2 July 2018

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 170, “An Act To Allow and Recognize a Legal Name Change upon Marriage.”

This bill is a solution in search of a problem. For generations, married couples have utilized their marriage license as documentation to make a name change and that can still be done today. Certainly, the process of notifying Social Security, the DMV, banking institutions, insurance companies and all the organizations where the name must be updated is arduous, but it is doable. The Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics does not see the need for this change and believes it may just further complicate the process.

A longer, more complicated marriage application form will not create simplicity and will not make life better or easier for Mainers. We should stick with what we have today—it works.

For this reason, I return LD 170 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor