



WHEREAS, the Legislature of this State should meet in special session to consider legislation to correct an issue in LD 725, "An Act to Recognize Local Control Regarding Food Systems" which was passed by the Legislature and signed into law during the last legislative session and is scheduled to go into effect on November 1, 2017 and to appropriate to state agencies funding for the Maine Office of Geographic Information Systems (MEGIS); and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislative changes to LD 725 is designed to promote the continued inspection of meat, poultry, fish and milk by federal and state inspectors to ensure compliance with federal and state food safety laws, rules and regulations; and

WHEREAS, compliance with federal and state food safety laws, rules and regulations promotes the public health and welfare of all people in the State of Maine and prevents negative economic impacts to the economy of the State of Maine; and

WHEREAS, the budget passed by the Legislature to end the government shutdown did not allocate money from the general fund to state agencies for the MEGIS program, and the program has been operating with funds that were carried over from the previous fiscal year of 2017; and

WHEREAS, MEGIS provides critical services at the state, regional and local level across Maine in support of economic development activities and public safety; and

WHEREAS, State Agencies have funding until November 2017 and without appropriations from the Legislature, MEGIS and the State's ability to adequately provide Geographic Information System services will be in extreme jeopardy.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Paul R. LePage, Governor of the State of Maine, by the virtue of the power vested in me as Governor by Article V, Part 1, Section 13 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, convene the Legislature of this State, hereby requiring the Representatives and the Senators to assemble at ten o'clock in the morning in their respective chambers at the Capitol in Augusta on, Monday, October 23, 2017, in order to receive communications, and to consider and determine on such measures as in their judgment will best promote the welfare of the State.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereunto affixed GIVEN under my hand at Augusta this Twenty-ninth Day of September Two Thousand Seventeen



Paul R. LePage
Paul R. LePage
Governor

Dorothy A. Canelli, Chief Deputy
Matthew Dunlap
Secretary of State