23 June 2017

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 1361, “An Act Regarding State Hiring and Retention for Persons with Disabilities.”

Unlike many in the legislature who only talk about helping Mainers with disabilities achieve self-sufficiency, my administration has actually taken steps to help them. Thanks to nearly $100 million in targeted DHHS spending since the start of my administration, disabled Mainers have more opportunity to succeed than ever before. I am proud of my record of prioritizing resources and assistance to our most vulnerable citizens. We want all Mainers to know the dignity of meaningful employment and the independence that comes with a regular paycheck.

When I came to office, I promised the Maine people that in this state, we pay our bills. This is something the legislature continues to ignore. Implementing LD 1361 will burden the state with over $177,000 for system modifications to our online application process and require an additional full-time human resources position. However, this bill neither provides the funding nor a position to implement the law.

In short, this bill amounts to yet another unfunded mandate. Therefore, I return LD 1361 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor