1 August 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 1089, “An Act To Prohibit the Use of Handheld Phones and Devices While Driving.”

While I believe distracted driving is a serious problem in our society that needs to be addressed, this bill does not propose an adequate solution. In Maine, we already have a prohibition on texting while driving, and this bill simply seeks to expand that prohibition. People who text while driving are those who would do so regardless of the law. For this reason, I believe we need to advance campaigns that raise public awareness of just how dangerous it is to text and drive. By promoting this public awareness, we can teach people the valid reasons why there is a prohibition on texting. I think this would be a much more effective method of addressing the distracted driving problem than simply fining those who use cell phones while operating motor vehicles.

For this reason, I return LD 1089 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor