

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

June 17, 2011

The 125th Legislature of the State of Maine

State House

Augusta, Maine

Dear Honorable Members of the 125th 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 531, "An Act To Specify Qualifications for the Director of the Office of Adult Mental Health Services within the Department of Health and Human Services."

The policy outlined in this bill will ensure that a senior appointed officer in the Office of Adult Mental Health Services will be a licensed psychiatrist. This is an understandable objective and, after reviewing the current organization of the Office, is something I have directed the Commissioner to address moving forward. In that way, the concerns underlying this piece of legislation will be addressed. I thank the committee for their work on this issue. It is something we will keep in mind as we continue our review of the Department as a whole in order to look for ways to better serve Maine people.

This bill is being returned since, as I have said, we will be conducting a full and thorough review of all State operations, evaluating the best ways to deliver high-quality services to our fellow Mainers at the lowest cost possible. This will likely involve a number of Governor's bills to be submitted in the future to change the statutes for agencies, offices, and departments. With these reform initiatives soon underway, I hope the Legislature understands the need for us to work together on a comprehensive, rather than piecemeal, approach.

For these reasons, I return LD 531 unsigned and vetoed. I strongly urge the Legislature to sustain it.

Sincerely,

S/Paul R. LePage

Governor