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Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

6 July 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 1915, "An Act To Clarify Which Municipalities May Receive a Portion of Day Use and Camping Fees from State Parks and Historic Sites."

LD 1915 is vague and overbroad. The bill is intended to resolve an issue that has arisen related to the collection and disbursement of fees from state parks to surrounding towns. Instead, it confuses and overcomplicates the issue. Furthermore, it has not had a public hearing and does not appear to meet the definition of an "emergency."

This bill applies to "all municipalities that have any lands classified by the director as parks or historic sites under jurisdiction of the bureau within their boundaries." Because it is written so broadly, the bill includes municipalities containing at least one of approximately 300 boat launches, all municipalities with a state-owned rail trail and municipalities with undeveloped land, none of which contribute revenue to the general fund.

Furthermore, the bill sets up a new conflict that would allow certain municipalities to "double dip" in fee collection. Municipalities that operate state parks under a management agreement whereby the municipalities retain all fees collected do not send park fees to the general fund. However, LD 1915, because of its vague and overbroad wording, mandates that those same municipalities be paid a second time from the general fund.

Last, the bill does not define a municipality and leaves open to interpretation the inclusion of plantations, townships and other unorganized forms of government.

I cannot support such last-minute, overbroad, and vague legislation. We can do better to resolve this issue. For these reasons, I return LD 1915 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor



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