OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 2013-003
DATE May 29, 2013

AN ORDER ESTABLISHING THE UNEMPLOYMENT REFORM BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION

WHEREAS, Maine participates in the federal unemployment system for the benefit of both employees and employers;

WHEREAS, this system only works if parties are given fair, impartial, and consistent treatment under the law;

WHEREAS, executive branch leadership has received a number of complaints from both employees and employers; and

WHEREAS, a review by an independent commission will provide guidance for policy makers on current problems with the system and proposed solutions;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Paul R. LePage, Governor of the State of Maine, hereby order as follows:

1. The Unemployment Reform Blue Ribbon Commission ("Commission") is hereby established.
2. The membership of the Commission shall consist of six (6) persons appointed as follows:

    a. Two (2) co-chairs, appointed by the Governor from persons of recognized objectivity and fairness;

    b. Four (4) members appointed jointly by the co-chairs, representing the interests of both employers and employees.

3. The Commission shall:

    a. Review various complaints and concerns raised by Maine citizens about the consistency and objectivity of the unemployment adjudication process;

b. Interview personnel involved with the unemployment system to understand their perspectives and concerns;

c. Review cases, governing statutes, and regulations for clarity and consistency;

d. Assess impartiality of system, mechanisms to assure objectivity and fair application of the process; and,

e. No later than December 1, 2013, recommend to the Governor such measures as the Commission deems appropriate, for consideration in legislative proposals or rulemaking proposals.

f. The Commission shall undertake such other duties and responsibilities from time to time as directed by the co-chairs.

g. The Chairs shall determine a process, operating procedures, and schedule for inclusion of the public or interested persons for information gathering purposes as they deem necessary and appropriate.

4. The Commission may meet in executive session at the discretion of the co-chairs. The Commission shall maintain the confidentiality of any records made confidential under Maine law. All State agencies and departments are ordered to provide such assistance to the Commission as may be required.

The effective date of this Executive Order is May 29, 2013.

Paul R. LePage

Paul R. LePage, Governor