



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

Paul R. LePage  
GOVERNOR

23 April 2018

The 128th Legislature of the State of Maine  
State House  
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 128th Legislature:

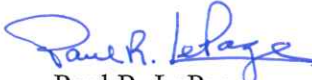
Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1756, "An Act To Allow The Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Governor Baxter School for the Deaf To Lease Space to Maine's Protection and Advocacy Agency for Persons with Disabilities."

In my view, allowing the Maine Educational Center for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing ("MECDHH") to enter into a lease with Disability Rights Maine ("DRM") would violate the spirit of the deed of gift from Governor Percival Baxter. Governor Baxter's gift of property on Mackworth Island outlined that the property be used for educational purposes for children, not to be leased to third parties.

In addition, a lease with DRM would require that the facility comply with all federal and state laws to protect and accommodate persons with disabilities. This will require a significant capital investment to bring the facility into compliance—an investment beyond the limited financial resources of the MECDHH. Without an estimate of the required improvements included in the fiscal note, it is unknown whether the rent would cover the cost of the renovations in addition to the regular facility costs.

For these reasons, I return LD 1756 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

  
Paul R. LePage  
Governor



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