2 June 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 917, “Resolve, To Require a Review of the State Employee and Teacher Retirement Plan.”

I fully support the goals of the proposed review. We are overdue to reform Maine’s retirement system to improve porability that allows greater movement for skilled employees into and out of jobs in state government and in our schools. The threat of penalties from the federal government by limiting eligibility for Social Security does not allow optimal recruitment and workforce mobility. With Maine’s demographic challenges and labor shortage, now it is more important than ever to ensure we remove such barriers.

I cannot support this bill, however, as it is a directive without providing resources to get the job done. The Legislature recently authorized a similar review to that which is proposed in this bill. That review was completed, and sound recommendations were made; yet it was never acted upon. We already know what needs to be done, I call on the Legislature to take steps to implement it. This is not the time for another unfunded study—this is the time for action.

For these reasons, I return LD 917 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Paul R. LePage
Governor