19 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 252 “An Act to Improve Safety in the Disposal of Expired Marine Flares.”

This bill would require the State Fire Marshal to establish a program of storage, collection and disposal of expired marine flares. The State Fire Marshal is also tasked with disposing of expired marine flares that are collected. Finally, the bill requires the State Fire Marshal to collaborate with the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the Department of Environmental Protection, the Department of Marine Resources and the Department of Public Safety in order to better educate the public about the proper disposal of marine flares.

The bill mandates that all this be accomplished using existing resources. If the Legislature wants the State Fire Marshal to administer new programs, then the Legislature should appropriate funding for that administration.

Because this bill does not provide any funding for the new programs it mandates, I cannot support it. For this reason, I return LD 252 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Paul R. LePage
Governor