

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Senate Legislative Record
One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Legislature

State of Maine

Daily Edition

First Regular Session
beginning December 7, 2016

beginning at Page 1

Senate at Ease.

The Senate was called to order by the President.

All matters thus acted upon were ordered sent down forthwith for concurrence.

Out of order and under suspension of the Rules, the Senate considered the following:

COMMUNICATIONS

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

READ and ORDERED PLACED ON FILE.

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**, 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 overriding the veto of the Governor. 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 (#409)

YEAS: Senators: BELLOWS, BREEN, CARPENTER, CARSON, CHENETTE, CHIPMAN, COLLINS, CYRWAY, DAVIS, DESCHAMBAULT, DIAMOND, DION, DOW, GRATWICK, HAMPER, JACKSON, KATZ, KEIM, LANGLEY, LIBBY, MIRAMANT, ROSEN, SAVIELLO, VITELLI, VOLK, WHITTEMORE, WOODSOME, PRESIDENT THIBODEAU

NAYS: Senators: BRAKEY, MASON

EXCUSED: Senators: CUSHING, DILL, HILL, MAKER, MILLETT

28 Senators having voted in the affirmative and 2 Senators having voted in the negative, with 5 Senators being excused, and 28 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. 308

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July 5, 2017