



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

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

27 April 2018

The 128th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, Maine

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 1587, “Resolve, To Study the Feasibility of the Establishment of Paid Family Leave in the State.”

This resolve directs the University of Maine System to conduct a study to examine the costs and benefits of implementing a paid family leave program in the State, if resources are available to enable the University of Maine System to conduct such a study, and to submit a report of its findings to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over labor matters. The committee is authorized to report out a bill based on the report to the First Regular Session of the 129th Legislature.

This resolve is yet another unfunded mandate. It not only burdens the University of Maine System with undertaking, at a minimum, a comprehensive and expensive study, it also requires UMS to procure the funding necessary to pay for it.

Furthermore, this isn't just a study. This is a foot in the door—creating the opportunity to bring a paid leave bill back in the next Legislature at a serious cost to our State. A paid family leave program requires a contribution and payment system similar to the way the traditional unemployment system functions. Establishing such a system is a tremendous undertaking, both technically and fiscally, one which I do not believe our State is poised to do.

For these reasons, I am returning LD 1587 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER