16 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 591, “An Act To Require Motorists To Yield to Transit Buses.”

This bill would require motorists to yield to transit buses—but not school buses—when those transit buses are in motion and the bus driver is signaling to get back into traffic. There is a provision of the bill that states transit bus drivers are not relieved of the duty to “drive with due regard for the safety of all persons using the roadway.” Is this not the case now?

I believe we should not change long-standing traffic laws, especially when there is insufficient evidence to prove such amendments are necessary to protect the public.

This bill would also create a distinction between school buses and transit buses. This distinction would unnecessarily confuse motorists, and this confusion could place school children in danger.

For these reasons, I return LD 591 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor