



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

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

23 June 2015

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th 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 335, "An Act To Restrict the Sale of Dogs and Cats in Pet Shops."

This bill, often referred to as the "puppy mill bill," falls short of its intended goal. Supporters of this bill are under the impression that it regulates unethical animal-breeding practices, but it simply creates more anti-business red tape. The true thrust of this bill is regulating pet shops into eventual oblivion.

This bill limits the sale of cats and dogs at pet shops. Proponents argue that existing pet shops are "grandfathered" under this bill. That is correct, but only if these pet shops are continually licensed by the same owner at the same location. This is a major restriction on what these businesses can do in the future. It destroys equity by limiting the ability of a pet shop owner to pass on their business or simply move down the block.

I cannot support this heavy-handed regulatory approach to this issue. For this reason, I return LD 335 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor



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