



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 99, "An Act To Expand the 1998 Special Retirement Plan To Include Detectives in the Office of Investigations within the Department of the Secretary of State, Bureau of Motor Vehicles."

This bill would add detectives in the employment of the Department of the Secretary of State's Bureau of Motor Vehicles to the list of state employees eligible for participation in the 1998 Special Retirement Plan, which is found at 5 M.R.S.A. §17851-A. While this plan is largely limited to law enforcement-type positions, I cannot support this proposal due to the high costs to the General Fund.


Allowing additional employees to participate in the 1998 Special Plan will increase both the normal cost and unfunded actuarial liability components of the employer retirement rate, resulting in increased employer contributions to the Maine Public Employees Retirement System for detectives beginning in fiscal year 2018-19. While the Department of the Secretary of State has indicated it will pay for the cost of this change with existing resources, I remain concerned about the costs of this legislation in future years. Additionally, any new hires who fill these positions will be placed in the 1998 Special Plan. The additional cost for this plan is estimated to be between \$2,000 and \$3,000 per position each year.

I have consistently opposed expansion of eligibility for the Special Plan. During the 127th Legislature, I vetoed—and the legislature sustained—a similar bill that would have added detectives in the Office of the Attorney General to the 1998 Special Plan. Further, LD 100, which contained an identical proposal, died between the chambers earlier this year.

Our administration has worked hard to reduce unfunded pension liabilities, and proposals like this one signal that the legislature seeks to undo the progress we have made and jeopardize the security of our public pension system.

For these reasons, I return LD 99 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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