

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

Daily Edition

First Regular Session

beginning December 3, 2014

beginning at page H-1

the palliative care now being provided, and make recommendations for improvement in an annual report.

An existing government entity, the Maine Hospice Council, now provides "continued development and delivery of high quality hospice and palliative care to all Mainers" and educates "both professionals and laypersons in the best practices of hospice and palliative care medicine." The Council's mission overlaps greatly with the palliative care initiatives of this bill. Indeed, the proposed 14-member council would include the executive director of the Maine Hospice Council, as well as three persons she appoints.

With this bill, another permanent governmental entity will be set up, with the Maine people paying members' expenses, and it will continue to exist long after its usefulness has evaporated. Not every well-intended idea must take up permanent residence in the halls of government. For these reasons, I return LD 782 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,
S/Paul R. LePage
Governor

Came from the Senate, **READ** and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE**.

READ and **ORDERED PLACED ON FILE** in concurrence.

The accompanying item An Act To Improve the Quality of Life of Persons with Serious Illnesses

(S.P. 280) (L.D. 782)

In Senate, June 16, 2015, this Bill, having been returned by the Governor, together with objections to the same, pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution of the State of Maine, after reconsideration, the Senate proceeded to vote on the question: 'Shall this Bill become a law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?'

35 voted in favor and 0 against, and 35 being more than 2/3 of the members present and voting, accordingly it was the vote of the Senate that the Bill become law and the veto was overridden.

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. 280V

YEA - Alley, Austin, Babbidge, Bates, Battle, Beavers, Beck, Beebe-Center, Bickford, Black, Blume, Brooks, Bryant, Burstein, Chace, Chapman, Chenette, Chipman, Cooper, Corey, Crafts, Daughtry, Davitt, DeChant, Devin, Dion, Doore, Duchesne, Dunphy L, Dunphy M, Edgcomb, Espling, Evangelos, Farnsworth, Farrin, Fecteau, Foley, Fowle, Fredette, Frey, Gattine, Gerrish, Gideon, Gilbert, Gillway, Golden, Goode, Grant, Greenwood, Grohman, Hamann, Hanley, Harlow, Hawke, Head, Herbig, Herrick, Hickman, Higgins, Hobart, Hobbins, Hogan, Hubbell, Hymanson, Jorgensen, Kinney J, Kinney M, Kornfield, Kruger, Kumiega, Lajoie, Long, Longstaff, Luchini, Maker, Malaby, Martin J, Martin R, Mastraccio, McCabe, McCreight, McElwee, McLean, Melaragno, Monaghan, Moonen, Morrison, Nadeau, Noon, Nutting, O'Connor, Parry, Peterson, Pierce J, Pierce T, Pouliot, Powers, Prescott, Reed, Rotundo, Russell, Rykerson, Sanborn, Sanderson, Saucier, Sawicki, Schneck, Seavey, Shaw, Sherman, Short, Sirocki, Stanley, Stearns, Stuckey, Sukeforth, Tepler, Theriault, Timberlake, Tipping-Spitz, Tucker, Tuell, Turner, Vachon, Verow, Wadsworth, Ward, Warren, Welsh, Winsor, Wood, Mr. Speaker.

NAY - Buckland, Campbell R, Dillingham, Ginzler, Guerin, Hanington, Hilliard, Lockman, Lyford, McClellan, Picchiotti, Pickett, Stetkis, Wallace, White.

ABSENT - Campbell J, Marean, Skolfield, Timmons.

Yes, 132; No, 15; Absent, 4; Excused, 0.

132 having voted in the affirmative and 15 voted in the negative, with 4 being absent, and accordingly the Veto was **NOT SUSTAINED** in concurrence.

On motion of Representative KORNFIELD of Bangor, the House **RECONSIDERED** its action whereby it voted to **INSIST** on Bill "An Act To Provide Reasonable Accommodations for School Attendance for Children with Disabilities for Whom Medical Marijuana Has Been Recommended"

(H.P. 381) (L.D. 557)

On further motion of the same Representative, the House voted to **RECEDE AND CONCUR**.

By unanimous consent, all matters having been acted upon were **ORDERED SENT FORTHWITH**.

ENACTORS

Emergency Measure

An Act Making Unified Appropriations and Allocations for the Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and Changing Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2015, June 30, 2016 and June 30, 2017

(H.P. 702) (L.D. 1019)

(S. "A" S-287 and S. "B" S-288 to C. "A" H-415)

Was reported by the Committee on **Engrossed Bills** as truly and strictly engrossed.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Lewiston, Representative Rotundo.

Representative **ROTUNDO**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House, because of the late hour, I will forego thanking all those people I would normally thank for their work in this budget process. But before enactment, I do feel I need to express my deepest appreciation to the staff of the Revisor's Office and the Office of Fiscal and Program Review. These people are exemplary public servants. I know I speak on behalf of the entire Appropriations Committee when I thank the OFPR staff for their professionalism, expertise, and patience as they have worked under enormous stress and pressure for weeks. I hope they know how much we appreciate their work. We're particularly grateful to the committee's principle analyst, Maureen Dawson, who has worked unimaginably long hours for months. Not only was Maureen enormously helpful to us in organizing and moving our committee work along, she was also gracious and good natured whenever we went to her for help. To all who have helped in this budgetary process, I extend my greatest thanks.

Representative McCABE of Skowhegan **REQUESTED** a roll call on **PASSAGE TO BE ENACTED**.

More than one-fifth of the members present expressed a desire for a roll call which was ordered.

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Scarborough, Representative Sirocki.

Representative **SIROCKI**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Before we vote on this, Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, I just wanted to say a few words. There were days when I thought this day would never arrive, but here we are. To begin with, I would like to thank every Member of the House. While House Republicans' views were marginalized during the committee process, the report backs from the various policy

committees helped those of us on the Appropriations Committee much more than you may imagine.

Our House leadership made a valiant effort to improve upon the majority budget. And some important changes were negotiated, but they came at a cost. Once the cream was put in the coffee, it became clear to me that a new pot needed to be brewed. Thus, House Republicans readied a Minority Report; a report that will never see the light of day.

After careful consideration, I feel compelled to explain why, after all of this work, I am unable to vote for the budget before us. All of us have a stake in this budget. After all, the budget affects every person in the state. It is often said that it is easy to spend other people's money, but I would not describe spending billions of hardworking taxpayer dollars as "easy," nor should it be, especially when so many Mainers are struggling to make ends meet.

When speaking with my constituents, they made it clear to me that they are frustrated with politics and politicians. Why? Because we often refuse to tackle tough issues, we spend more money on programs that yield few, if any, results, we underfund programs that serve our vulnerable, and we spend their hard-earned money on pork and special handouts. And all of this is true.

I am voting against this budget because I know we can do better. We still have time to make improvements. In my mind, there are some things that should go into the budget first. Essential things. Important things. We should have made it a commitment to adequately fund our nursing homes and provide a long overdue cost of living adjustment instead of loading in millions of specific targeted amendments. We should have eliminated the waitlists for our traumatically brain injured before we loaded up the budget with \$4 million in cherry-picked bills from the Special Appropriations Table, and we should have eliminated the waitlists for hundreds of cognitively and physically disabled individuals who will once again be told they must wait, while we made sure to continue a full spectrum of benefits that most other states do not offer for non-citizens.

I know that we are all tired, and we want to go home. And, yes, the clock is ticking, but we still have time to make this a better budget. We can do the right thing, right here, right now for Maine people who are not being served and for struggling Maine nursing homes that care for our elderly. We can choose to finish the job. Or, we can do like we have so many times in the past, being content enough, we vote, we go home, and we quickly forget who we left behind. After all, the disabled, the elderly, the autistic, the traumatically brain injured, have become accustomed to waiting while others are served. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.