19 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 877, “An Act To Allow Learner’s Permits To Be Issued by Driver Education Schools.”

Under current law, the Secretary of State is required to collect learner’s permit fees and application materials, and it is the only entity authorized to issue the final learner’s permit to individuals. This bill allows driver education schools to do all of these things if they wish to. It may seem like a good idea, but I have significant concerns about the negative consequences that could come of this.

This bill would in effect require all driver education schools to take on this burden; if one school agrees to do this work, most other schools will also have to do it so they can compete with each other. This additional workload will take valuable time away from what instructors are skilled at doing – teaching students how to drive safely. Let’s not burden these instructors with work that should be done by state government.

For this reason, I return LD 877 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor