

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

Wednesday, June 19, 2019

SUPPLEMENT NO. 24

COMMUNICATIONS

(2-1) The Following Communication:

H.C. 218

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

June 19, 2019

The 129th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, Maine

Dear Honorable Members of the 129th 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 801, An Act Regarding Recording of Witness Interviews.

LD 801 assumes that law enforcement can automatically identify someone as a witness in some particular matter. This is not the case. A law enforcement officer does not know initially if the person is a "witness" in the sense that they can testify in court to first-hand knowledge of an event they perceived, or if they just heard something second or third-hand that would not be admissible in court- or, for that matter, whether what they perceived was a "serious crime" or not a crime at all.

I am also concerned that requiring witnesses to submit to recorded statements will make people reluctant to cooperate with law enforcement. When an officer is speaking with the victim in a sensitive case, such as a sexual assault or domestic violence incident, placing a video camera or audio recorder in front of that person can be very intimidating and an invasion of privacy, especially as such interviews are often conducted in a hospital or home or shelter.

For these reasons I return LD 801 unsigned and vetoed.

Sincerely,

S/Janet T. Mills
Governor
State of Maine

(2-2) The accompanying Bill "An Act Regarding Recording of Witness Interviews"
H.P. 589 L.D. 801

Comes from the House with the **VETO OVERRIDDEN**, notwithstanding the objections of the Governor.
