



STATE OF MAINE  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
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AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage  
GOVERNOR

10 January 2014

The 126th Legislature of the State of Maine  
State House  
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 126th Legislature:

Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I hereby veto LD 1572 "An Act To Correct Minor Technical Errors and Inconsistencies in the Unified Budget Bill."

Although presented as a "minor technical errors" bill, this bill is not minor or technical at all. This bill increases the tax rate on services sold in Maine, including taxes on cable bills, movie rentals, private non-medical institutions, and perhaps most troubling, support for services to those with intellectual disabilities. These tax increases would hurt the already tight household budget of virtually every Maine family and I cannot support them.

During the last regular session of the 126<sup>th</sup> Legislature, you increased taxes on working Maine people to fund a shortfall created by overgenerous welfare programs. I opposed those tax increases then and I oppose them now. High taxes reduce the prosperity of all Maine people and have the effect of driving businesses, individuals, and families out of our great State. It's time we looked hard and got serious about how we address the ever expanding welfare entitlement shortfalls that occur year after year. We need to come together and make tough choices rather than turning to tax increases as the answer. We have that opportunity this session and I urge the Legislature to reject these tax increases, and find a sustainable way to balance the state budget going forward.

For these reasons, I return LD 1572 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage  
Governor



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