

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 over the previous week.

Along with roll call votes this week, the Senate also passed the SAFE PIPES Act, to increase pipeline safety.

The House also passed a bill to promote a 21st century energy and manufacturing workforce; passed a resolution calling on Iran to fulfill its promises of assistance in the case of Robert Levinson, the longest held United States civilian in the nation's history; passed the Nuclear Energy Innovation Capabilities Act, to enable research and development of advanced nuclear energy technologies by private and public institutions; and passed the FEMA Disaster Assistance Reform Act, to reauthorize the programs and activities of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

House votes

House vote 1

LEGAL REFERENCES TO MINORITIES: The House has passed a bill, sponsored by Rep. Grace Meng, D-New York, to change two 1970s laws organizing the Energy Department and governing local public works projects that described minorities as "Negro" and "Oriental," to replace those terms with "African-American" and "Asian-American."

Meng said "the time has come to repeal certain terms

from federal law that many in the Asian-American community would find offensive."

The vote was unanimous with 376 yeas. Both Reps. Chellie Pingree, D-1st District, and Bruce Poliquin, R-2nd District, were among the yeas.

House vote 2

NAMING POST OFFICE AFTER MAYA ANGELOU: The House has passed a bill, sponsored by Rep. Alma S. Adams, D-North Carolina. The bill would designate a U.S. post office in Winston Salem, North Carolina, as the Maya Angelou Memorial Post Office.

The vote was 371 yeas to 9 nays. Both Pingree and Poliquin were among the yeas.

House vote 3

FRAUDULENT MEDICAID PROVIDERS: The House has passed the Ensuring Removal of Terminated Providers from Medicaid and CHIP Act, sponsored by Rep. Larry Bucshon, R-Indiana. The bill would prohibit Medicaid payments for non-emergency medical care by health care providers that are not permitted to participate in Medicaid, Medicare or the Children's Health Insurance Program.

Bucshon said blocking fraudulent providers from Medicaid worked to discourage harmful and abusive health care for the poor, helping protect Medicaid enrollees and saving millions of dollars for state



Collins



King



Pingree



Poliquin

and federal governments.

The vote was unanimous with 406 yeas. Both Pingree and Poliquin were among the yeas.

House vote 4

POLLUTION RULES AND BRICK MAKING: The House has passed the Blocking Regulatory Interference from Closing Kilns Act, sponsored by Rep. Bill Johnson, R-Ohio. The bill would block the Environmental Protection Agency from implementing its proposed emissions rule for hazardous air pollutants in the brick and structural clay manufacturing industry until judicial review of the rules has been completed.

Johnson said the rule was jeopardizing good-paying jobs across the country for little public health or environmental benefit, and blocking its preliminary implementation would protect the brick industry from having to spend millions of dollars installing pollution controls to comply with a rule that might never take effect.

A bill opponent, Rep. Bobby Rush, D-Illinois, said it would encourage the brick industry to file endless challenges to the proposed rule, which Rush said sought to

advance "important public health protections" against toxic air pollution.

The vote was 238 yeas to 163 nays. Pingree gave a nay vote, and Poliquin gave a yeas vote.

Senate votes

Senate vote 1

PROSECUTING DRUG TRAFFICKERS: The Senate has passed an amendment sponsored by Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, to the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act. The amendment would make it easier for the Justice Department to

prosecute the importation by traffickers of counterfeit drugs and banned chemicals used to make controlled substances regulated by the government.

Grassley said changing the prosecutorial standard from establishing that a trafficker knowingly intended to import the banned substances to establishing that the trafficker had reasonable cause to believe that the substances would be imported would improve Justice's ability "to prosecute cartels who harm our communities from abroad by trafficking heroin, other drugs, and precursor chemicals for ultimate delivery here."

The vote was unanimous with 94 yeas. Both Sens. Susan Collins, R-Maine, and Angus King, I-Maine, were among the yeas.

Senate vote 2

PRESCRIPTION DRUG

ABUSE: The Senate has passed an amendment sponsored by Sen. Joe Manchin III, D-West Virginia, to the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act. The amendment would direct the federal government to include prescribed opiate and methadone drugs in its campaigns to educate and publicize the dangers of drug addiction to the public.

Manchin said that with an epidemic of prescription drug abuse sweeping the country, the amendment was needed to help public health agencies "on the frontlines of this terrible epidemic provide their communities with the information they need to help stop the spread of opioid addiction and help seek treatment."

The vote was unanimous with 90 yeas. Both Collins and King were among the yeas.

Pentagon to unveil plans to reform military structure

REUTERS

U.S. Defense Secretary Ash Carter said on Friday he planned to unveil proposals in a few weeks to reform the structure of the U.S. military to reflect changes in military challenges and requirements.

Carter provided no details, but he said some would require legislative amendments, while others could be

implemented under the existing authority of the president and defense secretary.

The proposals follow a review of the Goldwater-Nichols law of 1986, which made sweeping changes to the structure of the U.S. military and has been criticized for being outdated.

In recent congressional testimony, Michele Flournoy, a former top U.S. Department of

Defense official, said the law was leading to a "tyranny of consensus."

Sen. John McCain, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, has led a number of hearings on defense reform including looking at whether Goldwater-Nichols needed to be updated because of changing security threats including Islamic State and North Korea.

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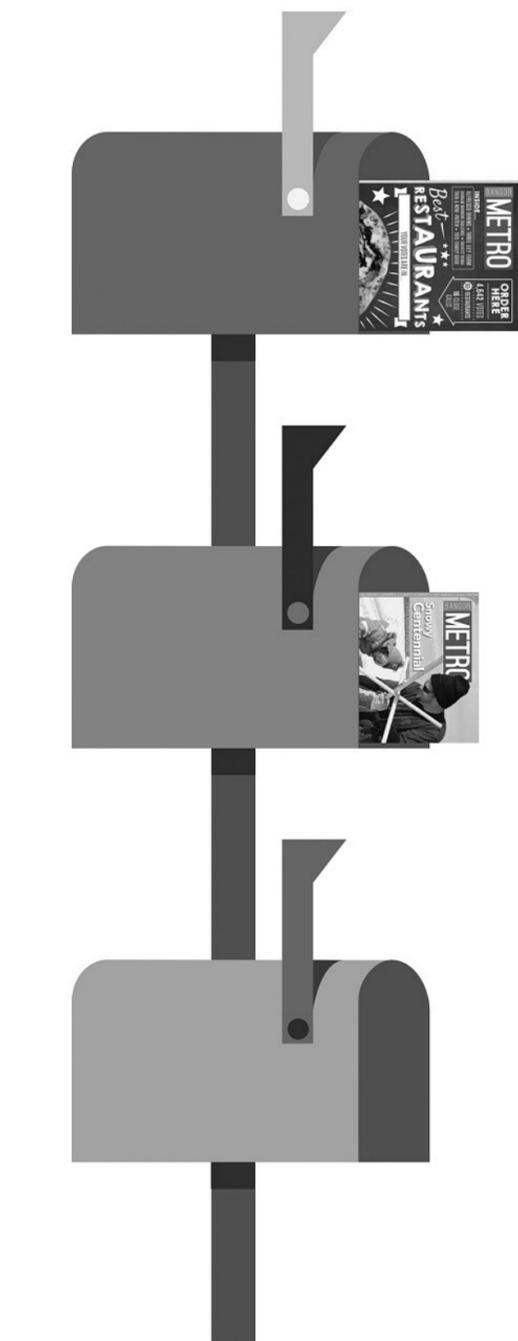
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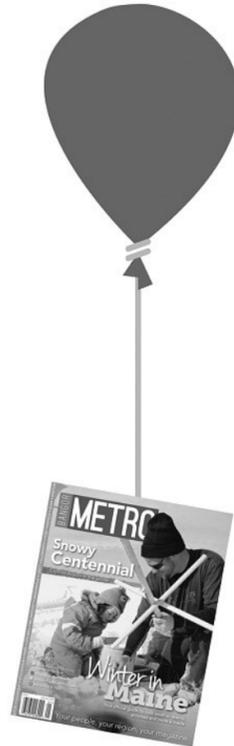
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