

Maine “Delays” NGSS

In May 2015 the Maine legislature passed a bill, L.D. 464, that would have adopted the *Next Generation Science Standards* in the state. The bill didn't go into law, however, as Gov. Paul LePage vetoed it. He wasn't opposed to the content of the bill; he just thought the measure was premature since the state was already dealing with new student assessments, graduation requirements, and teacher evaluations. Also, districts would have had to implement NGSS without additional dollars from the state.

The legislature tried to override the veto. The House had plenty of votes to override, but the Senate came up short of the needed two-thirds majority (19-15). Thus the governor's veto was sustained. Maine Education Commissioner Tom Desjardin didn't seem too disappointed by the veto. “A major project like this [NGSS] takes a lot of work and we're maxed out,” he said. “It's too much.”

While we would have preferred that NGSS' failure in Maine would have been due to the standards' insufficiencies, we'll take the veto as a good sign. Unfortunately, we can expect NGSS adoption to be back in the legislature within the next few years.