

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

Monday, July 9, 2018

SUPPLEMENT NO. 4

COMMUNICATIONS

(2-1) The Following Communication:

H.C. 564

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

July 2, 2018

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 1707, "An Act To Reduce the Cost of Care Resulting from Blood-borne Infectious Diseases."

I do not believe it is the government's responsibility to ensure that we provide the safest possible path for a person to participate in dangerous, destructive, and deadly behavior. It is not appropriate for us to force every Maine taxpayer to participate in the purchase of clean needles for people suffering from an addiction, and I am frustrated at the mixed message this bill sends to our children. Are we really willing to tell our kids that they should not do drugs, but if they do, the State will help make sure there is a safe delivery system for the deadly drug? Maine kids need to understand that there is no "safe drug use" anywhere, anytime. They need to understand that drug addiction destroys lives.

We, as the State's leaders and policy makers, cannot send a message of passive consent for these dangerous and destructive activities.

I understand the desire to help people get into treatment. That desire could have been supported if the Legislature had the will to implement a responsible funding mechanism for Medicaid expansion. Addiction is one of the greatest destructive forces facing our families today. Maine's families are Maine's future – they need to succeed and they need to prosper. That is why I have been working with the Department of Health and Human Services to make it a priority to invest in evidence-based treatment options that will produce the best outcomes for individuals dealing with addiction.

Let us continue to engage our families and communities and prioritize quality treatment rather than participating in the purchase of drug paraphernalia and sending the wrong message to our kids.

For this reason, I return LD 1707 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 Reduce the Cost of Care Resulting from Blood-borne Infectious Diseases" (EMERGENCY)

H.P. 1187 L.D. 1707

Comes from the House with the **VETO OVERRIDDEN**, notwithstanding the objections of the Governor.

(2-3) The Following Communication:

H.C. 568

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

July 3, 2018

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 8, "An Act To Provide Training for Forest Rangers To Carry Firearms," because it is unnecessary and costly.

The Maine Forest Service has mitigated risks associated with Forest Ranger duties to an acceptable level through extensive training, carefully selecting Ranger candidates and monitoring behaviors. Managing the risks associated with the Rangers' law enforcement activities have been approached in the same way. Rangers are trained and mandated to avoid and defuse obvious conflict situations.

This bill contradicts the Administration's efforts to tone down the law enforcement aspects of the Forest Ranger's duties and focus them on protecting Maine's forests from fire. Forest Ranger incident reports clearly indicate that the Rangers are not routinely in harm's way during the performance of their normal duties. The Maine Forest Service has strengthened its policies to minimize the risk that Rangers will encounter dangerous situations.

LD 8's appropriation grossly understates the costs to the taxpayers of this state. In addition to the costs of training and acquiring firearms, Maine taxpayers will bear the costs of reclassifying Forest Rangers to include their new responsibilities, all to the tune of \$500,000 per year. This will add significantly to the cost of this bill, year after year. The Legislature should be honest and show the full cost of passing this bill to Maine taxpayers.

I would rather focus Forest Service time, energy and resources to ensure they hire and retain individuals who have high aptitude, possess good, sound judgment and decision-making skills, can maintain their composure under stress and treat all people with courtesy and respect.

Make no mistake; this bill is a game changer. It will forever alter the culture in the Maine woods. This bill will increase the risks to our Rangers because force likely will be met with force. Firearms will escalate the tensions between Rangers and individuals they encounter while doing their duty. The cautious use of discussion to resolve an issue will be replaced by the force of a gun or other weapon. I cannot support this.

For these reasons, I return LD 8 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

S/Paul R. LePage
Governor

(2-4) The accompanying Bill "An Act To Provide Training for Forest Rangers To Carry Firearms"
H.P. 9 L.D. 8

Comes from the House with the **VETO OVERRIDDEN**, notwithstanding the objections of the Governor.

(2-5) The Following Communication:

H.C. 570

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

July 3, 2018

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 274, "An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Working Group To Study Background Checks for Child Care Facilities and Providers."

The safety of our children is paramount, and licensing for child care facilities is a key component to ensuring that safety. Our licensing regulations now have significant background check expectations. They ensure a high level of accountability and transparency on each and every child care provider in this state—both family child care providers and center-based providers.

Licensing regulations, especially for businesses that care for our most vulnerable populations, can be a difficult balance between safety and over-regulation. The purpose of our regulatory structure is for the safety of the people served, whether kids, elders or adults with disabilities. In fulfilling that purpose, it is easy for government to over-regulate and become an impediment to business. This bill does just that. I believe we have excellent child care providers in Maine; they are safe, accountable, and transparent. Adding a requirement that each and every employee of a child care agency undergo not just a background check, but also the exercise of being fingerprinted, is a bridge too far. We have gone from basic safety precautions to bureaucratic, over-regulation.

"Innocent until proven guilty" has been flipped on its head—under this bill, all child care providers and potential employees of their agencies will be considered guilty until proven innocent. I did not support teachers being fingerprinted, and I do not support further expansion of fingerprinting in this instance. I cannot support overburdening businesses, and I cannot support invading people's privacy by forcing them to give up biometric identification without cause.

For this reason, I return LD 274 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

S/Paul R. LePage
Governor

(2-6) The accompanying Bill "An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Working Group To Study Background Checks for Child Care Facilities and Providers"

H.P. 207 L.D. 274

Comes from the House with the **VETO OVERRIDDEN**, notwithstanding the objections of the Governor.
