

The yeas and nays.

# Here's how Maine's congressional delegation voted this week

TARGETED NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Here's a look at how area members of Congress voted this week.

Along with roll call votes, the Senate this week passed the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act and passed the READ Act, to require that the president's annual budget request to Congress include a line item for the Research in Disabilities Education program.

The House also passed the Electrify Africa Act, to promote the growth of electricity generation and distribution in sub-Saharan Africa; and concurred in the Senate amendment to the Coast Guard Authorization Act, to authorize Coast Guard appropriations for fiscal years 2016 and 2017.

House votes

**House vote 1 REFORMING HOUSING ASSISTANCE:** The House has passed the Housing Opportunity Through Modernization Act, sponsored by Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer, R-Missouri. The bill would set out a variety of measures intended to improve federal housing assistance programs, including improving energy and water efficiency in Section 8 government housing and increasing private and local government flexibility for seeking to improve public housing and reduce homelessness.

The vote was unanimous with 427 yeas. Both Pingree and Poliquin were among the yeas.

**House vote 2 VETO OF HEALTH CARE REFORM BILL:** The House has failed to override President Barack Obama's veto of the Restoring Americans' Healthcare Freedom Reconciliation Act, sponsored by Rep. Tom Price, R-Georgia. The bill would have repealed the health care reform law's medical device excise tax, repealed the employer health insurance mandate, repealed the individual

health insurance mandate, and blocked funding for Planned Parenthood.

The vote to override the veto was 241 yeas to 186 nays, with a two-thirds majority required to override. Pingree gave a nay vote, and Poliquin gave a yea vote.

**House vote 3 SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAN:** The House has passed the Iran Terror Finance Transparency Act, sponsored by Rep. Steve Russell, R-Oklahoma. The bill would require the president to certify to Congress a justification for removing financial sanctions against individuals and groups in Iran suspected of supporting terrorism, nuclear proliferation or human rights violations.

The vote was 246 yeas to 181 nays. Pingree gave a nay vote, and Poliquin gave a yea vote.

Senate votes

**Senate vote 1 DECLARING NATIONAL MONUMENTS:** The Senate has rejected an amendment sponsored by Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, to the Energy Policy Modernization Act. The amendment would have required the expiration within three years of any presidential declaration of a national monument if the declaration is not subsequently authorized by federal law and state law where the monument is located.

Lee said recent presidents have overridden the interests of those located near federal lands with monument declarations that deprive them of livelihoods earned on the lands, making the amendment necessary to give those residents "a voice in the land management decisions of their community."

An amendment opponent, Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Washington, said it sought to give states an unprecedented veto authority over federal land management practices, hurting the president's ability to use monument designations to protect threatened lands.

The vote was 47 yeas to 48 nays. Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, gave a yea vote, and Sen. Angus King, I-Maine, gave a nay vote.

**Senate vote 2 ENERGY SUBSIDIES:** The Senate has rejected an amendment sponsored by Sen. Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, to the Energy Policy Modernization Act. The amendment would have stipulated that government subsidies for fossil fuels be phased out in the same time frame as the phasing out of subsidies for renewable energy.

The vote was 45 yeas to 50 nays. Both Collins and King were among the yeas.

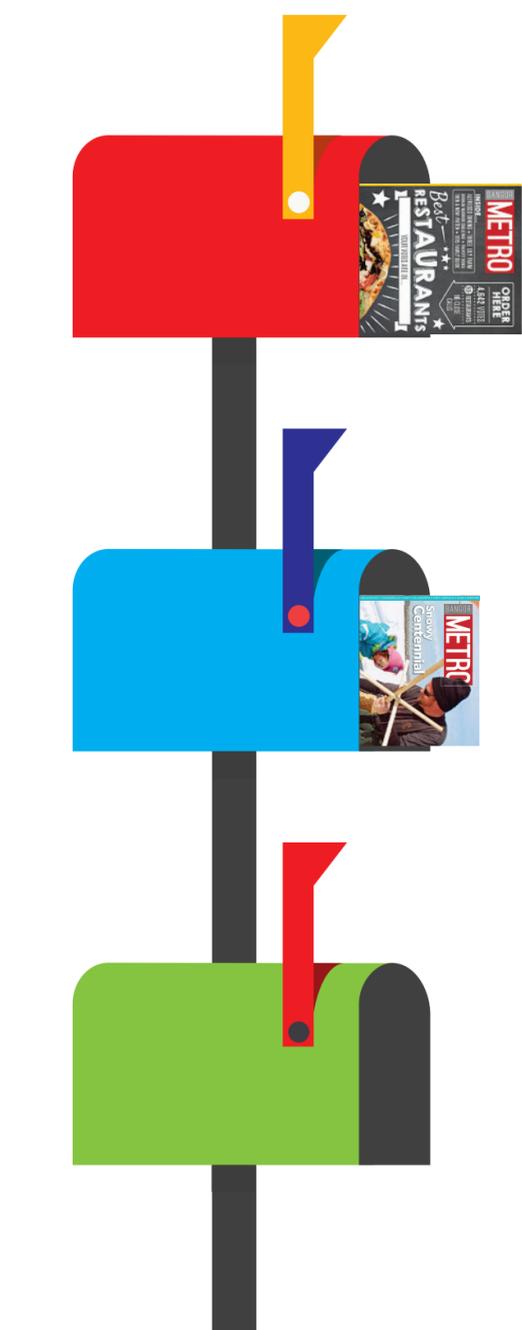
**Senate vote 3 DEBATING ENERGY BILL:** The Senate has rejected a cloture motion to end debate on a substitute amendment sponsored by Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, to the Energy Policy Modernization Act. The bill would advance numerous energy policy measures, including faster permitting of proposed liquefied natural gas export terminals and natural gas pipelines, subsidies for geothermal and hydropower, and funding for energy efficiency programs, clean energy research and strengthening cybersecurity for the nation's energy infrastructure.

Murkowski said the bill had strong bipartisan backing and would help increase low-cost domestic energy production without raising taxes or increasing the deficit.

An opponent of ending debate, Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Michigan, faulted the bill for not addressing the water supply crisis in Flint, Michigan, where city residents have been exposed to lead-contaminated water since Flint began getting its water from the Flint River in April 2014.

The vote to end debate was 46 yeas to 50 nays. Both Collins and King were among the yeas.

For a longer discussion of this week's votes, go to [bangordailynews.com](http://bangordailynews.com).



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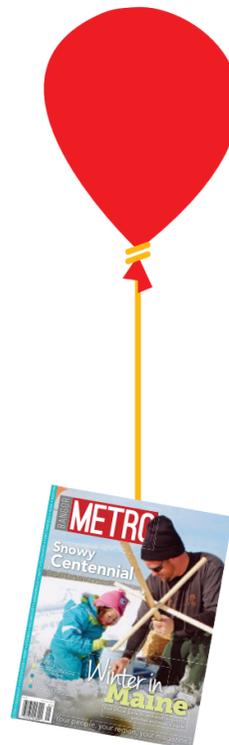
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