

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ED 1944

January 9, 1978

Honorable Arthur Raymond
House of Representatives
State House
Augusta, Maine

Dear Representative Raymond:

This responds to your request for advice on the question of whether the provisions of L.D. 1944, AN ACT to Permit Sale of Alcoholic Beverages for on-premise Consumption at 18 Years of Age, create a constitutional problem in discriminating against grocers. Our review of the law discloses no such constitutional problem. We believe it would be within the reasonable discretion of the Legislature to establish a classification relating to on-premise consumption and that this could be done, in compliance with the equal protection requirements of the Constitution, without also allowing grocers to sell alcoholic beverages to persons between 18 and 20 years of age.

I hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,

DONALD G. ALEXANDER
Deputy Attorney General

DGA/ec

cc: Hon. Barry J. Hobbins
Hon. Edith S. Beaulieu
Hon. David S. Marshall
Hon. Richard S. Davies