



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

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

19 May 2015

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

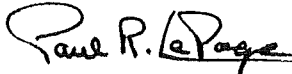
Dear Honorable Members of the 127th Legislature:

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 311 "An Act To Improve Attendance at Public Elementary Schools."

This bill would seek to lower the age at which children may be declared truant to five years old from the current age of seven. While this bill may be well-intentioned it is ill-advised. I cannot support a law that would interfere with the rights of parents to decide when their children are ready for school. This bill marks an invasion of the government into family matters. While there is much that the State of Maine can and should do to provide high quality education for our children, we should focus on investing in our classrooms and our teachers. We should prioritize inspiring our kids to learn rather than sending out truancy officers to round up five- and six-year-olds who may not yet be ready to learn.

For these reasons, I return LD 311 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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