9 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 534, “An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Circumstances of Death That Must Be Reported to the Office of Chief Medical Examiner.”

My main objection to this bill is the provision that removes the requirement that deaths due to the consequences of long-term alcohol use be reported to the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. I firmly believe that long-term alcohol deaths need to be reported. How else can we as a society deal with the unknowns that surround death?

While removing this requirement would save the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner some effort, causes of death are something that we as a society should be taking very seriously. This is why we have our current law, and it is also why the law should not be amended.

For this reason, I return LD 534 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor