

**STATE OF MAINE
ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION
SENATE ADVANCED JOURNAL AND CALENDAR**

Monday, June 19, 2017

SUPPLEMENT NO. 8

COMMUNICATIONS

(2-1) The Following Communication:

H.C. 250

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

June 16, 2017

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 454, "An Act To Ensure Safe Drinking Water for Families in Maine."

This bill is contrary to several of my core principles: it adds regulation to businesses, increases a state fee and puts requirements into statute that are already done in practice. The bill primarily does four things that are not necessary.

It requires DHHS to create a uniform water testing recommendation. But DHHS already makes testing recommendations; it is not necessary to pass a law memorializing it in statute.

It increases the fee for well testing at the State Health and Environmental Testing Lab by \$10 or less per test and uses the resources to create the Private Well Safe Drinking Water Fund. This is a fee increase that will be passed on to Maine families who need a water test and may actually serve as a disincentive for families to test their wells.

It also requires the Department to update its educational outreach materials as needed. The Department already has related educational outreach materials and already updates them as necessary. Therefore, it is not necessary to memorialize basic upkeep of educational materials in statute.

Finally, this bill requires well drillers to provide up-to-date information on water testing when drilling a new well. I support well drillers providing good information to their customers. However, I do not support government mandating that they provide that information. This is not government's role, and it simply adds to the regulatory burden for Maine businesses.

For these reasons, I return LD 454 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

S/Paul R. LePage
Governor

(2-2) The accompanying Bill "An Act To Ensure Safe Drinking Water for Families in Maine"
H.P. 321 L.D. 454

Comes from the House with the **VETO OVERRIDDEN** and the Bill **PASSED TO BE ENACTED**, notwithstanding the objections of the Governor.
