



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

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

30 April 2018

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

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 1876, "An Act Regarding Financial Orders Requested by the Attorney General."

The Maine Constitution divides power into three distinct branches of government: the legislative, executive, and judicial. The supreme executive power of this state is vested with the Governor, not the Attorney General or any other agency head.

This bill would give this Attorney General and all future Attorney Generals sole authority to approve compensation for their office with no oversight. Likewise, this bill would eliminate my financial oversight entirely. In fact, I, as Governor, would have only one choice: approve all salaries for Attorney General attorneys, period. If a Governor does not approve one of the Attorney General's requests, after 30 days the financial order would be deemed approved anyway.


Second, this bill would prohibit me and all future Governors from imposing upon the Attorney General any preconditions on financial orders. Many administrations, including my own, have put preconditions into place due to economic conditions or anticipated structural gaps.

I am charged with exercising responsible financial management of the state. The Attorney General's office is but one financial silo of state government. Ultimately, it is my responsibility to monitor the state budget in its entirety.

The Attorney General has overspent her accounts and I have been forced to find money in order for her to not break the law.

For these reasons, I return LD 1876 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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