



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

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

22 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 695, "An Act To Clarify Statewide Assessment Program Options."

This bill is completely unnecessary as it does nothing to change the status quo. The information it requires the Department of Education to publish has already been published and the protection it seeks to provide to educators for discussing these issues already exists as part of their collective bargaining agreements.

The proper solution to the issue of "opting out" of statewide assessments is to implement a new testing system that eliminates the problematic issues involved while still complying with federal law. The Department of Education has already begun the process to do this with the collaboration of twenty educators from across Maine. Passing this bill instead, will only cause further confusion among educators and parents alike and interfere with Maine's tradition of local control for education.

For these reasons, I return LD 695 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly encourage the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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