23 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 1217, “An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Government Oversight Committee To Improve the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Evaluations of the State’s Investments in Economic Development.”

This is a perfect example of legislation that sounds good in the committee room, but in practice falls short of delivering anything of real value for the people of Maine. This bill binds a future Legislature and administration with a series of statutory reports and deadlines without identifying adequate, permanent funding.

It has been established by the administration, OFPR and OPEGA that under existing statute—which is duplicated and expanded in LD 1217—not enough funding is generated to pay the economic development portion of the report. To meet the requirements of the changes proposed, permanent and dedicated funding should have been identified or language should have been included that says if not enough funding is generated, the evaluation won’t be conducted. This bill fails to account for the real cost of putting together an independent, third-party evaluation.

LD 1217 still calls for a series of reports following evaluations to be submitted. This will result in more new reports that will go unread and sit on shelves and in drawers here in Augusta.

For these reasons, I return LD 1217 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor