

STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333-0001

May 25, 2012

The 125th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, Maine

Dear Honorable Members of the 125th 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 1469, An Act To Increase Gaming Opportunities for Charitable Fraternal and Veterans' Organizations."

The question of gambling is one that must be answered by Maine voters. While this bill seeks to increase revenues for Maine's important civic organizations, I cannot support doing so without voter approval. Just last November, Maine people had an opportunity to weigh in on new gambling initiatives. They saw a large number of additional major expansions as too much, too soon at this time. The Legislature should not substitute its judgment for the people it serves.

I know the veterans' organizations supporting this bill will be upset with my decision, but I would support this initiative if it allowed Maine people to provide their input, even if it was just at the local level. I look forward to working with them on a proposal that can go to the voters. Their missions are important to our communities and our veterans alike. We must find a way forward that directly involves the Maine people and gets their approval.

For these reasons, I am returning LD 1469 unsigned and vetoed. I urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

S/Paul R. LePage

Governor