

STATE OF ILLINOIS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
SPRINGFIELD, 62706GEORGE H. RYAN
GOVERNOR

July 27, 2001

To the Honorable Members of the
Illinois House of Representatives
92nd General Assembly

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 9 (b) of the Illinois Constitution of 1970, I hereby veto and return House Bill 1697 entitled "AN ACT in relation to alcoholic liquor."

House Bill 1697 amends the Liquor Control Act of 1934. It provides that alcoholic liquor may be served or delivered in any building or facility under the control of the Department of Natural Resources upon the written approval of the Director of Natural Resources. It also provides that the Director of Natural Resources may specify conditions on that approval.

I fully support opening State government buildings for constituent use. Current State law regarding comparable buildings, such as the State Museum, State Library and Willard Ice Building, set forth specific and mandatory guidelines when alcohol is to be served in these buildings. House Bill 1697 lacks these specific guidelines. I certainly have full faith in the judgement of the Director of Natural Resources, and I am confident that the intent of the legislation would have been carried out under as restrictive conditions, if not more so. However, upon careful reflection the inconsistency of House Bill 1697 with current law regarding alcohol use in other State buildings needs to be reevaluated.

Furthermore, there are currently several other State government buildings, including the State Museum, fairgrounds buildings and the State Library, open for constituent use that have authority to serve alcoholic beverages with mandatory guidelines. These buildings, in addition to local private establishments, appear to provide a number of venues for constituent events and receptions where alcohol may be served.

For these reasons, I hereby veto and return House Bill 1697.

Sincerely,
s/GEORGE H. RYAN
Governor