



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

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

21 June 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 598, "Resolve, Directing All Relevant Agencies of State Government To Work in Concert with a Plan To End and Prevent Homelessness To Ensure That Resources Are Available To End Homelessness in the State."

I very much appreciate the intent of this bill – ending homelessness in our State is an objective we all share. The challenges are ones I know all too well. That is why I have volunteered with shelters and assistance agencies throughout my life, and why I am so dedicated to the Clubhouse model that is taking root throughout Maine and the country.

This bill is returned solely because I do not know how my agencies will be able to comply with this law. Attempting to "align their budgets" is going to require Legislative action and I do not know how to assess compliance with this law. The last thing I want is for agencies to be considered lawbreakers because of vague language. Each department specified in this bill should be working together to eliminate homelessness and joining with volunteer organizations to do so. It is not something we need a law for – our departments can just do the right thing.

For these reasons, I return LD 598 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER