



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

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

13 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 521, "An Act To Change the Budget Approval Process for Alternative Organizational Structures."

I cannot support this bill because it moves away from the ballot box and moves towards special meeting. It empowers the boards of alternative organization structures (AOS) to call for special meetings to enhance the power of the board. That new power is the power of the purse, approving the budget for each AOS. If the taxpayers choose to give up that power, it should be done knowingly and openly.

That is why current law requires that change be made at the ballot box during a statewide election. This protects the involvement of Maine citizens by putting issues of importance squarely before them on election day. Deciding who should approve the budget that directly affects their property taxes is one such important issue, and that is why I cannot support this bill.

For these reasons, I return LD 521 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor



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