

**STATE OF MAINE  
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION  
SENATE ADVANCED JOURNAL AND CALENDAR**

Thursday, July 20, 2017

SUPPLEMENT NO. 3

**COMMUNICATIONS**

(2-1) The Following Communication:

H.C. 304

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

June 30, 2017

The 128th Legislature of the State of Maine  
State House  
Augusta, Maine

Dear Honorable Members of the 128th 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 1147, "An Act to Modernize the Renewable Portfolio Standard."

Under Title 35-A, M.R.S. §3210(3-A), Maine's Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) has included a requirement for electricity customers to purchase increasing amounts of electricity from qualified "new renewable capacity resources" (Class I resources), starting in 2008 as a 1% requirement and ending in 2017 as a 10% requirement. LD 1147 would extend the 10% requirement through 2022.

The RPS in Maine is a subsidy paid to renewable generators that is hidden in the bills of all electric customers. I have long opposed such subsidies—especially hiding them in Maine's electric bills. In addition, this subsidy is not even meeting its intended purpose, which is to encourage new renewable electricity generation. Over the five-year period between 2011 and 2015, the Class I RPS cost ratepayers nearly \$70 million in above-market costs. Yet, over this same period, the amount of renewable generation produced in Maine decreased by approximately 8%. Therefore, Mainers spent \$70 million and received no increase in the amount of renewable generation produced in Maine.

A subsidy that costs Maine ratepayers \$70 million over five years, but fails to meet its intended purpose, is a subsidy that needs to end.

For these reasons, I return LD 1147 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

S/Paul R. LePage  
Governor

(2-2) The accompanying Bill "An Act To Modernize the Renewable Portfolio Standard"  
H.P. 810 L.D. 1147

Comes from the House with the **VETO OVERRIDDEN** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, notwithstanding the objections of the Governor.

(2-3) The Following Communication:

H.C. 308

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

July 5, 2017

The 128th Legislature of the State of Maine  
State House  
Augusta, Maine

Dear Honorable Members of the 128th 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 481, "An Act To Promote Workforce Participation."

This bill would have provided a \$400 bonus to welfare recipients for maintaining a job for just 4 months, rewarding them for something they really should be doing anyway. I understand the desire to motivate people to stay in a job, but at some point government needs to step back and let people figure it out on their own. Why do we feel compelled to have government step in and reward people for doing what they are already supposed to do?

We cannot continue to treat low-income Mainers like children, always trying to coax them to do right things. A steady job with a steady paycheck is a reward in itself that increasingly pushes a person toward greater self-reliance and self-sufficiency. I believe Mainers are capable of success without constant intrusion and prodding by State government.

For these reasons, I return LD 481 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

S/Paul R. LePage  
Governor

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(2-4) The accompanying Bill "An Act To Promote Workforce Participation" (EMERGENCY)  
H.P. 344 L.D. 481

Comes from the House with the **VETO OVERRIDDEN** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, notwithstanding the objections of the Governor.

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(2-5) The Following Communication:

H.C. 309

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

July 5, 2017

The 128th Legislature of the State of Maine  
State House  
Augusta, Maine

Dear Honorable Members of the 128th 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 1512, "An Act To Protect the Health and Safety of First Responders."

I want to make very clear that I think we should make laws that protect those who put their lives on the line to protect the safety of the public. That is why I was a proponent of this bill as it was introduced by the Department of Public Safety. There have been several bills introduced this session to protect first responders or victims of horrible crimes. These bills have either failed to get the required votes to reach my desk or they have been watered down to the point that they do absolutely nothing—which was the unfortunate fate of this bill. I sincerely hope that in the future, first responders find the support they deserve in the State House.

Because this bill has been amended to the point that it does nothing to protect the safety of first responders, I cannot support it.

For these reasons, I return LD 1512 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

S/Paul R. LePage  
Governor

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(2-6) The accompanying Bill "An Act To Protect the Health and Safety of First Responders"  
H.P. 1036 L.D. 1512

Comes from the House with the **VETO OVERRIDDEN** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, notwithstanding the objections of the Governor.

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