12 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 983, “An Act To Increase Efficiency in the Enforcement of Restitution and Bail Orders.”

This bill tasks the Executive Branch with additional duties, but does not appropriate any additional funding that will be necessary to carry the proposed law into effect. In the case of this bill, the State Tax Assessor would be required to help enforce forfeiture orders. This new initiative would take time and money to implement.

I have said it before, and I will likely have to say it again: if the Legislature wants to mandate that the Executive Branch undertake more work, then the Legislature must appropriate the financial resources necessary to accomplish that work. This bill fails to live up to that simple rule of good government.

For this reason, I return LD 983 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor