21 June 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 957, “Resolve, To Update Maine’s Liquor Laws.”

When a bill requires significant work to be performed by a department of the Executive Branch but does not provide funding, it is an unfunded mandate—plain and simple. This bill will require significant work for the Department of Administrative and Financial Services and the Bureau of Alcoholic Beverages and Lottery Operations, whose staff already is already concentrating on essential work in front of them.

I have not been presented with a compelling case for why the recodification of this chapter is necessary, and I do not consent to directing the Department to invest significant time and energy on this unfunded exercise.

For these reasons, I return LD 957 unsigned and vetoed. I urge the legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor