



STATE OF MAINE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
1 STATE HOUSE STATION
AUGUSTA, MAINE
04333-0001

Paul R. LePage
GOVERNOR

6 July 2018

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 1857, "An Act To Address Maine's Nursing Shortage by Creating an Apprenticeship Pathway for Licensure of Health Care-trained Veterans and Expanding Access to Nursing Education."

Military veterans who have separated from any branch of military service and who have received military training and experience as medics or corpsmen or any equivalent, should be deemed eligible to take the Maine Licensed Practice Nurse exam without being required to obtain further education or experience. If they pass the Maine LPN exam, they should be issued a state LPN license that authorizes them to immediately perform the duties and tasks of that license category.

Maine has many highly qualified military veterans who are anxious to fill vacant health care positions in our hospitals, medical facilities, and nursing homes. This bill as drafted poses yet one more unnecessary hurdle for these worthy citizens to clear. Military veterans with medical training are held to high practice standards, they have excellent credentials, and they need to work. We need these qualified military veterans to enter the Maine healthcare workforce now.

For this reason, I return LD 1857 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain this veto.

Sincerely,

Paul R. LePage
Governor



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