

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senate Legislative Record
One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Legislature

State of Maine

Daily Edition

First Regular Session
beginning December 7, 2016

beginning at Page 1

I am of the opinion that the Guardian Ad Litem Law should sunset. I understand there is still a need to have a better guardian ad litem system in our state. There is a tendency in the Legislature to pass a law, then to assume the problem is fixed. I believe that is what happened when the Legislature passed the Guardian Ad Litem Law. Because the system still needs to be fixed, I support the sunset of our current law so a new and serious debate can occur on what other options are available.

For this reason, I return LD 457 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

S/Paul R. LePage
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The accompanying Bill:

An Act To Repeal the Sunset Date on the Children's Guardians Ad Litem Law (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 324 L.D. 457

Comes from the House with the **VETO OVERRIDDEN**, notwithstanding the objections of the Governor.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall this Bill become law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? In accordance with Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution, the vote will be taken by the Yeas and Nays. A vote of yes will be in favor of overriding the veto of the Governor. A vote of no will be in favor of sustaining the veto of the Governor."

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#237)

YEAS: Senators: BELLOWS, BRAKEY, BREEN, CARPENTER, CARSON, CHENETTE, CHIPMAN, COLLINS, CUSHING, CYRWAY, DAVIS, DESCHAMBAULT, DIAMOND, DILL, DION, DOW, GRATWICK, HAMPER, HILL, JACKSON, KATZ, KEIM, LANGLEY, LIBBY, MAKER, MASON, MILLETT, MIRAMANT, ROSEN, SAVIELLO, VITELLI, VOLK, WHITTEMORE, WOODSOME, PRESIDENT THIBODEAU

NAYS: Senators: None

35 Senators having voted in the affirmative and no Senator having voted in the negative, and 35 being more than two-thirds of the members present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the veto of the Governor be **OVERRIDDEN** and the Bill become law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor.

The Following Communication: H.C. 203

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0001**

June 2, 2017

The 128th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, Maine

Dear Honorable Members of the 128th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 56, "An Act To Include 50ml and Smaller Liquor Bottles in the Laws Governing Returnable Containers."

I have several objections to this bill. The Legislature purports to care about how each dollar entrusted to the state is spent, yet this bill was exempted from scrutiny by the Appropriations and Financial Affairs Committee despite the cost for implementation that it imposes, which totals over \$1 million. I am troubled by the precedent this bill sets; it suggests that any time a legislator identifies a pet cause that needs funding, they should raid the state's liquor business. That type of thinking has gotten the state into financial trouble in the past, and it runs counter to the steps this Administration has taken to strengthen the liquor contract, which is now producing tens of millions of dollars more a year to fund state government and enable us to pay back the hospital debt. This bill takes us in the wrong direction.

If proponents of this bill are truly concerned about the litter caused by discarded 50ml bottles on the side of the road, they have two options: either increase penalties for discarding these bottles or discontinue sales of these bottles all together.

The case to increase the penalty for discarding 50ml alcohol bottles on the side of the road is clear. In speaking with members of the public and in law enforcement about this issue, they have informed me that 50ml containers on the side of the road often result from consumption inside a moving vehicle. Whether consumed by the driver or a passenger in a vehicle, in violation of Maine law, this is dangerous, illegal and unacceptable. The behavior is more egregious because the act of discarding the bottle out the window is merely an attempt to eliminate the evidence of the crime. I cannot condone this unlawful behavior, and I believe increased penalties are warranted.

Last week I vetoed LD 671, which sought to ease penalties on license suspension for people who have been caught driving while drunk. I am becoming concerned the Legislature does not take drunk driving seriously and is unwilling to protect the public from such reckless behavior. In this bill, the Legislature has once again failed to seek penalties for those creating the threat to public safety.

Absent increased penalties, which this bill failed to impose, an alternative approach is to discontinue the sale of 50ml bottles containing alcohol all together. If this bill passes, I have directed the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations to work with the Liquor and Lottery Commission to delist these products for sale in Maine.

Rather than support this costly bill, which will not reduce drunk driving and does nothing to curb the destruction of evidence through littering, I return LD 56 to you unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

S/Paul R. LePage
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The accompanying Bill:

An Act To Include 50 Milliliter and Smaller Liquor Bottles in the Laws Governing Returnable Containers
H.P. 43 L.D. 56

Comes from the House with the **VETO OVERRIDDEN**, notwithstanding the objections of the Governor.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall this Bill become law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor? In accordance with Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution, the vote will be taken by the Yeas and Nays. A vote of yes will be in favor of overriding the veto of the Governor. A vote of no will be in favor of sustaining the veto of the Governor."

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#238)

YEAS: Senators: BELLOWS, BREEN, CARPENTER, CARSON, CHENETTE, CHIPMAN, COLLINS, CYRWAY, DAVIS, DESCHAMBAULT, DIAMOND, DILL, DION, DOW, GRATWICK, HILL, JACKSON, KATZ, KEIM, LANGLEY, MAKER, MILLETT, MIRAMANT, ROSEN, SAVIELLO, VITELLI, VOLK, WOODSOME, PRESIDENT THIBODEAU

NAYS: Senators: BRAKEY, CUSHING, HAMPER, LIBBY, MASON, WHITEMORE

29 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 6 Senators having voted in the negative, and 29 being more than two-thirds of the members present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the veto of the Governor be **OVERRIDDEN** and the Bill become law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor.

The Following Communication: H.C. 208

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0001**

June 2, 2017

The 128th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, Maine

Dear Honorable Members of the 128th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1055, "An Act To Update the Statutes Under Which Maine's Credit Unions Are Chartered."

With their tax-exempt status, credit unions enjoy a significant competitive advantage over banks. This bill would expand that competitive advantage inappropriately by increasing the amount of total surplus a credit union may invest in real estate from 50 to 60 percent and by eliminating the requirement for a guaranty fund. I believe in a level playing field for economic competitors. For this reason, I return LD 1055 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

S/Paul R. LePage
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The accompanying Bill:

An Act To Update the Statutes under Which Maine's Credit Unions Are Chartered
H.P. 738 L.D. 1055

Comes from the House with the **VETO OVERRIDDEN**, notwithstanding the objections of the Governor.

The President laid before the Senate the following: "Shall this Bill become law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?"

On motion by Senator **CUSHING** of Penobscot, **TABLED** until Later in Today's Session, pending **CONSIDERATION**.

The Following Communication: H.C. 209

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June 2, 2017