

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

April 20, 2012

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 1550, "An Act To Change Document Filing Fees for County Registries of Deeds."

This bill is a tax increase and I cannot support it. The Registries of Deeds are profit centers for the county governments used to subsidize other government functions. I believe fees are paid for a service and, if counties want a tax increase, then they should go ahead and justify it on the merits. We should not try and deceive the Maine people by saying they are merely "fees."

Why should a family purchasing a new home be forced to pay more for a Sherriff that protects the entire county? If county governments are having difficulty balancing their budgets, they should keep working to reduce spending. They should not try to subsidize their other operations with recording fees. The days of asking Maine people for more money are at an end. It is time to make the hard choices at all levels of government.

For these reasons, I am returning LD 1550 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

S/Paul R. LePage

Governor