

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Journal and Legislative Record**  
**House of Representatives**  
**One Hundred and Thirtieth Legislature**  
**State of Maine**

**Daily Edition**

**First Regular Session**  
beginning December 2, 2020

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ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTIETH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
4th Legislative Day  
Tuesday, March 30, 2021

The House met according to adjournment and was called to order by the Speaker.

Prayer by Honorable Sarah Peabworth, Blue Hill.

National Anthem by Ange Pitteroff, Randolph.

Pledge of Allegiance.

The Journal of Thursday, March 11, 2021 was read and approved.

Under suspension of the rules, members were allowed to remove their jackets.

The following item was taken up out of order by unanimous consent:

**REPORTS OF COMMITTEE**

**Divided Report**

Majority Report of the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS** reporting **Ought to Pass as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-52)** on Bill "An Act To Make Certain Appropriations and Allocations and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government" (EMERGENCY) (H.P. 525) (L.D. 715)

Signed:

Senators:

BREEN of Cumberland  
BAILEY of York

Representatives:

PIERCE of Falmouth  
CARDONE of Bangor  
CLOUTIER of Lewiston  
FAY of Raymond  
HYMANSON of York  
MARTIN of Eagle Lake

Minority Report of the same Committee reporting **Ought Not to Pass** on same Bill.

Signed:

Senator:

DAVIS of Piscataquis

Representatives:

ARATA of New Gloucester  
COREY of Windham  
FECTEAU of Augusta  
MILLETT of Waterford

**READ.**

Representative PIERCE of Falmouth moved that the House **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ACCEPT** the Majority **Ought to Pass as Amended** Report.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Falmouth, Representative Pierce.

Representative **PIERCE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Fellow Members of the House, after a year filled with

uncertainty and heartbreaking loss, it is imperative that as elected leaders we do everything we can to ensure that Maine is on a path to strong public health and economic recovery. That is our job here today.

We can see brighter days are ahead. A third of Mainers are now vaccinated, businesses are cautiously reopening schools and are bringing students back onto their campuses and into classrooms. As a Legislature, we must acknowledge that the many changes and sacrifices that Maine people have had to make to get through this time and we must do everything in our power to continue this positive path forward.

Today, we are voting on a budget that ensures we are taking care of the State business and Maine people so our State can continue on this path. That is our responsibility as elected officials. We are operating in unique times and we have a duty to step up, as the Maine people have. With that in mind, the Appropriations Committee began reviewing the biennial budget in January, holding public hearings, and has proposed this biennial budget ahead of schedule to cover the current services of the State, keep our books balanced, provide certainty and predictability for our summer tourism season, give needed funds to help our schools plan for fall. It is a baseline budget, current services. We have not added any new services or initiatives. We are making certain critical services can continue to operate.

This budget ensures Maine people can continue to rely on rural hospitals, nursing homes, health clinics during a public health crisis. It supports our continued effort to combat the opioid crisis as well. It ensures that we are able to keep our children safe. It supports Maine's teachers and school districts as they prepare to reopen for in-person learning in the fall. This is one of the most important ways we can support our school districts who have helped provide normalcy for Maine children during this difficult year. The budget prioritizes the safety of Maine children and families from violence. It funds criminal domestic violence and sexual assault services and supports the needs of protection of workers.

The budget also keeps our promise of some tax relief. It extends the homestead exemption that many families depend on and it tells the Maine people and municipalities they can count on the revenue sharing at 3.75 percent to stabilize property taxes and fund essential services. There are no new taxes.

In this time of turmoil, as leaders, we must rise to the occasion. In the face of the pandemic, where we are starting to see light at the end of the tunnel, we must not let up. Not if we want Maine to have a strong successful recovery. We are called upon to provide all the security and stability we can in this moment. Mr. Speaker, I urge this Body to do the right thing so Maine people and communities can continue to rebuild in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a crucial moment in our State's recovery from the pandemic, we have put forth a budget that meets that moment and I ask you and my fellow Representatives to support it. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Waterford, Representative Millett.

Representative **MILLETT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I rise to express my strong opposition to the pending motion and to do so in a way that does not personalize or demonize any of my fellow colleagues because I think so much needs to be said before we entertain this budget, before we leave here this week.

I'd like to speak briefly about how we got here, what this budget does and doesn't contain, and how it bodes for the future for us working together. I think the latter point is perhaps the most prevailing and compelling one I would like to stress this morning.

First of all, I'd like to speak about it in terms of the process, the product, and the future. And I think the process is the key piece that evolved in this very short span of time that all of you need to know and the failed communications that occurred during that interim period. It was on Wednesday, the 17th of March, that my colleague, the Representative from Falmouth, Representative Pierce, who I've worked with closely, get along well with, and totally respect, along with our Senate colleagues in the Chairs and Leads Forum met in the horseshoe at 228 for about an hour. And we talked very carefully, very appropriately, and very much in a detailed way about what the future holds for LD 220, then before us and not yet through the report-back process. And we looked at three months of calendar time; March, April and May. We looked at weekly schedules through the early part of April. And we plotted out what we know to be the events that will influence how we proceed in an orderly way, in traditional manner, on a biennial budget. We, for example, acknowledged that as of today, right today, the Consensus Economic Forecasting Commission is reviewing its work in trying to define and analyze the shape of the economy, how it's proceeding and what it holds for the future. Four weeks from Friday, the Revenue Forecasting Committee will be meeting to update revenues. Based on what we are all aware of, it is likely that it will be a positive increase in projected general fund revenue. Sometime between mid-May and mid-June, the U.S. Department of Treasury will have analyzed the American Rescue Plan Act in terms of the discretionary money that will be forthcoming to Maine, how it can be used and when it will flow.

So, that three-month calendar was a serious look at where are we today on the 17th of March and where will we be as we work our way forward. Very clearly, we picked the 27th of May as the report date for the biennial budget. Giving us time to get the new revenue forecast, to receive any change packages that might come from the administration, and to act appropriately in the normal way where we look at the report-backs, we deliberate on them, we move them in line by line, reject those that aren't appropriate and amend those that need amendments.

That was all plotted out to be done as of that Wednesday, two weeks ago from tomorrow. Between that Wednesday and the end of the day on Saturday, the whole budget process took a 180-degree turn in a manner that was unknown to those of us on the minority side in the Appropriations Committee, nor were we even aware that it was happening. I began to get a sense of concern when I got a text from the Senate Chair on Sunday night, the 21st; could you and Senator Davis meet with us in the Chairs and Leads meeting on Monday, the 22nd? I answered; of course. And we did. All of a sudden, at 12:15, the Representative from Falmouth, Representative Pierce and her colleague, the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Breen, made these comments; we have had discussions with our leadership and with the Office of the Chief Executive and we are intending to report out a so-called bare bones budget on this coming Thursday, that's Thursday, the 25th of March. We need to do so for some of the reasons that the Representative from Falmouth, Representative Pierce just mentioned. Namely, predictability, communications, pandemic relationships, etcetera. Brand-new news to us, we had had no

word whatsoever between the 17th and the 22nd to let us know as coequal members of the Appropriations Committee that this was even in the pipeline for discussion.

So, here we are and we look at the motion that's been made, what it represents, how it got to this point, and what has happened in the interim. First of all, when we got the message, we immediately said we need to share this with our leadership and our committee members as well because this is a complete reversal of what we have been planning on. We learned before we even got a chance to talk with our leaders that press releases had already been written not only by the presiding officers and the chairs of Appropriations, but the Chief Executive, even before we came back down from briefing our leaders.

Needless to say, that has communications at the worst level of personalizing, respecting, and communicating objectively to your fellow members, causing great concern and in the process postponing, if not outright cancelling, the report-back from our largest policy committee which was scheduled for last Tuesday and postponing, if not cancelling, our first attempt at deliberating on the budget feedback from the policy committees which were scheduled for last Thursday, the same day that the State and Local Government Committee was to deliver their report, the last of the 16. So, the schedule has been totally updated and revised to accommodate what is clearly; anyone could interpret this but I think I would like to say it my way; the message on the 22nd was; we have a pathway to a majority budget. Driven by political motivation, I am not one to assign blame to my fellow Democrats on AFA. I respect all of them. I don't think this was done by internal design but by external direction.

Here we are and here I am trying to make sense of what should we do today and how will it influence what we do in the days, weeks and months that follow. My first attempt was to say gee, we haven't even had lip service to the policy committee report-backs. So, I checked on our Joint Rules and I find that there is a provision in Joint Rule 314.6, and I will quote it verbatim. It says the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs shall consider the report-backs from the policy committees' (plural possessive) in the course of their deliberation on budget matters. I want you all to know not one single step has been taken in regard to considering, by the committee, those report-backs through which all of you contributed with many hours of work in your own committees to try to give us your recommendations, nor have we done any deliberating on any of those reports.

So, in my amateurish way, I would make the case, and I don't ask you, Mr. Speaker, for a ruling, but I would say that provision of the Joint Rules had been totally ignored, leading me to conclude and wonder if this budget report is even properly before us. However, let me proceed to say that I think there is a misunderstanding that this is a replica of the budget that was passed two years ago by two-thirds and that it really covers everything. Nothing could be further from the truth. This budget includes a sum total of 282 million dollars of one-time cuts and/or savings, thereby taking advantage of anything and everything we could lapse or cut in order to put together a papered-over biennial budget that was a skeleton at best, because that skeleton includes only 12 new items. Let me just give you a sense of what they are. The Representative from Falmouth, Representative Pierce referred to some of them.

The first two, teacher retirement and general-purpose aid at 22 million, 500 per year. Must do's, we don't have a choice. Thirdly, the homesteader's exemption which we approved in

the 129th and we have a cost associated with both years of the biennium. Nursing facility rebasing and hospital tax rebasing; small pieces offset by bigger cuts. Four rate increase proposals funded only in the first year for rates that are already in place, leaving them unfunded in the second year. Moving a program started in the Fund for Healthy Maine two years ago for domestic violence and sexual assault to the general fund because, frankly, we haven't dealt with the Fund for Healthy Maine, we haven't moved money to make it balance, we haven't talked about it, so, we're moving it into the general fund. Creating six assistant park rangers and continuing a bunch of limited-period positions. There are thousands of lines, split positions, reclassifications, reorganizations, governor's initiatives, proposed changes that have come from the committees. I could go on and on and on and say to you, honestly, we have not even given lip service to the rest of the budget.

So, how does that position us for the period between now and the revenue forecast and that latter period when we ultimately will know what we have to work with from the American Rescue Plan Act. First of all, it means that were this bill to pass today and tomorrow in its current form, it will require a substantial overlay to fill in the gaps of those non-general fund points that I made that have totally been ignored. Secondly, we will be asked, and I think we should accept the challenge, to work together to prioritize how we would deal with the revenue forecast that's coming. It will be here in about five weeks and it will include some one-time money and some ongoing money. We ought to be talking to each other right now about how we would prioritize what we can do with one-time money, what we should prioritize for ongoing money. We're closing that door by what we're talking about doing here today and tomorrow. Because it sounds like, feels like, you don't want the input from the minority party or from those unenrolled members who are sitting here in the audience this morning. It sounds like my way or the highway. I don't assign that to you individually because I don't think you in your individual seats and roles and thoughts that planned it out this way. I think you've kind of been maneuvered into thinking well, this is a good thing to do because maybe bipartisanship is a little messy, maybe it's time to exercise power because you have the votes, maybe it's time to say that maybe we can demonize those Republicans by saying they're all about shutting down government. Nothing could be further from the truth.

So, with that as background, and with real concern for the future, which I will comment later on in the course of the discussion, I would like to invoke House Rule 503 and move that LD 715 and all of its accompanying papers be committed to the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs in order to allow them to do their work, and I ask for a roll call on that motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Representative MILLETT of Waterford moved that the Bill and all accompanying papers be **COMMITTED** to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**.

The same Representative **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **COMMIT** the Bill and all accompanying papers to the Committee on **APPROPRIATIONS AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS**.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from New Gloucester, Representative Arata.

Representative **ARATA**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, the Joint Rules are very clear. It says that AFA shall consider the policy committees' budget recommendations.

We follow rules for even minor issues such as removing our jackets or eating or drinking in the chamber in order to conduct government business in an orderly and respectful manner. The problem with this budget transcends partisanship. Your committee work and therefore, the voices of all of your constituents have not been considered. Across Maine school boards, selectmen, budget committees and town councils have a proper process and procedure that they follow. Let us set a good example and vote yes on this motion because this farce cannot become our new normal. Thank you.

The **SPEAKER**: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Madison, Representative Ducharme.

Representative **DUCHARME**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I rise in support of Representative Millett's motion.

I stand before you today as a kind of a legacy of a former Member of the House and to get there I need to tell you how that happened. Last night, I had an incident with my car. I'm all right, everything's all right except my car has an issue, so, I had to bring my wife's car today. When I got in my wife's car today, I was thinking last night about how today was going to go and I had pretty much had my mind made up, you know, this is how I want to do things and so forth. And I got in my wife's car this morning and something changed my perspective. It didn't change how I'm going to react, but it changed my perspective about this whole thing. Because anybody that knows me knows I'm a fighter. If I believe in something, I will fight. What happened to my car last night was the result of somebody who really wanted a fight with me and I walked away. Regardless, because my car was disabled, I had to take my wife's car. In my wife's car was this medallion hanging from the mirror. Now, you probably can't see it on that side of the aisle --

The **SPEAKER**: The Member will defer. The Chair will remind all Members that you are not permitted to use props on the floor of the House.

The Chair reminded all Members that no props were allowed during the floor debate.

The **SPEAKER**: The Member may proceed.

Representative **DUCHARME**: I'm sorry for that. Thank you. My medallion has a picture of my father-in-law. My father-in-law was Representative Richard "Spike" Carey. He served in this Body from 1967 to 1978 and then he came back and served in the other Body from 1992 to 2000. My father-in-law was a lifelong member of the other party. Many here remember him. I spoke with Representative Martin earlier and he remembers him and several others. The long of the short of it is Spike didn't care who proposed something or where it came from. What he cared about was doing the right thing for the people of Maine. And there were many times when Spike voted with the party that he didn't belong to because it was the right thing for the people of Maine. I think we're called today to look at our hearts and do the right thing for the people of Maine.

For many, many years, we've had rules, we've had processes. I served on the Board of Selectmen in Madison and for 10 years serving on the Board of Selectmen, we waited for the State to figure out what they were going to do with the budget and we knew we had to react accordingly. So, there is no inherent fear in the municipalities, to my knowledge,

because I haven't heard from anybody and I know a lot of them, that the State's not going to do the right thing. So, there's no real reason to drive this thing through. The only reason to drive it through is because it can be done and maybe because it can be done, it really shouldn't be done. That's why the rules are there. I would implore you to look into your heart. Do the right thing for the people of Maine. Don't worry about your party label, do the right thing for the people of Maine. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair will remind Members to direct comments through the Chair. Also a reminder that when referring to Members of the Body, it's from, town, Representative their name.

A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is to Commit the Bill and all accompanying papers to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

#### ROLL CALL NO. 21

YEA - Andrews, Arata, Austin, Bernard, Bickford, Blier, Bradstreet, Carlow, Carmichael, Cebra, Collamore, Connor, Corey, Dillingham, Dolloff, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Evangelos, FecteauJ, Foster, Griffin, Grignon, Haggan, Hall, Hanley, Harrington, Head, Hutchins, Javner, Johansen, Kinney, Kryzak, Lemelin, Libby, Lyford, Lyman, MartinT, MasonR, MillettH, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, Ordway, Parry, Perkins, Pickett, Pluecker, Poirier, Quint, Roche, Rudnicki, Sampson, Skolfield, Stanley, Stearns, Stetkis, Theriault, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, WarrenS, WhiteD.

NAY - Alley, Arford, Babbidge, Bell, Berry, Blume, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Caiazzo, Cardone, Cloutier, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Cuddy, Dodge, Doore, Doudera, Dunphy, Evans, Fay, FecteauR, Geiger, Gere, Gramlich, Grohoski, Harnett, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hymanson, Kessler, Landry, Lookner, Madigan, MartinJ, MartinR, Mathieson, Matlack, McCrea, McCreight, McDonald, Melaragno, Meyer, Morales, Moriarty, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Paulhus, Peabworth, PerryA, PerryJ, Pierce, Reckitt, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Sachs, Salisbury, Sharpe, Sheehan, Stover, Supica, Sylvester, Talbot Ross, Tepler, Terry, Tucker, Tuttle, WarrenC, WhiteB, Williams, Wood, Zager, Zeigler.

ABSENT - Bailey, Costain, Faulkingham, Gifford, Greenwood, MillettR, O'Connor, Prescott, Riseman.

Yes, 64; No, 78; Absent, 9; Excused, 0.

64 having voted in the affirmative and 78 voted in the negative, with 9 being absent, and accordingly the motion to **COMMIT** the Bill and all accompanying papers to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs **FAILED**.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Auburn, Representative Libby.

Representative **LIBBY**: On December 2nd, I was sworn in as State Representative for Minot and Auburn. Several weeks later, we received our committee assignments and I learned I had been placed on the Judiciary Committee. To be honest, I was taken aback. With my background as a long-time ICU nurse, I had expected to be assigned to a health care committee. I'm not a lawyer and many of the topics we handle in Judiciary are new to me. So, it has been with great surprise over the intervening months that I learned that I truly enjoy representing my district on the Judiciary Committee. Even the steep learning curve has been invigorating, as I gain a new understanding of topics that I'd previously never given a second thought.

I have found my Judiciary colleagues on both sides of the aisle to be thoughtful, inquisitive, compassionate and

respectful. I believe I can speak for all of us when I say that our entire committee cares a great deal for our State and for the Maine citizens that we represent. Nowhere has this been more evident than in the time our committee spent addressing the Indigent Legal Services portion of the biennial budget. And I don't think it comes as a great surprise to this Body that our State has not been fulfilling its constitutional obligations to provide indigent legal services to those less fortunate in the pursuit of justice. While I may be a fiscal conservative, I hold the Constitution as my ultimate guide as a legislator.

Our committee has worked diligently for months to come to an understanding of the needs of Maine Indigent Legal Services moving forward. We have attempted to balance the substantial financial needs while providing previously lacking accountability. Together, we came up with a largely unanimous report for the Appropriations Committee that looked nothing like the Chief Executive's proposed MCILS budget, what would bring about the accountability we sought and move toward fulfilling our constitutional obligations.

I know that our Judiciary Committee was not the only committee spending the last several months working together in good faith to provide reports to the Appropriations Committee. These reports are critical to the formation of a biennial budget that reflects the current needs of our State, not the needs of 18 or 21 months ago. I imagine that Maine's Indigent Legal Services is not the only organization with needs that are drastically different from their needs of 2019.

It has been argued that the political parties that comprise the Maine Legislature lack the ability to work together to pass a biennial budget. That couldn't be further from the truth. Just weeks ago, we worked together to pass a supplemental budget that will meet the needs of Maine people. The result of hard work and compromise, that budget passed by overwhelming majority. Just as when we came together as a Body with the supplemental budget, and when the Judicial Committee worked together on our report, our Legislature has all the tools it needs to pass a biennial budget that will meet Maine's complex needs over the next two years.

To pass a biennial budget in this rushed fashion while disregarding crucial committee reports and pending revenue forecasting, is to do a disservice to Maine people. Our constituents deserve to have their voices heard on this budget and that cannot happen in a process that skips over the usual budget process. I ask my colleagues to vote Ought Not to Pass on LD 715 and, instead, commit to work towards a budget that truly reflects the current needs of our State.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Dixfield, Representative Pickett.

Representative **PICKETT**: Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I rise in opposition to the pending motion. I've been in the Legislature now, this is my seventh year, and in the 129th I had the pleasure of being assigned to the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee and it's been a real joy and here I am again this year in that same committee. During that timeframe, a lot of bipartisan legislation has passed through. We work very hard in that committee to be bipartisan in what we do. We don't always accomplish it, but a great deal of the time, we do. This year was no different. We were working through legislation, we also have been working through the budget. We turned around and we've really been digging down on it, doing our due diligence in what needed to be done and different things that we wanted to work on to try to make our State a better place to live in, work, and play, from our part of the budget. And as we were delivering a

portion of our report to the AFA committee, little did I know at that time, that there was a news conference going on that's saying that all the work that we had done was really for naught because I have no idea what is going to be taking place with the budget that we have in front of us today to vote on and moving forward.

I feel today, Mr. Speaker, that the residents in my five towns, Canton, Dixfield, Hartford, Mexico and Peru have absolutely no voice in what is taking place here today and because of that, I will not be voting in favor of this motion and I would urge everyone in this auditorium today, which is our chamber today, to really think real long and hard as to are you and me, are we representing and having everybody in our State to have a voice in the crafting of this budget and going through the different things; the procedure that the budget should go through, the deliberation, the debate, the negotiation, all of those things. And, if we're not, sometimes if you're in doubt, the best answer is no. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Wells, Representative Roche.

Representative **ROCHE**: Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for the opportunity to speak. It is an absolute honor to speak to such a great group of people representing Maine and all its citizens. I will admit to some nerves, but being a football coach, pep talks and motivational speeches are part of the job.

I can't help but think back to an invitation by the NFL to speak to team owners and coaches. Wow, do you realize how intimidating it is to talk about teamwork in front of Coach Bill Belichick? Almost as intimidating as talking in front of a political legend as the Representative from Waterford, Representative Millett.

When leaving the house this morning, I told my wife I'm going to speak today. Her first words of advice were; be kind. I responded like any other good partner with yes, honey, and I threw out the speech that I wrote last night. I'm a rookie, albeit an old one. I've been told I am naïve. If being naïve means believing in government to do the right thing, then I am guilty. Last week, I saw the back-to-basic budget that could be passed by majority today. My first thought was this is a brilliant political move and may be legal. It looks to have some good things in it and probably a budget that could pass with bipartisanship but we won't have the chance to do that. It comes with no input by one side. It will be done without representation.

Being a brilliant political move does not make it right. This was done by a small group, while those of us who are part of a representative government have had no say. Is this right? Ethical? Moral? I'm not sure. See, when this old guy from Wells ran, he thought of all the excitement of working together. I always tell my teams that coming together for one cause and working hard to reach a goal is the best feeling in the world. I remember the pride of walking to the State House. I know my dad, whose entire life was spent serving this country and his government, first as fighting the Nazis and then as an FBI agent for 30 years, would've been proud. I am a Republican because of him. I'm a RINO, according to many. I believe in the science of masks and social distancing; shocking, I know. I also wear a seatbelt. And I believe the government since our forefathers have done these things to protect us. I am a Reagan Republican, maybe a Collins one, for a Maine reference.

Mr. Chair, I watched with such great pride your speech on the first day. We should work together. I actually used it in my class. We have an opportunity to do what you said, and work together. We just sang our nation's song together. Can't we come together to work on a budget that we can all believe in? Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Buxton, Representative Blier.

Representative **BLIER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Well, I'm happy to be here today and when I walked into this room, the great Representatives from Eagle Lake and St. Agatha asked me if I'm going to do the right thing. And my assumption is they're asking me to vote for this budget. So, I want to turn that back to them; are you going to do the right thing? Are you going to allow me to have a voice in this budget? Are you going to allow me to speak for my constituents and the other half of your constituents that you're silencing their voices? That is the right thing.

I don't want to stop this State from operating. I don't want to shut the State down. I want to pass a budget. But I feel as though we should have a voice as well. So, let's all do the right thing and work together. That's what's important here today. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Buxton, Representative Carlow.

Representative **CARLOW**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I rise today in opposition to the manner in which this budget was produced.

This is a rushed and deeply partisan proposal for which no public input was given and no effort made to negotiate in good faith with the minority party in the way that has been done for decades. I believe that what the majority party is proceeding to do is beneath the institution we serve and I know that the people of Maine expect and deserve better.

Mr. Speaker, the day this Legislature was sworn in, you said that we were partners and not partisans. Those were your exact words. When I heard this, I became optimistic that this session, despite the challenges presented by the coronavirus, would produce bipartisan legislation that benefits the entire State.

When we came to a virtually unanimous consensus over the supplemental budget, my impression of your leadership was validated. Republicans and Democrats in both Chambers put their heads together and created a good deal for the Maine people. When I heard that the majority party had decided to move forward in this way, I was shocked and dismayed. The refusal of the majority party to even attempt negotiation is a step backward for bipartisanship and reveals a profound lack of integrity. Today --

The SPEAKER: The Member will defer. The Chair will remind Members not to question the motives of other Members of this Body.

The Chair reminded CARLOW of Buxton that it was inappropriate to question the motives of other members of the House.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **CARLOW**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Today, there is a principle at stake. The essence of our duty is to make Maine a better place to live, work and raise a family. And I believe strongly that the most prudent public policy is a product of collaboration and bipartisanship. In fact, even when acting on a bipartisan basis is most inconvenient, it is in those circumstances that it is most necessary. Today's vote is no exception. All of us were called upon to serve our

communities, we pledged ourselves to the mission of improving our State and making it a better place than where we found it.

There's a lot of work to be done and as a matter of good governance, I want to remind my colleagues that good ideas come from all sides. The refusal to negotiate is a disgraceful act and a clear contradiction to our oaths. I urge my colleagues to vote against this proposal and restore civility to the Peoples' House. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Vassalboro, Representative Bradstreet.

Representative **BRADSTREET**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I also rise in opposition to the pending motion. I think we've had some very good arguments put forth as to why many of us will oppose this motion, but I'd like to add a little bit to it.

It's very disappointing that we are proceeding down this unpleasant path of adopting a majority budget. We're in this position because we have sold ourselves short in our sacred obligation to consider the peoples' business in a manner that respects all opinions, it ignores proper consideration and review of the ways we will be spending the peoples' monies. Without evidence, it's been alleged that this is the necessary path because of a threat of a government shutdown. There is a false premise that we cannot work together to construct a budget that meets the needs of Maine people. We're asked to approve a basic, bare-bones biennial budget here today without the normal, well-established process of considering policy committee reports or contemplating diverse opinions and input. This is just plain wrong. You will undermine the opportunity to work together with all cooperation in the future. We must not proceed down this path. This will set a terrible precedent of pushing through what is, quite frankly, a budget in a bullying manner. We cannot let the proper inclusive process of serious consideration become the road less traveled. We need to accept the challenge of working together to construct a bipartisan budget that all Mainers can support. I urge you to vote no on the pending motion. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Lewiston, Representative Cloutier.

Representative **CLOUTIER**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker and Honorable Women and Men of the House, I rise today in support of LD 715, the biennial budget.

As an elected Member of this Body, I believe that Maine's schools, businesses, and families deserve certainty and peace of mind as our economy reopens, which is why I support LD 715, a smart, responsible, back-to-basics state budget that pays the bills and funds existing services.

Here's what's included in this budget. Current services. Let me say that again; current services. It is substantially the same budget that we passed with bipartisan support two years ago. Here's what's not included in this budget. New services, new policies, new initiatives, new permanent positions, new sources of revenue and any use of the rainy day fund.

After a tumultuous year of tragedy and uncertainty, the Members of this Body need to set aside their egos and come together to efficiently adopt a bipartisan budget that meets the immediate needs of our State and funds the proposals we already agree on. Some have claimed that this budget somehow circumvents the traditional budget process. The truth is that the Maine Legislature didn't always pass one omnibus biennial budget, nor did it wait until the bitter end of the legislative session to do so. This proposal echoes how the Maine Legislature approached the biennial budget in the

1980s, in the mid- to late-1990s and again in the early- to mid-2000s. By taking a proactive approach, we can provide Mainers with stability as we continue to do everything we can to get folks back on their feet.

Our most recent history with budgets only emphasizes why this is the right process right now. I'd ask you to consider the following. We experienced a very real government shutdown in 2017 in the 128th Maine Legislature just four short years ago. We nearly experienced a very real government shutdown in 2019 in the 129th Maine Legislature, with only 10 Members of the minority party of this chamber voting in favor and nearly every Member of minority leadership in both chambers voting against.

In this Legislature, just a few short weeks ago, we only came to an agreeable compromise in the wee hours of the morning on the second long day of session after months of preparation, discussion and so-called working together. The last thing Mainers need right now in the midst of a pandemic are political cliffhangers due to political partisanship. This budget prevents that.

Maine property taxpayers need to know whether or not they can continue to count on the homestead exemption program. School districts across the State need to know that they will have the funding necessary to begin planning a return to in-person instruction five days a week in the fall. Maine small businesses need to know that they will have the support necessary to stay open and keep employees on the payroll through the end of the year. It is our responsibility to provide safety, security, predictability and consistency to our constituents. This budget does that and I ask my fellow Members of this Body to join me in supporting it. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Presque Isle, Representative Underwood.

Representative **UNDERWOOD**: Good morning to the 130th Legislature. My name is Joseph Underwood, I am from Presque Isle, and the county that I'm from is Aroostook County and I ask that all the county delegation to please vote no on this and we'd appreciate it. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Eagle Lake, Representative Martin.

Representative **MARTIN**: Members of the House, I thought at great length as to whether or not I wanted to talk about shutdowns, having been through the longest one in history, one not quite as long, but I don't want to go in that direction because that's not where I think we'll end up. But I do want to do a little bit of history here and I think that the Representative from Waterboro will also agree with me. We are here because of a change that was made in the law and the rules under which the Appropriations Committee operated. Keeping in mind that when I was first here in the Appropriations Committee, we always had two budgets. We had the regular budget which was always continuing forth with the stuff that had taken place to the previous biennium. It did not include new programs or changes to the existing programs. And then after that was enacted, we then dealt with a part two budget, which is where we are, in effect, today.

The part one, and I've been thinking about this and after all the ink that's been printed in the last couple weeks, I'm going to; maybe we ought to go back to the beginning spot because the part one budget is what we have right now before us, a continuation of what the previous two years was. And then, after that, we then would go in with the supplemental, where we added or subtracted, made changes to what, in fact, had been enacted maybe a week later, or I should say earlier,



or a month earlier. And that became what we ended up voting with as the final amendment to the biennial budget.

Somewhere along the way, and some of us bought into it, someone sold us the idea that we should do a unified budget and we threw everything together. And then is where we ended up with shutdowns. Because at that point everyone could create their own position and, in effect, created problem for everyone. That's not where we are today. What you have before you is a simple, and maybe I'm oversimplifying this, but we are simply continuing where we were for the previous two years and putting that into place and that becomes effective, hopefully, by the 1st day of the year. And, after that is effective, then we would go back and make changes, additions/subtractions, maybe based on new revenue or less revenue, new programs that the Chief Executive would present, could present, and that could become in effect the part two. And, so, if I have any say on the future of the appropriations process, I hope that we disregard the unified budget process in the future and we go back to the process that we had a number of years ago; a part one and a part two. And we would not be caught in this box here today.

So, I urge those of you that are returning to think about changing and forgetting and asking the Chief Executive to give you a unified budget, but previous Chief Executive's used to present a part one and subsequently, thereafter, came the part two once the Legislature had voted it and the Chief Executive put it into law. So, for the future, let's go back to where we were, and I think in the long run we'd be better served. Thank you.

The Speaker: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Chelsea, Representative Lemelin.

Representative **LEMELIN**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I was an airline pilot and had the opportunity to travel extensively. During my travels, I had the distinct pleasure of meeting many heads of State. One such time was when I went to the inauguration of the President of Venezuela, Carlos Andres Perez. At the inauguration with me was President Ortega, President Noriega and President Castro. I also went to the Venezuelan White House and sat in the presidential chair and had talks.

Next, I went to visit the richest man in South America, Pedro Tinoco, and his wife, Carmen. He was owner of the Bank of Latino and the finance minister of Venezuela. In my talks, I want to remark that how kind, friendly, and warm these people were, just like my fellow colleagues here. One thing I find very interesting that stands out in this visit is the manner in which these men conducted business, especially finances, is exactly like what I am experiencing here in this chamber with this budget proposal.

These leaders were convinced what they were doing was the right thing. Keep in mind, two of these leaders went to prison.

This budget does not help our schools any more than the budget would in June. I am on the RSU 12 school board and we are not worried about the Maine budget. Like every year, the budget gets done. I don't think we want to follow the lead of third-world leaders who went to prison for their actions. Thank you very much.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Stonington, Representative McDonald.

Representative **MCDONALD**: Thank you. Can we please keep our budgetary concerns applicable to the State of Maine?

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Paris, Representative Andrews.

Representative **ANDREWS**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, my friends in the House. I rise today to offer a unique take on the situation before us. I come to it from a new perspective, as the smallest minority party in the 130th Legislature.

As the first and only Libertarian legislator in this chamber, I am a party of one. I am the extreme minority in this legislative body and from that view I can finally see the field for what it is. Too often, the two big parties are more interested in scoring points against the red team or the blue team to win the next election cycle. Oftentimes, it is more about demonstrations of raw power to mark political turf and subjugate the minority party than it is collaborative problem-solving.

This is a less-than-optimal way for Maine's deliberative Body to operate. James Madison, the father of the Constitution, once said; measures are too often decided not according to the rules of justice and the rights of the minority party but by the superior force of an interested and overbearing majority.

Now, two of the words that I have heard the most in 2020 and 2021 are equity and inclusion. The ethos of egalitarianism seems to be a guiding hand in much of the legislation offered in the 130th. That is a good thing. Hearing and valuing all voices and viewpoints as we craft bills and vote on them is imperative and must be a consistent standard applied to all aspects of how we navigate the 130th Legislature. Do the aspects of social justice, most notably equity and inclusion, go away simply because the majority and minority disagree and one side has more votes than the other? Is inclusion only to be applied to people of a similar thought and mindset? What use is equity if it is not applied equally to all situations in this Body? Are these words I've heard so often just lip service to signal virtue or will our actions here today give them credibility, consistency and show who we truly are in this chamber?

Legislators, even at our best, are not perfect. At the very least, we must all strive to not be hypocrites. Today we must all try to be the best versions of ourselves for our constituents and our States. These perilous times demand it. We must be open to all ideas, whether they are from the conservative wing or the progressive wing of this chamber. Everyone and their respective legislative goals must be acknowledged and heard as we hammer out and pass a two-thirds budget.

A majority budget does not do that. In fact, it disenfranchises half of the districts and voters in this State. It sets an awful precedent that will lead to extreme partisanship and bitterness. Partisanship and bitterness are the last things we need as we attempt to rebuild our State from the ashes of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Mr. Speaker, while the majority budget may be well-intentioned to prevent a possible shutdown in the coming months, it is not the correct course of action today. Democrats, Republicans, Libertarians and Independents must reason and work together. Diversity, especially diversity of thought and experience, is our strength. A majority budget ignores that and raises the black flag of hyper-partisanship that sets us on a sail on a course of disaster for our State.

Again, I urge everyone here today to be the best versions of themselves and vote honestly as your conscience guides you. For those who have held fast the ethos of social justice, equity and inclusion, I would ask you to apply that standard equally and consistently today by voting down a majority budget. Let everyone, especially those you disagree with,

voice their opinion, allow them to represent their constituents, and include them in the process of crafting a two-thirds budget. I would urge you to follow your heart and conscience and do the right thing today. Thank you for the time, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Hodgdon, Representative Quint.

Representative **QUINT**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and distinguished colleagues. There are many things that I wish I could say right now, but I'm going to keep this short. I'm not really a public speaker. I wish I had the eloquence of speech to draw your attention. So strong, in fact, that your cellphones would cease to distract you from my words. I wish that I had the knowledge of the representative from Waterford, Representative Millett so I could persuade you with the abundance of facts and experience and knowledge. I do not. I am a first-time Representative. However, I would be remiss at this time if I did not go on public record, standing for my constituents and stating my objection to this bill using what little voice I feel I have left at this time. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Old Town, Representative Dunphy.

Representative **DUNPHY**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I rise today to speak in favor of the pending motion.

There are many reasons why it is critical for us to pass this baseline budget, but I'd like to speak about one specific reason today, and that's property tax relief for Maine families.

In my district and throughout our State, rural and urban areas, people need property tax relief. This isn't new to the pandemic and this has been the case long before I joined the Maine House of Representatives. High property taxes have caused our neighbors on Social Security to give up their homes and have caused young families to leave our communities.

Mr. Speaker, we all know how critical this issue is here in Maine. In recent years, we have made advances on this issue, but to fulfill our promise to the people of Maine to continue delivering property tax relief through the homestead exemption and providing state funding to Maine's municipalities and school districts, we need to pass this baseline budget.

I know there are a lot of other measures and legislative priorities that are not included in this first budget, but after the year of uncertainty Mainers have lived through, we must ensure that people have essential services and give Maine people, businesses, and municipalities, the certainty about their financial future. That's why I support passing this budget now and reconvening soon after to get back to work on any funding for new initiatives. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I urge my fellow colleagues of the House to support this measure. Thank you.

The SPEAKER: A roll call having previously been ordered, the pending question before the House is Acceptance the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report. All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

#### ROLL CALL NO. 22

YEA - Alley, Arford, Babbidge, Bell, Berry, Blume, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Caiazzo, Cardone, Cloutier, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Cuddy, Dodge, Doore, Doudera, Dunphy, Evans, Fay, FecteauR, Geiger, Gere, Gramlich, Grohoski, Harnett, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hymanson, Kessler, Landry, Lookner, Madigan, MartinJ, MartinR, Mathieson, Matlack, McCrea, McCreight, McDonald, Melaragno, Meyer, Morales, Moriarty, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Paulhus, Pebworth, PerryA, PerryJ, Pierce, Reckitt, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Sachs, Salisbury, Sharpe, Sheehan,

Stover, Supica, Sylvester, Talbot Ross, Tepler, Terry, Tucker, Tuttle, WarrenC, WhiteB, Williams, Wood, Zager, Zeigler.

NAY - Andrews, Arata, Austin, Bernard, Bickford, Blier, Bradstreet, Carlow, Carmichael, Cebra, Collamore, Connor, Corey, Dillingham, Dolloff, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Evangelos, FecteauJ, Foster, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Grignon, Haggan, Hall, Hanley, Harrington, Head, Hutchins, Javner, Johansen, Kinney, Kryzak, Lemelin, Libby, Lyford, Lyman, MartinT, MasonR, MillettH, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, Ordway, Parry, Perkins, Pickett, Pluecker, Poirier, Quint, Roche, Rudnicki, Sampson, Skolfield, Stanley, Stearns, Stetkis, Theriault, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, WarrenS, WhiteD.

ABSENT - Bailey, Costain, Faulkingham, MillettR, O'Connor, Prescott, Riseman.

Yes, 78; No, 66; Absent, 7; Excused, 0.

78 having voted in the affirmative and 66 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent, and accordingly the Majority Ought to Pass as Amended Report was **ACCEPTED**.

The Bill was **READ ONCE**. **Committee Amendment "A" (H-52)** was **READ** by the Clerk.

Representative PIERCE of Falmouth **PRESENTED House Amendment "A" (H-55) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-52)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Falmouth, Representative Pierce.

Representative **PIERCE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. For all intents and purposes, the Committee Amendment H-55 strips the emergency, removes the emergency preamble. It amends page 289 by striking out all of line 42 and amends the amendment by striking out all of the emergency clause. I wanted to make that clear to the Body.

Representative DILLINGHAM of Oxford **REQUESTED** a roll call on the motion to **ADOPT House Amendment "A" (H-55) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-52)**.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The SPEAKER: A roll call has been ordered. The pending question before the House is Adoption of House Amendment "A" (H-55) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-52). All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

#### ROLL CALL NO. 23

YEA - Alley, Arford, Babbidge, Bell, Berry, Blume, Brennan, Brooks, Bryant, Caiazzo, Cardone, Cloutier, Collings, Copeland, Crafts, Craven, Crockett, Cuddy, Dodge, Doore, Doudera, Dunphy, Evans, Fay, FecteauR, Geiger, Gere, Gramlich, Grohoski, Harnett, Hasenfus, Hepler, Hymanson, Kessler, Landry, Lookner, Madigan, MartinJ, MartinR, Mathieson, Matlack, McCrea, McCreight, McDonald, Melaragno, Meyer, Morales, Moriarty, O'Connell, O'Neil, Osher, Paulhus, Pebworth, PerryA, PerryJ, Pierce, Reckitt, Rielly, Roberts, Roeder, Sachs, Salisbury, Sharpe, Sheehan, Stover, Supica, Sylvester, Talbot Ross, Tepler, Terry, Tucker, Tuttle, WarrenC, WhiteB, Williams, Wood, Zager, Zeigler.

NAY - Andrews, Arata, Austin, Bernard, Bickford, Blier, Bradstreet, Carlow, Carmichael, Cebra, Collamore, Connor, Corey, Dillingham, Dolloff, Downes, Drinkwater, Ducharme, Evangelos, FecteauJ, Foster, Gifford, Greenwood, Griffin, Grignon, Haggan, Hall, Hanley, Harrington, Head, Hutchins, Javner, Johansen, Kinney, Kryzak, Lemelin, Libby, Lyford, Lyman, MartinT, MasonR, MillettH, Morris, Nadeau, Newman, Ordway, Parry, Perkins, Pickett, Pluecker, Poirier, Quint, Roche, Rudnicki, Sampson, Skolfield, Stanley, Stearns, Stetkis, Theriault, Thorne, Tuell, Underwood, Wadsworth, WarrenS, WhiteD.

ABSENT - Bailey, Costain, Faulkingham, MillettR, O'Connor, Prescott, Riseman.

Yes, 78; No, 66; Absent, 7; Excused, 0.

78 having voted in the affirmative and 66 voted in the negative, with 7 being absent, and accordingly **House Amendment "A" (H-55) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-52)** was **ADOPTED**.

Representative WARREN of Scarborough **PRESENTED House Amendment "B" (H-58) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-52)**, which was **READ** by the Clerk.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Scarborough, Representative Warren.

Representative **WARREN**: My name is Sophie Warren, I am the Representative from my home town in Scarborough, Coastal District 29, I have moved this amendment and I have thus far voted against this budget because I believe it is missing a fundamental component; climate change. And in light of the way this budget has been presented, I think we see a certain set of dynamics at play that make me very concerned about how we will fund the climate action plans that we must adopt. I would like to give a little more context to the emergency and crisis that I believe we face. And I knew I ran at 24 as an Independent Representative in the midst of a global pandemic, I ask for your time, I ask for your patience, I ask for your attention on this matter. I have not heard this element about how bonds will be a big part of our plan in the near term and I need us to have a transparent public-facing conversation in this State about how we move forward and I appreciate your consideration.

When I was growing up in Scarborough, I played on a variety of team sports and we would do beach clean ups, which was a huge thing for me growing up and we have Ferry Beach and Pine Point Beach and it's a really beautiful place. I think that many of us have beautiful places that we call home and a variety of things that make Maine a place worth protecting that I feel this budget and the conversation around it and how to move forward is unable to address. Look, I am 25 years old now, I can see aerial photos just the difference, 25 years ago, the shoreline is rising and the dune grass is nearly gone and that's just something right in front of us; for my community; that we can see. For me, I was fortunate to study International Relations at Brandeis University, I was fortunate to spend some time working in a few different places, including in the Middle East and I believe that in the course of years past, I witness some of the most inhumane things that human beings can do to one another and they need water and they need a place to stay and I think we can look to other places in the world today, we can understand that they are years ahead of us and that we must act and I feel fortunate in the last two years to work in the Washington D.C. office of Senator Angus King and I notice that an important part to his leadership as an Independent was to work independently to develop a perspective rounded issue to consider as thoughtful and deliberately way as possible to communicate maybe some of the nuances around an issue that hadn't been brought up or considered to that point. I have failed to say, there are for and against this budget and that you are smart and responsible. I think that everyone is good and smart and is making the best choice they can. This budget has good programs in it, absolutely. There are things that we need to do in the service of the Maine people. And I understand that those with power with make those choices and that in the course of these discussions there is an effort to make changes and those deliberations ultimately were not successful and so, this is the budget that we see before us and I believe this created a politic

dynamic and we need to consider and contend with what I think so far has been empty promises--

The SPEAKER: The Member will defer. The Chair will remind the member that the pending question before us is the Adoption of the Committee Amendment the comments must be germane to the Committee Amendment and what it is doing to the underlying question.

The Chair reminded Representative WARREN of Scarborough to stay as close as possible to the pending question.

The SPEAKER: The Member may proceed.

Representative **WARREN**: Thank you. I appreciated it, Mr. Speaker. I feel that so far we have a lot of great ideas, but we are not discussing how to pay for them and I don't think we have any more time to wait to have those serious conversations or not prepared to have those serious conversation, I think we need climate action; no more discussion. This amendment without any fiscal note, purposes that the Maine Climate Council will work with the finance department and comes to a series of recommendations to address in the near term climate action. What it will cost, how we consider to pay for it and where we move from here. I think at this point, we have a sense of skill, the crisis at least-- in our heads we see many things, I think we see here in Maine and in many places in the world; we have such a narrow window and I think that we need to make a commitment now as we fund a biannual budget. I hope there's more in the future, but all I can do is look today, and say what can I do today? I understand you hearing me and I am Independent and I appreciate your time and your consideration. I know this is unusual, but we will not address climate change unless we change and I just don't see that yet and I feel we have an opportunity to make a commitment and time is of the essence. So, thank you for your time, I appreciate your consideration and attention to the issue of climate change and how we could consider funding it from the source that is not partisan, but addresses climate funding at the Maine State level. Thank you.

On motion of Representative DUNPHY of Old Town, **House Amendment "B" (H-58) to Committee Amendment "A" (H-52)** was **INDEFINITELY POSTPONED**.

**Committee Amendment "A" (H-52) as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-55)** thereto was **ADOPTED**.

Under suspension of the rules the Bill was given its **SECOND READING WITHOUT REFERENCE** to the Committee on **Bills in the Second Reading**.

Under further suspension of the rules the Bill was **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-52) as Amended by House Amendment "A" (H-55)** thereto and sent for concurrence.

## SENATE PAPERS

### Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act To Facilitate Fair Ballot Representation for All Candidates By Allowing a Candidate's Nickname To Appear on the Ballot"

(H.P. 75) (L.D. 109)

Minority (5) **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (H-38)** in the House on March 11, 2021.

Came from the Senate with the Majority (7) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS READ**.