



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

Paul R. LePage  
GOVERNOR

8 May 2015

The 127<sup>th</sup> Legislature of the State of Maine  
State House  
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127<sup>th</sup> 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 237, "An Act To Address Recommendations from the Report by the Office of Program Evaluation and Government Accountability Regarding the Public Utilities Commission."

I vetoed similar legislation in the 126<sup>th</sup> Legislature and I continue to have concerns about statutorily creating a new position at the Office of the Public Advocate (OPA). Specifically, the legislation would establish a statutory position within the OPA to provide advice to the individuals in proceedings at the Public Utilities Commission (PUC).

I generally support the intent of the legislation although I would note that the primary objective of the OPA is to advocate for the ratepayer – not consumers who are having difficulty with the complexities of the PUC that do not align with ratepayer interests. While the PUC engages in complex proceedings that have significant implications on households and the Maine economy, I am concerned that we are departing from the core function of the OPA to be the voice of the ratepayers in aggregate.

For these reasons, I return LD 237 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage  
Governor



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