



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

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

13 April 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 1755, "An Act To Provide a Sales Tax Exemption for Nonprofit Heating Assistance Organizations."

I support organizations that help needy Mainers heat their homes in the winter. However, I simply cannot support adding yet another carve-out to Maine's tax laws at a time when the Maine tax laws are complicated enough. At last count, the Maine tax laws already contain 101 exemptions from Maine sales tax.

More troublingly, there are fewer than four organizations in the state that would qualify for the exemption created by this bill. These organizations are estimated to save approximately \$1,000 in sales tax combined under the new exemption. However, it will cost Maine Revenue Services nearly \$50,000 to create and implement the exemption. Said another way: The juice is not worth the squeeze.

For these reasons, I return LD 1755 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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