30 April 2018

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 1743, "An Act To Modify the Number of Retail Liquor Licenses Allowed in a Jurisdiction per Person."

In my view, the bill is a short-term fix to the statutorily mandated population standards that allocate the number of agency store liquor licenses available in a municipality. The bill, as drafted, would only create an additional agency store liquor license for the City of Portland. The Legislature could have taken a longer-term view and reviewed the current population standards but instead opted for a short-term fix.

In addition, this bill appears to have been brought to the Legislature in an effort to grant a license to a single, Portland-based retailer. I do not believe the Legislature should be playing favorites.

For these reasons, I return LD 1743 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it. I also suggest that the Legislature review the current population standards.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor