

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Record**  
**House of Representatives**  
**One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Legislature**  
**State of Maine**

**Daily Edition**

**Second Regular Session**

beginning January 3, 2018

beginning at page H-1216

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Belfast, Representative Herbig, who wishes to address the House on the record.

Representative **HERBIG**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. I'd like to pose a question through the Chair. Just to be clear, in this Communication, item 2-1, it suggests that today we will just be voting on vetoes unless we pass an extension order. We will not be taking up any other items, and in fact, we cannot take up any other items without an extension order.

The SPEAKER: The Chair would answer in the affirmative. Although we have a full calendar that lists all of the items still pending before the 128th Legislature, the only items that we will be taking up this morning are the vetoes, the 13 vetoes that are in front of us. We do anticipate that we will likely present an extension order. Should that fail, that will be the end of our business and the adjournment without day for the 128th Legislature.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 520)

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

April 20, 2018

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 1848, "An Act To Extend Arrearage Management Programs".

This bill extends programs at CMP and Emera which help low income residential customers clear up amounts they owe to both T&D utilities to September 30, 2021. Despite the bill's good intentions, the data shows that the program didn't work, and that efforts to fix it will likely add cost and not benefit.

The PUC testimony on the Arrearage Management Program (AMP) states: "The Commission does not believe that the desired outcome of improved payment performance during and after participation in an AMP by customers can be achieved with the current AMP structure and that extending the program another three years will not change this conclusion." Participating customers' bill payment patterns did not improve after their participation in the program, and were not substantively different or better than bill payment patterns of customers that did not participate in the program. While this bill changes the expired program by adding financial and budgetary guidance for participants, adding these changes will likely only increase the administrative costs of the program.

This bill is another example of the legislature trying to insert itself where it does not belong and substitute its judgement for that of expert regulatory bodies. For these reasons, I return LD 1848 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,  
S/Paul R. LePage  
Governor

**READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.** Sent for concurrence.

The accompanying item An Act To Extend Arrearage Management Programs

(H.P. 1285) (L.D. 1848)  
(C. "A" H-708)

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Berwick, Representative O'Connor.

Representative **O'CONNOR**: Thank you, Madam Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House. I'll be brief. I believe that the Chief Executive's veto is based on the original bill that was put before us. It was a pleasure, I must say, working with Representative Riley on this bill to put teeth in it. I think this will actually lower electric rates for the people of the State of Maine, as well as help some of our poorest customers get out of debt and on the right track. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

After reconsideration, the House proceeded to vote on the question, 'Shall this Bill become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?' A roll call was taken.

The SPEAKER: The pending question before the House is 'Shall this Bill become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?' All those in favor will vote yes, those opposed will vote no.

**ROLL CALL NO. 645V**

YEA - Ackley, Alley, Austin B, Austin S, Babbidge, Bailey, Bates, Beebe-Center, Berry, Bickford, Black, Blume, Bradstreet, Brooks, Bryant, Campbell, Cardone, Casas, Cebra, Chace, Chapman, Collings, Cooper, Corey, Craig, Daughtry, DeChant, Denno, Devin, Dillingham, Doore, Duchesne, Dunphy, Espling, Farnsworth, Farrin, Fay, Fecteau, Foley, Fredette, Frey, Fuller, Gattine, Gerrish, Gillway, Ginzler, Golden, Grant, Grignon, Grohman, Guerin, Hamann, Handy, Hanington, Hanley, Harlow, Harrington, Harvell, Hawke, Head, Herbig, Herrick, Hickman, Higgins, Hilliard, Hogan, Hubbell, Hymanson, Johansen, Jorgensen, Kinney J, Kinney M, Kornfield, Kumiega, Lawrence, Lockman, Longstaff, Luchini, Lyford, Madigan C, Madigan J, Malaby, Marean, Martin J, Martin R, Mason, Mastraccio, McCrea, McCreight, McElwee, McLean, Melaragno, Monaghan, Moonen, Nadeau, O'Connor, O'Neil, Ordway, Parker, Parry, Perkins, Perry, Picchiotti, Pickett, Pierce J, Pierce T, Pouliot, Prescott, Reckitt, Reed, Riley, Rykerson, Sampson, Sanborn, Schneck, Seavey, Sheats, Simmons, Sirocki, Skolfield, Spear, Stanley, Stearns, Stetkis, Stewart, Strom, Sutton, Sylvester, Talbot Ross, Tepler, Terry, Theriault, Timberlake, Tipping, Tucker, Tuell, Turner, Vachon, Wadsworth, Wallace, Ward, Warren, White, Winsor, Wood, Zeigler, Madam Speaker.

NAY - NONE.

ABSENT - Battle, Haggan, Sanderson, Sherman.

Yes, 147; No, 0; Absent, 4; Excused, 0.

147 having voted in the affirmative and 0 voted in the negative, with 4 being absent, and accordingly the Veto was **NOT SUSTAINED.** Sent for concurrence.