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 1572, “An Act to Implement Recommendations of the Government Oversight Committee to Improve the Efficiency and Effectiveness of Legislative Reviews of Tax Expenditures.”

I have long believed the legislature does not read the lengthy and time-consuming reports that it requires others to prepare, and this bill will not change that. This bill passes unnecessary reforms for reports that regularly go unread, are unappreciated and are left on shelves collecting dust.

While some may feel that these bureaucratic solutions are a substitute for effective and accountable management, I do not. Amending these reporting statutes is like changing scorekeeping rules for a scrimmage—it won’t matter because nobody pays attention to it. Legislators willfully ignore the very reports they request. As a result, any change to reporting statutes would be inconsequential.

This bill is the latest example in a disappointing trend of legislative priorities being misaligned with the interests of the people the Legislature purports to represent. This bill is simply not necessary, which is why I return LD 1572 unsigned and vetoed. I urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor