

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from electronic originals
(may include minor formatting differences from printed original)

Senate Legislative Record
One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Legislature

State of Maine

Daily Edition

Second Regular Session
beginning January 3, 2018

beginning at Page 1451

EXCUSED: Senator: BRAKEY

22 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 12 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, and 22 being less than two-thirds of the members present and voting, it was the vote of the Senate that the veto of the Governor be **SUSTAINED**.

The Secretary has so informed the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

All matters thus acted upon were ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

Off Record Remarks

RECESSED until the sound of the bell.

After Recess the Senate was called to order by the President.

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Senate considered the following:

COMMUNICATIONS

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.

The accompanying Bill:

An Act To Extend Arrearage Management Programs
H.P. 1285 L.D. 1848

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 (#665)

YEAS: Senators: BELLOWS, 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