



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

20 May 2013

The 126th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 126th 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 468, "An Act To Protect Public Health at Public Institutions of Higher Education."

Our various public colleges and universities can make their own decisions on whether or not to permit smoking on their campuses. As the testimony from the schools indicated, many of them have already made this decision, in whole or in part. This bill is duplicative of those efforts and therefore unnecessary.

I firmly believe Maine people are responsible enough to make their own decisions concerning tobacco. However, for those who oppose its use, they should bring a bill forward to simply outlaw tobacco altogether. It would be simpler and more consistent than passing more and more legislation, creating a patchwork of laws and locations where tobacco can and cannot be used. We should have that honest debate, but I believe universities, colleges, and Maine people can make their own decisions.

For these reasons, I return LD 468 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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