



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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AUGUSTA, MAINE
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Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

6 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 1735, "An Act To Authorize Regional Medical Control Committees to Have Access to Maine Emergency Medical Services Data for Purposes of Quality Improvement."

Under current law, data collected by Maine Emergency Medical Services allows identifying information of persons receiving emergency medical treatment to be released for purposes of research, public health surveillance and linkage with patient electronic medical records. Prior to any release of data, the Director of Emergency Medical Services, the Medical Direction and Practices Board, and the Emergency Medical Services Board must review the data and approve the release of the data. These are essential safeguards to prevent the release of confidential patient information from entering the public domain.

This bill strips away the three-step approval process under current law. Maine Emergency Medical Services would have no way of ensuring that protected, private, patient information would continue to be protected and private. I am very concerned that without adequate safeguards, confidential patient information will be released into the public domain.

For these reasons, I return LD 1735 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor



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