26 May 2017

The 128th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 128th Legislature:


While this bill correctly suggests that the cost of normal teacher retirement should be based on actuarial estimates and calls for greater transparency in the establishment of those estimates, I am concerned the analysis required is not possible to do within existing resources; therefore, it constitutes an unfunded mandate for the Maine Public Employees Retirement System and the Maine Department of Education.

In addition, I am concerned this bill seeks to advance an argument made by some this session that the State should bear the full burden of normal teacher retirement costs. This financial burden ought to remain a shared commitment between the state and the local employer. I am not able to support a bill that would seek to further shift this financial obligation entirely to the state.

For these reasons, I return LD 1045 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Paul R. LePage
Governor