1 August 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 214, “Resolve, To Establish the Commission To Streamline Veterans' Licensing and Certification.”

My Administration has a strong record of supporting military veterans and their families. We have streamlined the state occupational licensing processes and connected military veterans with meaningful employment based on their military training and experience. These programs are now integrated into the fabric of two departments: Professional and Financial Regulation and the Department of Labor.

In February of 2016, I signed an Executive Order, “An Order to Promote the Hiring of Skilled Veterans in the State of Maine,” establishing the Governor’s Veterans’ Licensing Review Panel to identify and remove barriers for veterans to obtain state licenses and make recommendation for changes in licensing laws and rules to reduce red tape and provide flexibility for applicants.

The Executive Order produced a legislative proposal, LD 1592, that was recently passed and signed into law, providing the Licensing Director of the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation with significant authority to modify licensing rules for the benefit of veterans. Additionally, the staff of the Department of Labor’s Veterans Program is working collaboratively with employers and educational institutions to provide innovative bridge programs for veterans who have already received excellent military training so they may qualify for state licenses more quickly and take advantage of high-paying employment opportunities.

My administration is committed to the continuation and broader development of these efforts. LD 214 may be well-intentioned, but creating yet another commission or study group is both duplicative and unnecessary.

For these reasons, I return LD 214 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Paul R. LePage
Governor