

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

June 20, 2011

The 125th Legislature of the State of Maine

State House

Augusta, Maine

Dear Honorable Members of the 125th 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 296, "Resolve, Directing the State Bureau of Identification To Continue To Explore Contracting Options and Other Methods To Find Efficiencies in the Fingerprinting System for Criminal History Background Checks."

This Resolve's fiscal note claims there will be only a "minor cost increase" for three separate departments. I believe that is incorrect. In order to thoroughly conduct the study called for, the leadership of each Department would have to remove themselves from their normal duties to draft reports for the Legislature. As I have said before, these "minor costs" add up quickly and we cannot continue to heap straw on the camels' backs.

The exploration of contracting out processes of Government to the private sector is something that I am directing all State departments to assess throughout their operations.

Where something can be done more quickly, at lower cost, and with higher-quality through contracting, we will find ways to move that operation to the private sector and reduce the burden on Maine taxpayers. I agree with the Legislature that the fingerprinting process may be one such area where savings can be found. Please know that the Commissioner and his staff will be looking at this area closely. If it makes sense for Maine, my administration will work with the Legislature to make sure the policy in the original draft of LD 296 — when it was still an Act — will be implemented.

For these reasons, I return LD 296 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

S/Paul R. LePage

Governor