

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senate Legislative Record
One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Legislature

State of Maine

Daily Edition

First Regular Session
beginning December 3, 2014

beginning at Page 1

The Following Communication: H.C. 305

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

June 26, 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 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 955 "An Act To Make Changes to Laws Governing Condominiums Regarding the Display of Signs."

Far too many legislators make solemn-sounding promises to the voters who elect them, then sweep them aside as soon as they step foot into the exclusive, club-like atmosphere of the State House. Their giddy eagerness to get along with colleagues on both sides of the aisle swiftly supersedes their sworn duty to the people who sent them to Augusta.

This Legislature delayed its responsibilities for five months, negotiated a last-minute budget deal behind closed doors and is now passing bills at breakneck speed, just so they can pack up and go home for the summer. While they are busy high-fiving each other for hastily passing bills they haven't even read, the Maine people are left disenfranchised and without true representation.

Maine voters in last November's election clearly endorsed tax and welfare reforms, but this Legislature has denied them their Constitutional right to debate the issues at the ballot box.

Mainers deserve to know how their elected officials voted on public policies that could affect the future of our state. Therefore, to ensure each piece of legislation gets the widest possible representation in Augusta, legislators will have to follow the procedure for reconsideration of a veto, which requires two-thirds support of the Legislature and a roll call.

For this reason, I return LD 955 unsigned and vetoed.

Sincerely,

S/Paul R. LePage
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

The accompanying Bill:

An Act To Make Changes to Laws Governing Condominiums
Regarding the Display of Signs

H.P. 658 L.D. 955

Comes from the House, 97 members having voted in the affirmative and 45 in the negative, the veto of the Governor was Overridden and it was the vote of the House that the Bill become law 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 the Bill. 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 (#394)

YEAS: Senators: ALFOND, BAKER, BREEN, BURNS, COLLINS, CUSHING, CYRWAY, DAVIS, DIAMOND, DILL, DUTREMBLE, EDGEComb, GERZOFsky, GRATWICK, HAMPER, HASKELL, HILL, JOHNSON, KATZ, LANGLEY, LIBBY, MASON, MILLETT, MIRAMANT, PATRICK, SAVIELLO, VALENTINO, VOLK, THE PRESIDENT - MICHAEL D. THIBODEAU

NAYS: Senators: BRAKEY, MCCORMICK, ROSEN, WHITTEMORE, WILLETTE, WOODSOME

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. 306

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June 26, 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 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1059, "An Act Relating to Marijuana Testing Facilities."

This bill would allow for public or private laboratories to test marijuana for chemical profiles and potency. The Medical Marijuana Program has existed for years without these marijuana labs. This bill simply intends to set up a system of testing labs for labeling, giving certain companies a running start if legalization prevails with the voters in 2016. I do not support legalization of marijuana, and I cannot support bills that aim to set up the infrastructure to accomplish legalizing the drug.

For these reasons, I return LD 1059 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 Relating to Marijuana Testing Facilities
H.P. 728 L.D. 1059

Comes from the House, 106 members having voted in the affirmative and 36 in the negative, the veto of the Governor was Overridden and it was the vote of the House that the Bill become law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Androscoggin, Senator Brakey.

Senator **BRAKEY:** Thank you, Mr. President. I just wanted to briefly say that I think this is a very important bill that we had a near unanimous report on in the Health and Human Services Committee. We spoke about this, so I'll just keep it to just a few sentences. This bill, essentially, is a patient safety bill. All it does is allow for labs in the state to be able to test medical cannabis so that patients can have access to proper dosage information, information to make sure that there are not other chemicals in their medicine like pesticides that could be damaging. When we voted on this previously we had 25 members in support. I certainly hope we will see the same level of support. I know that some of my colleagues support the Maine Medical Marijuana Program and some do not. I completely respect both sides of that. It's also my hope that regardless of any individual's view on the program itself everyone can support increasing patient safety within that program. The program exists and we should at least be making sure that patients have access to information to make sure that they are making safe choices. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Kennebec, Senator Cyrway.

Senator **CYRWAY:** Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I'd just like to say on lab testing, you talked about proper dosage. How do we know the proper dosage? There is no FDA proof that it even works. In the last e-mails I've been getting from Colorado, from the American Medical Association, they said that there's no proof that medical marijuana even works. If not, it's going to be very serious problems later on in life, and the effects. The question here is you're doing a lab testing and it's supposed to help you for proper dosage when you don't even know what the proper dosage is. That's kind of questionable to me. I think this bill really should go from FDA proper dosage and then do the lab testing through FDA, not through a lab that's going to be actually basically given authorization to do a grow operation. I think that this certainly is a bad bill and I'd appreciate it if you went against this bill. Thank you.

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 the Bill. 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 (#395)

YEAS: Senators: ALFOND, BRAKEY, BREEN, DIAMOND, DILL, DUTREMBLE, GERZOFISKY, GRATWICK, HASKELL, HILL, JOHNSON, KATZ, LANGLEY, LIBBY, MASON, MILLETT, MIRAMANT, PATRICK, VALENTINO, VOLK, WILLETTE

NAYS: Senators: BAKER, BURNS, COLLINS, CUSHING, CYRWAY, DAVIS, EDGEComb, HAMPER, MCCORMICK, ROSEN, SAVIELLO, WHITTEMORE, WOODSOME, THE PRESIDENT - MICHAEL D. THIBODEAU

21 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 14 Senators having voted in the negative, and 21 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.

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June 26, 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 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1092, "An Act To Prevent Abusive Debt Collection Practices."

This bill would prohibit a debt collector from initiating a civil lawsuit on a time-barred debt. Under current law and rules promulgated by the Board of Bar Overseers, Maine-licensed lawyers are already prohibited from such actions pursuant to the Maine Rules of Professional Conduct.

Additionally, this bill allows a debtor to forego paying on a debt while waiting for a copy of a written payment schedule.