



Janet T. Mills  
GOVERNOR

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AUGUSTA, MAINE  
04333-0001

January 7, 2026

The 132nd Legislature of the State of Maine  
State House  
Augusta, Maine

Dear Honorable Members of the 132nd Legislature:

By the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing L.D. 1228, *An Act to Clarify Certain Terms in the Automotive Right to Repair Laws*. This bill would put into law a set of unanimous recommendations from the Automotive Right to Repair Working Group to clarify and improve the effectiveness of the statute after its approval by voters as a ballot initiative in 2023. I appreciate the efforts of the Working Group and support its recommendations.

Unfortunately, L.D. 1228 as presented also includes a controversial provision that would allow automobile manufacturers to decide how vehicle telemetric data would be accessible to independent automotive repair shops. That access is essential to diagnosing and repairing modern automobiles. This provision – which was notably not included in the Working Group’s unanimous recommendations – was included at the urging of automobile manufacturers. However, without timely access to vehicle data, independent auto shops are left at a significant competitive disadvantage, and consumers would have fewer choices for automotive service and repair.

With this provision included, L.D. 1228 would undermine the existing law overwhelmingly approved by Maine voters and harm independent repair shops across the state. I have heard from hundreds of independent repair shop owners asking that I veto this bill, based on significant concerns about the bill’s language that would restrict independent shops from performing even routine maintenance on modern vehicles. I am sympathetic to their concerns.

The Legislature has an opportunity to enact the Working Group’s unanimous recommendations without this controversial provision through a pending bill, L.D. 292 which I encourage it to do without delay. As enacted, L.D. 1228 is a finger on the scale in favor of auto manufacturers and against local businesses and the will of Maine voters, and I cannot support it.

For these reasons, I return L.D. 1228 unsigned and vetoed, and I urge the Legislature to sustain this veto.

Sincerely,

Janet T. Mills  
Governor



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