23 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 146 “An Act To Protect the Confidentiality of State and Local Government Employees’ Private Information.”

This bill would exempt from public view certain information about public servants. I do think there is an important balance between the public’s right to know and the privacy interests of public servants. Unfortunately, this bill strikes the wrong balance. I also believe that this bill, if passed, would have unintended consequences. While I support making social security numbers confidential, the public should have a right to know about those who make decisions on behalf of the public while serving in government.

For this reason, I return LD 146 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor