

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

Dear Clerk Hunt:

Pursuant to my authority under House Rule 201.1 (l) (a), I have temporarily appointed Representative Drew Gattine of Westbrook as a member of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs for the duration of the absence of Representative Linda Sanborn of Gorham effective immediately. Should you have any questions regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

S/Mark W. Eves

Speaker of the House

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The SPEAKER: The House has gotten through the calendar, the supplements that we have in our possession. What the plan will be for the rest of today and this evening, the Clerk's Office needs time, and all the members of the Clerk's Office need time, to get the line item vetoes prepared. We're in a bit of unprecedented territory, uncharted waters, as it relates to the number of line item vetoes. The Clerk's Office needs to prepare those.

It's uncertain as to how long it will take to prepare them, but we are anticipating multiple hours. They will have a better sense of the pace in which they can get this done after a couple hours. I would anticipate an estimate—and this is an estimate and we will be sending emails throughout the day for updates—I would say not before six o'clock, but please look at your emails.

We need to make sure that the Clerk's Office can get done with their work. They are all going to be working on this. I ask that you respect their time. If you have questions about an amendment, if that could please wait until they get through their work. We want to be fully prepared this evening when we come back in to take up the line item vetoes and the intention is to get through that this evening.

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

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

Representative **DILLINGHAM**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Men and Women of the House, in reference to Roll Call No. 288, on LD 83, An Act To Strengthen the Consent Laws for Abortions Performed on Minors and Incapacitated Persons, had I been present, I would've voted "yea."

The SPEAKER: Before we get started this evening, I wanted to take a moment of silence to honor the victims of the terrible tragedy that struck our nation yesterday in Charleston, South Carolina. At a historic black church in that community, a gunman fatally shot six women, three men, including the pastor who was a sitting State Senator. Our thoughts and prayers tonight are with those families and communities who are deeply grieving. Please join me now in a moment of silence.

At this point, the Members of the House stood and joined in a moment of silence in honor of the victims of the tragedy at the Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina.

The SPEAKER: Prior to beginning this evening on the line item vetoes, the Chair would make an announcement that we will be going through these relatively quickly. We are going to be ordering divisions. If roll calls are required, please make that known. We are going to be going through these pretty quickly so that we can do this in an efficient, timely manner. I will do my best to look at the screen and look up prior to each supplement beginning, but please understand that we will be doing divisions.

Once we have a majority—it requires a simple majority to override a line item veto—I will be closing the vote. I would encourage folks to stay in their seat, with the exception of having to go to the emergency bathroom break. But, please be very cognizant of being able to push your button very quickly once we open the vote. During the divisions, bells do not ring, so if you're out in the hallway, you will not know if we were taking up a division or not.

You will also notice, starting with Supplement 4, goes through Supplement 80. There are more than 80 line item vetoes that we are going to need to take up. There will be another batch that will come. I believe that will start with Supplement 11 with that next batch. So, we are required to recycle the numbers—not required, we have to—because of the software, another reason. So I just wanted to clue folks in to that when we get to the 80th supplement, it will go back to Supplement No. 11 and go in sequential order from there.

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

Representative **FREDETTE**: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen of the House, just very quickly, Mr. Speaker, as I'm looking at the supplement, just want to make sure I understand in regards to the document, itself. I'm looking at page three, in Supplement No. 11. My understanding is, looking at the 2015-16 with a stricken out number, the number to the right would be the insertion of the Chief Executive's number. Is that correct?

The SPEAKER: The Chair would answer in the affirmative.

The Following Communication: (H.C. 243)

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

June 18, 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House

Augusta, Maine

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2-A of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby executing line-item vetoes of a number of allocations contained within LD 1019, "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." These vetoes are included on the attached sheet.

Mainers want a budget that can be used as a blueprint for prosperity for our great state. Instead, legislators delayed the process for five months, then presented a business-as-usual budget patched together at the last minute. Secretive, late-night decisions made under the cover of darkness and behind locked

doors have led to a budget based on the best interests of a handful of politicians, not what is best for all the people of Maine. As the drug epidemic continues to ravage our state—with nearly 1,000 babies born each year addicted to drugs and 208 Mainers dead of drug overdoses in 2014—it is appalling that politicians would rather fund their own pet projects than prevent ruthless out-of-state drug traffickers from infiltrating our communities and killing our children.

Because politicians are so busy capitulating to special interests and kowtowing to social-justice activists prowling the halls of the State House, they ignore our elderly, disabled and mentally ill citizens. These Mainers are rightfully entitled to healthcare, but they are left sitting for years on waitlists without basic services. Politicians have submitted a budget that provides only \$6 million toward the waitlist, when the true need is another \$40 million—which I allocated in my original budget.

They also rejected my plan to overhaul the state's General Assistance program, which encouraged cities like Portland to spend more of local taxpayers' money so they could get more funding from the state. Politicians watered down General Assistance reform to reward cities that insist on giving local taxpayers' money to illegal aliens.

Clearly, the health and public safety of Mainers was not a priority of the 127th Legislature. Instead, Augusta politicians snuck in a \$4 million "Christmas tree" adorned with piggy projects for legislators, such as buying federal land in Kittery, building an unneeded "Francis Perkins Homestead," paying for a commission disguised as initiative to end hunger and creating entirely new projects.

Maine taxpayers deserve to know how every dollar of their money is being spent, but this "Christmas tree" with gifts for certain legislators was presented with no public notice or input. This is exactly the kind of back-room politics the people of Maine sent me here to prevent.

Too many Augusta politicians are willing to disenfranchise the Maine people in exchange for feeding off the public trough, even at the expense of our most vulnerable and needy citizens. The days of pork-barrel spending—and Christmas in June—must end. At the very least, I will bring these politicians' actions to light for Mainers to see.

My administration has been working for five years to create an efficient government, but that is an oxymoron to Augusta politicians. They must put aside their petty political agendas and put the hard-working people of Maine first. Mainers deserve to have a say in how their money is being used, and they should be included in the budgeting process. I took my budget directly to the people of Maine, holding public town hall meetings up and down the state.

Until Augusta politicians bring transparency to their budget process, I will continue to veto legislation that is not in the best interest of all Mainers. I ask each one of you to stand up for the Maine people and support these vetoes.

Sincerely,
S/Paul R. LePage
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE. Sent for concurrence.

Pursuant to Article IV, Part Third, Section 2-A the accompanying line item vetoes on 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 (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 702) (L.D. 1019)
(S. "A" S-287 and S. "B" S-288 to C. "A" H-415)

The accompanying line item veto

Fund for Efficient Delivery of Local and Regional Services - Administration Z047

Initiative: Provides one-time funding of \$750,000 in each year of the 2016-2017 biennium to foster the efficient delivery of local and regional services.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	
All Other	\$750,000	\$0

The Chair ordered a division on **RECONSIDERATION**.

After reconsideration, the House proceeded to vote on the question 'Shall this dollar amount become law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?'

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

A vote of the House was taken. 106 voted in favor of the same and 19 against, and accordingly the Line Item Veto was **NOT SUSTAINED**. Sent for concurrence.

The accompanying line item veto

Fund for Efficient Delivery of Local and Regional Services - Administration Z047

Initiative: Provides one-time funding of \$750,000 in each year of the 2016-2017 biennium to foster the efficient delivery of local and regional services.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2016-17	
All Other	\$750,000	\$0

The Chair ordered a division on **RECONSIDERATION**.

After reconsideration, the House proceeded to vote on the question 'Shall this dollar amount become law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?'

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

A vote of the House was taken. 109 voted in favor of the same and 25 against, and accordingly the Line Item Veto was **NOT SUSTAINED**. Sent for concurrence.

The accompanying line item veto

Division of Forest Protection Z232

Initiative: Eliminates 6 vacant Forest Ranger II positions in the Division of Forest Protection program and reduces funding for related All Other costs.

GENERAL FUND	2015-16	
Personal Services	(\$232,167)	(\$300,460)

The Chair ordered a division on **RECONSIDERATION**.

After reconsideration, the House proceeded to vote on the question 'Shall this dollar amount become law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor?'

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

A vote of the House was taken. 112 voted in favor of the same and 19 against, and accordingly the Line Item Veto was **NOT SUSTAINED**. Sent for concurrence.