

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senate Legislative Record
One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Legislature

State of Maine

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beginning at Page 1

make sure that there's at least no impurities and they vote against the testing facilities to get more evidence. They say that these medical associations determine certain things but without any testing or evidence available except policy that was set 70 or 80 years ago by a hysterical Hollywood film that we still cite today for our anecdotal and hysterical lack of evidence for this. What we do have is a child. By the courage and wisdom of certain legislators and legislatures to step up and say that the U.S. policy is madness, that they're importing it around the world has created madness, and that there are numerous benefits to marijuana that have been proven in the few tests that have been done in countries that don't subscribe to hysteria and madness for setting policy or imprisoning people for life for making small purchases of marijuana in certain circumstances that we now determine to be okay. We have people constantly step up and say we shouldn't do it. Here's a student, here's a person, here's a child that has been put on this when nothing else worked and it worked. We don't need more proof than that. It works in that case. It works for some of these kids and it works for some of the adults and that's the only testing we're getting because we get such stonewalling about getting testing, about getting past the hysteria and ignorance. This is the kind of thing we can start to step up. The drug industry has taken over the allopathic medical world. These doctors have no problem prescribing drugs that take four pages in National Geographic to put all the side effects up. We have no evidence that the 400 compounds are dangerous. We just don't have the evidence. Let's help this kid. Let's help all these kids and provide a chance for them to go to school, to go to the hospital, and not suffer. Thank you.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes the Senator from Cumberland, Senator Millett.

Senator **MILLETT:** Thank you, Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen of the Senate, I was not planning on rising, but I feel like a number of our colleagues are debating a law that we've already passed. Maine has passed the Medical Marijuana Bill. The bill that's before us today is about allowing children who are subject to very harmful effects of fits of epilepsy on a daily basis. I want to assure everybody in this room that the Education Committee recognized the importance of this bill. We worked it very cautiously over numerous work sessions. We worked with Representative Sanderson to come to a position where here, in the Education Committee, we could feel comfortable with the fact that we were going to help children be able to obtain the education that they deserved and need. I, myself personally, have a lot of concerns about marijuana and the recreational use of it. I have not supported it, but this bill I support because these children are struggling. They're suffering and they need our help. This bill is a compromise. It's been worked on hard and I hope you will vote to override the veto. Thank you, Mr. President.

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 (#416)

YEAS: Senators: ALFOND, BAKER, BRAKEY, BREEN, DIAMOND, DILL, DUTREMBLE, GERZOFISKY, HAMPER, HASKELL, HILL, JOHNSON, KATZ, LANGLEY, MCCORMICK, MILLETT, MIRAMANT, PATRICK, ROSEN, VALENTINO, VOLK, WILLETTE, WOODSOME

NAYS: Senators: BURNS, COLLINS, CUSHING, CYRWAY, DAVIS, EDGEComb, GRATWICK, MASON, SAVIELLO, WHITTEMORE, THE PRESIDENT - MICHAEL D. THIBODEAU

EXCUSED: Senator: LIBBY

23 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 11 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, and 23 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. 331

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

June 29, 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 752, "An Act To Permit Medical Marijuana Cultivation by Incapacitated Adults."

Currently, the law allows for adults in the medical marijuana program, except incapacitated adults, to grow six plants for themselves. Incapacitated adults are allowed to have other individuals grow marijuana for them. This irresponsible bill would allow for incapacitated adults to cultivate their own medical marijuana. An incapacitated adult is defined in the Adult Protective Services Act as one:

who is impaired by reason of mental illness, mental deficiency, physical illness or disability to the extent that that individual lacks sufficient understanding or capacity to make or communicate responsible decisions concerning that individual's person, or to the extent the adult cannot effectively manage or apply that individual's estate to necessary ends.

22 M.R.S.A. § 3472(10). It is bizarre that we are encouraging adults with insufficient ability to make responsible decisions to grow marijuana. These individuals are at high risk of abuse and exploitation, and yet we are doing our best to promote

their keeping a street valued drug in their home? Our elderly and disabled already are having their prescription drugs stolen from them, and here we are just adding another unnecessary risk for them.

For these reasons, I return LD 752 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 Permit Medical Marijuana Cultivation by Incapacitated Adults

H.P. 505 L.D. 752

Comes from the House, 104 members having voted in the affirmative and 43 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."

Senate at Ease.

Senate called to order by the President.

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#417)

YEAS: Senators: ALFOND, BRAKEY, DAVIS, DILL, DUTREMBLE, GERZOFKY, GRATWICK, HASKELL, JOHNSON, KATZ, MCCORMICK, MILLETT, MIRAMANT, PATRICK, VALENTINO, WILLETTE

NAYS: Senators: BAKER, BREEN, BURNS, COLLINS, CUSHING, CYRWAY, DIAMOND, EDGEComb, HAMPER, HILL, LANGLEY, MASON, ROSEN, SAVIELLO, VOLK, WHITTEMORE, WOODSOME, THE PRESIDENT - MICHAEL D. THIBODEAU

EXCUSED: Senator: LIBBY

16 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 18 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, and 16 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.

The Following Communication: H.C. 333

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

June 29, 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 1365, "An Act Regarding Licensed Children's Programs."

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 1365 unsigned and vetoed.

Sincerely,

S/Paul R. LePage
Governor

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.