

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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House of Representatives
One Hundred and Twenty-Eighth Legislature
State of Maine

Daily Edition

First Regular Session
beginning December 7, 2016

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ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
26th Legislative Day
Tuesday, April 4, 2017

The House met according to adjournment and was called to order by the Speaker.

Prayer by Mr. Tom Goulette, Guilford.
National Anthem by Tom Goulette, Guilford.
Pledge of Allegiance.

Doctor of the day, Honorable Geoffrey M. Gratwick, M.D., Bangor.

The Journal of Thursday, March 30, 2017 was read and approved.

The SPEAKER: The Chair wishes to address the House before we begin proceedings today. The Chair has been alerted, by several members, that they were the recipients of disparaging materials distributed through the Honorary Page Program last Thursday. These materials were sent from members to other members. Pursuant to House Rule 201, Section 1, Part D, the Chair is charged with enforcing the observance of Order and Decorum of the House. Just as debate impugning the character of another member is against the decorum of the House, so too are disparaging materials sent from member to member. This is a place of business, and materials that impugn other members damage the professional integrity of this institution. The Page Program is a tremendous opportunity for children in our state to learn more about their government and to participate in its operation. These actions degrade the page's experience, which I'm sure none of us would intend to do. The membership has been notified, further infractions of this nature will not be tolerated.

SENATE PAPERS
Non-Concurrent Matter

Bill "An Act To Increase the Size of Grants under the Maine State Grant Program"

(S.P. 11) (L.D. 32)

Majority (7) **OUGHT TO PASS AS AMENDED** Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** **READ** and **ACCEPTED** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENGROSSED AS AMENDED BY COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" (S-7)** in the House on March 28, 2017.

Came from the Senate with that Body having **INSISTED** on its former action whereby the Minority (6) **OUGHT NOT TO PASS** Report of the Committee on **EDUCATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS** was **READ** and **ACCEPTED** in **NON-CONCURRENCE**.

The House voted to **INSIST**.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Following Communication: (H.C. 110)

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

March 31, 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 213 "An Act To Provide Funds for Access for Veterans Seeking Health Care."

For many years Maine has not been compliant with the federal REAL ID Act. Because of this, Mainers, including many veterans, are being denied access to federal healthcare facilities because Maine state identification does not meet federal REAL ID standards.

However, veterans are not the only Mainers who are being denied entrance to federal installations. Business owners are reporting that their truck drivers cannot deliver goods to military installations. There are also reports of first responders unable to attend training at secure federal buildings. Of course, if Maine does not become REAL ID compliant, then Mainers will not be able to use their state identification to board domestic commercial flights.

Unfortunately, this bill only fixes a small portion of the problems presented if Maine does not become REAL ID compliant. The bill proposes a program that will be very difficult for the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to administer using existing resources. Though I agree with the sentiment to help veterans seeking medical care, we cannot forget all the other groups that have experienced problems due to REAL ID.

I respectfully urge the Legislature to not provide case-by-case carve-outs for groups being affected by REAL ID. Rather, my advice to the Legislature is to speedily pass LD 306, "An Act To Require State Compliance with Federal REAL ID Guidelines", which would help all Mainers adversely affected by REAL ID.

While there appear to be reasonable arguments on both sides of the REAL ID debate, due to the federal insistence on enforcing its harsh terms and a complete lack of interest—or perhaps will—in Congress to amend or repeal the REAL ID Act, I believe we, as elected state officials, must unite in going forward with implementation.

Because this bill proposes only a limited fix to a much larger, much more complex issue, I cannot support it. For this reason, I return LD 213 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 item An Act To Provide Funds for Access for Veterans Seeking Health Care (EMERGENCY)

(H.P. 169) (L.D. 213)
(C. "A" H-10)

The SPEAKER: The Chair recognizes the Representative from Lewiston, Representative Golden.

Representative **GOLDEN**: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, back in December I learned about a problem that Maine Veterans in New Hampshire -- that Maine Veterans living on the New Hampshire border were facing because of an issue with Real ID. I asked them questions, had it confirmed by several offices, and then requested an after deadline bill for the purpose of purchasing passports for these veterans. I did this because it was confirmed that the Department of Veterans Affairs had sent mail to these veterans informing them that they would not be able to get onto the base, where their VA Clinic is located, with a Maine license. The letter also said that a VA ID card would not work either. It did say, however, that a passport or passport card would be a sufficient form of identification. Before the public hearing, however, the base