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 1143, “Resolve, Providing for the Official Observance of the 200th Anniversary of the Formation of the State of Maine.”

While I agree the State of Maine’s bicentennial is a milestone to be celebrated and an occasion that might spur increased tourism and economic development, I cannot support this bill. This bill, like many before it, provides a mandate without any resources.

If we are to observe the bicentennial in a manner likely to have the maximum impact, the legislature should fund such an effort. The legislature is appealing to volunteers, and I suspect the work of this new commission will later demand additional unappropriated time and resources from state agencies.

If an effort is truly worth pursuing, it is worth funding with appropriate resources. As the legislature has once again not seen fit to adequately fund such an effort, I must return LD 1143 unsigned and vetoed. I urge the legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor