



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

Paul R. LePage  
GOVERNOR

1 August 2017

The 128th Legislature of the State of Maine  
State House  
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 128th 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 970, "An Act to End Homelessness by Expanding Housing Support Services."

This bill demonstrates how a new government entitlement is created. It simply requires a legislator to identify a problem, like homelessness, that everyone acknowledges must be addressed. Then the legislature commits to so-called "one-time funding," such as the \$300,000 that is spent by this bill.

Inevitably, legislators will be back at the trough next year, demanding more public funding to address the hole created by the failure to fund this initiative on an ongoing basis. Financial gimmicks should not be used to grow the social safety net. Mark my words, this will not be a one-time request. If this bill is allowed to become law, it represents a major ongoing financial commitment for bills to come.

For these reasons, I return LD 970 unsigned and vetoed. I implore the legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage  
Governor



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