16 May 2017

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 1025, "An Act To Allow Stepparents To Sign the Application for a Driver’s License for a Minor."

This bill would allow stepparents to sign applications for driver’s licenses. Unless the stepparent has adopted the minor, I do not believe they should be able to sign off on the minor applying for a driver’s license. It is not hard to think of instances whereby biological parents could be totally unaware that a stepparent had signed off on the child’s driver’s license application. It is also not hard to imagine a scenario whereby that child would get in a serious accident without the child’s biological parents knowing they could legally drive.

Because young drivers are easily distracted and more apt to get into accidents, it is very important that only biological parents be given the authority to sign off on driver’s license applications.

For this reason, I return LD 1025 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor