



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

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

9 March 2018

The 128th Legislature of the State of Maine
State House
Augusta, ME

Dear Honorable Members of the 128th Legislature:

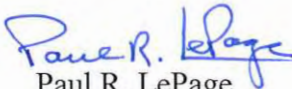
Under the authority vested in me by Article IV, Part Third, Section 2 of the Constitution of the State of Maine, I am hereby vetoing LD 1725, “An Act To Ensure Stability for Certain Holders of Liquor Licenses.”

This bill was originally intended to clarify liquor licensing law to provide more flexibility related to ownership structure for in-state manufacturers that also want to operate a restaurant. Under our old law, the structure was required to be exactly the same for both entities. If a manufacturing operation was owned 60-20-20 by three business partners, that ownership split would have been required to remain the same for an associated restaurant. In the first regular session of the 128th Legislature, LD 1642 resolved ownership issues between a manufacturer and its associated restaurant, allowing more varied ownership structure of the two entities.

Rather than address any perceived problems, this bill actually creates a new problem. It would create inequity among in-state alcohol manufacturers who also have an interest in a restaurant, based solely on when they were licensed—holding any new licensees to a different standard than those who were licensed prior to January 1, 2018. LD 1725 does not add any further protections to manufacturers and is simply not necessary. If enacted, there would not be equal protection under the law for licensees.

For these reasons, I return LD 1725 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,


Paul R. LePage
Governor



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