

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senate Legislative Record
One Hundred and Twenty-Seventh Legislature

State of Maine

Daily Edition

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beginning at Page 1

the 5-year period of time unless the person is convicted of a subsequent crime during the prohibition.

I have been amazed to find how many Democrats are soft on illegal drug traffickers who prey on our weakest citizens. I am similarly astounded how many Democrats are soft on the issue of domestic violence. A person convicted of a domestic violence crime should be prohibited from possessing a gun for much longer than 5 years. Therefore this bill does not go far enough. Domestic violence and illegal drugs plague our society and until the Legislature starts getting tough on those issues, our public safety will be severely jeopardized.

For this reason, I return LD 600 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 Prohibit a Person Convicted of a Crime of Domestic Violence from Possessing a Firearm for a Period of 5 Years and To Better Align Maine Law with Federal Law Regarding Persons Prohibited from Possessing Firearms

H.P. 413 L.D. 600

Comes from the House, 103 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."

The Doorkeepers secured the Chamber.

The Secretary opened the vote.

ROLL CALL (#406)

YEAS: Senators: ALFOND, BAKER, BRAKEY, BREEN, BURNS, COLLINS, CUSHING, CYRWAY, DAVIS, DIAMOND, DILL, DUTREMBLE, EDGECOMB, GERZOFISKY, GRATWICK, HAMPER, HASKELL, HILL, JOHNSON, KATZ, LANGLEY, MASON, MCCORMICK, MILLETT, MIRAMANT, PATRICK, ROSEN, SAVIELLO, VALENTINO, VOLK, WHITTEMORE, WILLETTE, WOODSOME, THE PRESIDENT - MICHAEL D. THIBODEAU

NAYS: Senators: None

EXCUSED: Senator: LIBBY

34 Senators having voted in the affirmative and no Senator having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, and 34 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. 316

**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 763, "An Act To Change the Budget Approval Process for Alternative Organizational Structures."

Government is best when it is closest to the people and the people are able to hold it accountable. There are few matters more important for public accountability than budget approval, a process that residents of Maine take quite seriously. This bill seeks to enable budgets for alternative organization structures (AOS) to be approved in a specially called election rather than during a regularly scheduled statewide election, lowering the threshold for public scrutiny and accountability.

Current law requires that these changes be made at the ballot box during a statewide election. This protects the involvement of Maine citizens by putting issues of importance squarely before them on Election Day. Deciding who should approve the budget that directly affects their property taxes is one such important issue. I cannot support a bill that guarantees fewer members of the public will have their voices heard on how their hard earned dollars are spent.

For these reasons, I return LD 763 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 Change the Budget Approval Process for Alternative Organizational Structures

H.P. 516 L.D. 763

Comes from the House, 125 members having voted in the affirmative and 22 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 (#407)

YEAS: Senators: ALFOND, BAKER, BREEN, BURNS, COLLINS, CUSHING, DIAMOND, DILL, DUTREMBLE, EDGECOMB, GERZOFOSKY, GRATWICK, HAMPER, HASKELL, HILL, JOHNSON, KATZ, LANGLEY, MASON, MILLETT, MIRAMANT, PATRICK, ROSEN, SAVIELLO, VALENTINO, VOLK, WHITTEMORE, WOODSOME, THE PRESIDENT - MICHAEL D. THIBODEAU

NAYS: Senators: BRAKEY, CYRWAY, DAVIS, MCCORMICK, WILLETTE

EXCUSED: Senator: LIBBY

29 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 5 Senators having voted in the negative, with 1 Senator being excused, 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 **OVERIDDEN** and the Bill become law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor.

The Following Communication: H.C. 319

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

June 24, 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 1180, "An Act To Require Education in Public Preschool Programs and Elementary Schools Regarding Child Sexual Abuse."

There are few things more disgusting and reprehensible in this world than the sexual abuse of a child. I urge parents, teachers, and community members to do all that they can to protect Maine's children and educate them on how to report abuse to an adult who can help.

This bill, however well-intentioned it might seem, will not solve this problem in our state. It creates an unfunded mandate for the Department of Education and local schools. It is difficult, if not impossible, to create a program that can be provided at every public school at no cost. If the Legislature truly believes this policy is necessary and requires a state law, the bill should be resubmitted with a reasonable estimate of total cost to our schools rather than another unfunded mandate that stretches thin the limited resources of local schools.

The bill also seeks for government to parent Maine's children. There is no substitute for good parenting. No government can ever play the role parents need to, and I will not sign legislation that confuses that plain fact.

For this reason, I return LD 1180 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 Require Education in Public Preschool Programs and Elementary Schools Regarding Child Sexual Abuse
H.P. 813 L.D. 1180

Comes from the House, 147 members having voted in the affirmative and none 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 (#408)

YEAS: Senators: ALFOND, BAKER, BREEN, CUSHING, DIAMOND, DILL, DUTREMBLE, GERZOFOSKY, GRATWICK, HAMPER, HASKELL, HILL, JOHNSON, KATZ, LANGLEY, MASON, MILLETT, MIRAMANT, PATRICK, ROSEN, SAVIELLO, VALENTINO, VOLK, WHITTEMORE, WOODSOME, THE PRESIDENT - MICHAEL D. THIBODEAU