



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

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

22 April 2016

The 127th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 127th 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 1614 "Resolve, To Provide Funding for the County Jail Operations Fund."

If the counties are responsible for operating the jails, then the counties should also be responsible for paying the costs of the jails. Currently, county funding for operation of the jails is capped. If counties spend above the cap, which they invariably do, then the State is asked to provide supplemental funding to cover the difference. For too long, state taxpayers have had to pick up the tab for the cost of the county jails because, due to the cap, there is no incentive for counties to rein in jail spending. In order to avoid my veto, a bill providing supplemental funding to the jails must also contain a provision doing away with the cap on county funding for jails. This bill does not contain such a provision.

For this reason, I return LD 1614 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor



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