



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

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

30 March 2018

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 1656, "An Act To Allow Free Admission to the Maine State Museum."

I veto this bill not because I disagree with its goal, but because legislation is not necessary. At the public hearing on the bill, the Director of the State Museum acknowledged that he already has the authority to waive admission for veterans' entry to the Museum but is simply choosing not to do so. I believe he has made the wrong decision and I encourage the Board of the State Museum to review that decision. However, it is the purview of that Board to determine whether or not that can be accomplished with truly no cost to the Museum or the state as this bill has represented by containing no appropriation. I do not believe the Legislature should get into the habit of micromanaging every policy or minor decision of the Museum or other quasi-governmental entities without including funds for lost revenues.

Further, I find it hard to reconcile that the State Museum regularly advocates for more funding to grow its collection, expand and upgrade storage and launch new programming but suddenly the Museum represents that it can absorb incremental costs with no problem.

The Museum ought to waive entrance fees for veterans who have served this country because it is the right thing to do to honor our nation's heroes. They have that authority already and I believe they should do it without the Legislature intervening.

For these reasons, I return LD 1656 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER