



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

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

29 April 2014

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 933, "An Act To Establish a State Board of Dental Hygiene."

This bill would remove dental hygienists from the Board of Dental Examiners, which serves as the licensing board for dentists, registered dental hygienists, independent practice dental hygienists, denturists, expanded function dental assistants, and dental radiographers. The Maine Board of Dental Examiners has existed since 1891, and is responsible for ensuring the health, safety, and welfare of Maine citizens with respect to oral health care.

The creation of a separate affiliated board would serve to increase licensing fees for dental hygienists as well as the other professionals licensed by the Board of Dental Examiners. Despite the initial funding provided to this proposed dental hygiene board, the loss of economies of scale would result in a fee increase by 2016 to each licensed dental hygienist from the current \$140 fee per biennium to \$240-290 per biennium. Such a fee increase is unacceptable.

Additionally, the establishment of dental therapy as a new profession in Maine makes it even more imperative that the entire oral health team stay together under one Board so that all may contribute to the discussion of implementation. For these reasons, I return LD 933 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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