

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

**JOINT RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING THE 80TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE STATE YMCA OF MAINE'S MAINE
YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT PROGRAM**

WHEREAS, the State YMCA of Maine's Maine Youth and Government program is the 4th-oldest program of its type in the United States; and

WHEREAS, at 10:30 a.m. on May 1, 1943, an assembly of participants in the first Maine Youth and Government program was held in the House chamber, and the Youth Speaker of the House Joelle Herbert of Lewiston opened the First Maine Junior Legislature sponsored by the State YMCA of Maine; and

WHEREAS, the session opened with a prayer and closed with Governor Sumner Sewall's addressing the participants, and during the session bills were introduced and assigned to committees, including bills creating youth hostels, requiring x-rays to test for tuberculin cancer, creating Maine's first trade school and developing a Maine youth commission; and

WHEREAS, today, the Maine Youth and Government program provides a unique experience in civic engagement with a 3-day conference in which students participate directly in a simulation of the democratic process; and

WHEREAS, the program develops involved citizens by offering students the opportunity to learn about a wide variety of issues, develop critical thinking skills and articulate their beliefs while engaging constructively with those who hold like and opposing views; and

WHEREAS, participants draft all legislation, serve in all leadership roles and learn about the process of passing legislation and how it is not as simple as it seems; and

WHEREAS, participants in the program learn leadership, experience the legislative process and have a chance to network with other student leaders from around Maine talking about the issues they see facing the State of Maine and its future; and

WHEREAS, in November 2023, the State YMCA of Maine will be celebrating the 80th anniversary of Maine's Youth and Government program; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-first Legislature now assembled in the First Special Session, take this occasion to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the State YMCA of Maine's Maine Youth and Government program.