 1540 L.D. 2151

Reported that the same be **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**, pursuant to Joint Order, H.P. 1515.

Comes from the House with the Report **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**.

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

Bill and accompanying papers **REFERRED** to the Committee on **CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY**, in concurrence.

Off Record Remarks

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. 1541

ORDERED, the Senate concurring, that the Joint Standing Committee on Judiciary shall report out, to the House, legislation implementing the recommendations of the Sixth Amendment Center's report, The Right to Counsel in Maine: Evaluation of Services Provided by the Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Services.

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

READ and **PASSED**, in concurrence.

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

Senator **LIBBY:** Thank you, Mr. President. Men and women of the Senate, as my colleague from Kennebec, Senator Bellows, indicated during her remarks, Governor Mills announced the first presumptive case of Covid-19 in Maine. She held her press conference just a few moments ago for the benefit of the public and for members. Just to summarize a few key points of that press conference, she has taken some executive action. Number one, proclaiming a State Insurance Emergency to improve access to care and to require private health insurance plans to cover the costs related to the Corona Virus. Number two, suspending all non-essential out-of-state work travel by State employees.

Number three, and on the advice of the Maine CDC, postponing large community events of 250 attendees or more. I think it's a good opportunity to remind folks that the best preventative measures against Corona Virus are the same as preventing the common cold or flu. Keep your distance from folks if you're sick, wash your hands for over 20 seconds and do that frequently, and cover coughs and sneezes. For the benefit of the membership, I know the Presiding Officers are working closely with the CDC on recommendations for how we keep our work going here at the State House, how we complete our work expeditiously, how we keep the public safe. So expect some announcements to come soon. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair has an announcement. I'm going to jump in here just because I know people need to leave and things like that, but obviously what Senator Libby just spoke about is very important. Leadership will be meeting with the Governor later this afternoon and talking a number of scenarios. One of the things I wanted to make sure as many of you heard as possible is that there is going to be a continuing briefing by the CDC on the Corona Virus every Friday at 2 pm. So tomorrow at 2 pm will be the first one. Every one of us is able to get on, ask our questions, ask our questions that come from our constituents. The Chief of Staff of all the caucuses will be provided the call in information later on today and they will, obviously, get that out to all of the members. But, as Senator Libby has said, literally as things are moving here today, we were getting these reports and that's how much this stuff is changing. Leadership, like I said, will be having further discussions but, you know, you have that opportunity to get on that call and get more information from the CDC tomorrow, Friday, and all of us, together, will put our political stripes aside and try to do everything we can to make this work as best possible. So, with that, I'm going to move back in announcements. Sorry to hold you back there but I wanted to make sure that, you know, people heard that and, with that, we'll move to the Senator from Sagadahoc, Senator Vitelli.

Off Record Remarks

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

Senator **BELLOWS:** Thank you. I received a note from the Maine Association of Retirees thanking this Body. They requested that I read into the records. It is just two sentences. I said I would. 'On behalf of Maine State and educator retirees I would like to thank the Maine Legislature for their support of L.D. 1104, An Act to Clarify the State's Commitments Concerning Certain Public Service Retirement Benefits, which fulfills the promise given to our State employees and educators that at retirement annual cost of living to their Maine Public Service Retirement pensions will be applied.' I know this is unusual and I apologize, but I just wanted to say part of the reason I wanted to share this was that it was my intent, as we moved this forward, I know it was the whole Legislature's intent, to make the current law regarding the calculation of the COLA contractual obligation and apply it to all existing and future employees and all existing and future educator retirees. Thank you.

Off Record Remarks

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

On motion by Senator **LIBBY** of Androscoggin, **ADJOURNED**, pursuant to the Joint Order, until Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 10:00 in the morning, or at the call of the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House respectively, in memory of and lasting tribute to Jeffrey A. Cammack of Dedham and Todd Tolhurst of South China.