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

Monday, July 9, 2018

SUPPLEMENT NO. 1

COMMUNICATIONS

(2-1) The Following Communication:

S.C. 1062

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUGUSTA, MAINE**

6 July 2018

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

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 238, "An Act to Amend the Maine Medical Marijuana Act."

LD 238 is the type of unfortunate legislation that places the interests of a small, vocal minority before that of everyday Mainers. Put plainly, this bill needlessly jeopardizes public health and safety under the guise of benefiting patients of Maine's medical marijuana program.

LD 238 allows these types of businesses to operate in the absence of department rule or certification, posing a significant risk to the public since the legislation allows inherently hazardous materials to be used during extraction. Lawmakers need only look at the recent incidents in Ellsworth and Biddeford for an example of just how dangerous it can be to extract marijuana concentrates with these materials. Passing legislation that would permit newly established manufacturing facilities to conduct this same work in the absence of rule or certification is irresponsible, at best.

As if this were not offensive enough, LD 238 includes an immunity provision that shields these new extraction facilities and their owners, officers, and employees from "arrest, prosecution, search, seizure or penalty in any manner" related to their work. Civil penalties and disciplinary action by licensing boards is also prohibited.

For these reasons, I return LD 238 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 Amend the Maine Medical Use of Marijuana Act" (EMERGENCY)

S.P. 84 L.D. 238

(2-3) The Following Communication:

S.C. 1063

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUGUSTA, MAINE**

6 July 2018

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

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 1321, "An Act To Promote Social and Emotional Learning and Development in Early Childhood."

The Maine Department of Education understands its mission and should be allowed to do its job. This bill represents yet another voluntary pilot program that will require staff to take time away from their work to study an issue the Department has already identified as needing their attention. It is poor public policy to make the Department conduct yet another study and issue yet another report to gather dust on the Education Committee's bookshelf when they understand there is a need here and are working to fill the gap.

For this reason, I return LD 1321 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 Promote Social and Emotional Learning and Development in Early Childhood"

S.P. 450 L.D. 1321

(2-5) The Following Communication:

S.C. 1064

**STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
AUGUSTA, MAINE**

6 July 2018

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

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 1490, “An Act To Stabilize Funding for the County Jails.”

This bill aims to provide additional state general funds to the local county jails in FY19. This proposed funding would be above and beyond the \$12.2 million in state general funds already appropriated for funding the jails. If LD 1490 becomes law, the county jails of Maine would receive more than \$18 million in state funding in FY19. Over the last four years, the inmate population in the county jails has declined, leaving hundreds of beds vacant, yet the request for State funds has continued to increase.

The county jails continue to lack financial oversight, allowing for runaway budgets and unaccounted-for expenses year after year. They assume the State will bail them out by providing additional state funding to fix a county problem. To make matters worse, the state funding comes without any State oversight or control. The people of Maine hear threats about the “drastic measures” the jails will have to employ if they don’t get the additional funding from the State; however, if we continue to give additional funding to the jails without requiring accountability and real reform, we will continue to enable their on-going fiscal irresponsibility.

During this legislative session, the Department of Corrections submitted a proposal to restructure the county jails, regionalizing operations, and implementing proper financial oversight, including a plan to save nearly \$10 million. Despite the necessity of solving this problem, the Legislature failed to act on this proposal and failed to produce a workable alternative.

This bill also diverts \$3 million in dedicated revenue from the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to pay for the cost overruns of the county jails. Cost overruns at county jails are clearly not the responsibility of this department. Furthermore, DPFR’s only source of revenue is the money collected for licensing fees from individuals and businesses regulated by DPFR agencies. For the Legislature to take operating funds from a dedicated revenue department to pay for a totally unrelated purpose—jail expense overruns—is inappropriate. DPFR is not the Legislature’s personal rainy day fund to use whenever and however it wishes. Licensees have a right to expect that funds paid to agencies within DPFR will be used to further the missions of those agencies including regulatory, educational, and enforcement efforts intended to ensure the public’s confidence in the industries and professions being regulated.

Maine’s jails have been financially mismanaged for years, yet they continue to receive bailouts from the state to address their budget gaps. Any funding provided by the State to the local county jails should be accompanied by proper State oversight and authority for the jails. Otherwise, the counties should be responsible for funding their own jails.

For these reasons, I return LD 1490 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

S/Paul R. LePage
Governor

(2-6) The accompanying Bill "An Act Regarding Community Corrections Funds"

S.P. 519 L.D. 1490
