



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

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

16 May 2017

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 559, "An Act To Standardize the Law Concerning Property Transfers and To Protect Water Quality."

Current law mandates that subsurface wastewater disposal systems on property located within a coastal shoreland area must be inspected prior to a sale of that property. This bill would extend the mandate to transfers of properties in inland shoreland areas as well.

I understand there are concerns from realtors about water quality in inland shoreland areas, but there has to be a better way to address it than to expand an expensive environmental regulation to more Maine properties. We should be doing all we can to make it easier and less expensive to buy property and live in Maine, not harder.

I would be happy to have the Department of Environmental Protection and Department of Health and Human Services work with stakeholders to discuss ways we can ensure we have high water quality in Maine's inland shoreland zones.

For these reasons, I return LD 559 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor



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