



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage

GOVERNOR

8 April 2016

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th 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 1492, "An Act To Establish a Protocol for Review of State Education Content Standards of the System of Learning Results."


On my desk in the State House sits a sign that reads: "After all is said is done, more is said than done." Such is the case with LD 1492. Despite all of the talk in Augusta about increasing education funding and Maine's education standards, student performance in our public schools remains flat or is in decline and cost continues to rise. By constantly adjusting our education standards and imposing unfunded mandates on our schools, the Legislature has been hurting, not helping.

In its amended form, LD 1492 prescribes new procedures for reviewing the Maine Learning Results to be used in future reviews. Originally introduced by the bill's sponsor as a vehicle to repeal common core standards from the Maine Learning Results, the bill quickly devolved into a recipe to take an existing review process and make it worse.

The review process for our education standards is already outlined in statute, and no change can be made to the standards without being adopted by the Legislature. Under the current protocol, a review is presently under way for Standard 1, which includes the content for Career and Education development. Given this ongoing review and recent changes to the Maine Learning Results, it seems prudent to leave the existing protocols in place rather than add even more bureaucracy with a new layer of unnecessary, inflexible and unproven procedures.

By voting to sustain this veto, you will allow a successful review process to continue, and we can instead focus our efforts on the work of the Blue Ribbon Commission to Reform Public Education Funding and Improve Student Performance in Maine. For these reasons, I return this bill unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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