



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 958, "An Act To Enact the Uniform Emergency Volunteer Health Practitioners Act."

The Public Health Emergency Preparedness Program (PHEPP) at Maine CDC currently runs a registry for volunteers who are able to help in a Public Health Emergency. Since shortly after September 11, 2001, the existing system has been funded through federal grant dollars from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and Homeland Security emergency preparedness funds. During emergencies, PHEPP works with Maine Emergency Management Agency to verify and certify volunteers who can be deployed during the emergency.

Maine has a Good Samaritan statute already, and we have a system in place to ensure volunteers are able to assist in an emergency. This bill is not necessary and actually does not require the State to take any new action. It just puts more laws on the books. It is a solution in search of a problem – a problem that does not exist.

For these reasons, I return LD 958 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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