

# STATE OF MAINE

In House \_\_\_\_\_

**WHEREAS**, the Constitution of Maine, Article IX, Section 5 provides that every person holding any civil office under this State may be removed by impeachment for misdemeanor in office; and

**WHEREAS**, the Constitution of Maine, Article IV, Part First, Section 8 vests in the House of Representatives the sole power of impeachment; and

**WHEREAS**, grave and serious allegations have been raised regarding the conduct of Secretary of State Shenna Bellows; now, therefore, be it

**ORDERED**, that the House Special Investigative Committee is established to investigate allegations of misfeasance, malfeasance, nonfeasance and other misconduct by Secretary of State Shenna Bellows and to submit its findings and recommendations to the full House of Representatives as to whether cause exists for impeachment. The committee shall conduct a comprehensive review of allegations of misconduct by Secretary of State Shenna Bellows regarding her actions in and after the adjudicatory proceeding in disqualifying Donald J. Trump from inclusion on the State's primary election ballot, including the failure to recuse herself for bias from that adjudicatory proceeding as required by the Maine Administrative Procedure Act. This bias is evidenced by her serving as a Maine presidential elector for Joseph R. Biden in the 2020 election. The committee shall also conduct a comprehensive review of allegations of misconduct by Secretary of State Shenna Bellows regarding her unilateral disenfranchisement of voters and candidate Donald J. Trump and her willful violation of the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution; and be it further

**ORDERED**, that the House Special Investigative Committee consists of 13 members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives or the Speaker's designee, 6 of whom are appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives upon the recommendation of the House Minority Leader, and that the first-named member is the chair of the committee; and be it further

**ORDERED**, that the House Special Investigative Committee:

1. Shall adopt rules to govern the proceedings before it in order to ensure due process, fundamental fairness and a thorough investigation;

2. May administer oaths and compel the attendance and testimony of persons and the production of papers, documents and other evidence under oath, by subpoena, when the testimony, papers, documents or evidence is necessary for or incident to any inquiry relevant to the business or purposes of the committee. The committee may punish any person for the neglect, refusal or failure to appear or to produce papers, documents or other evidence commanded by subpoena and may punish any person who, upon appearance, either with or without subpoena, refuses to be sworn or testify or produce papers, documents or evidence demanded;

3. May hire special counsel and such other personnel as may be necessary to carry out the committee's responsibilities; and

4. Following its review and investigation of the facts and circumstances relating to the alleged misconduct of Secretary of State Shenna Bellows, shall submit to the House of Representatives no later than March 29, 2024 its findings and recommendations in the form of

a final report, including, if the committee concludes such action is warranted, articles of impeachment describing the misdemeanor in office with which Secretary of State Shenna Bellows is charged. The committee may request from the Speaker of the House of Representatives or the Speaker's designee extensions of time to complete its work.

**SPONSORED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**(Representative ANDREWS, J.)**

**TOWN: Paris**