

To: House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development
From: Kraig Knowlton, Director of Personnel Services, Department of Administration
Re: Written Testimony in Support of HB 2253
Date: February 9, 2023

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2253.

The Department of Administration fully supports the establishment of a statutory hiring preference for persons with disabilities. This legislation is the solution legal and practical challenges that have hampered the State's ability to implement this program which was first contemplated several years ago. The legislation clarifies who will be eligible for the preference, how that eligibility is ascertained, and the nature of the preference provided which address each of those challenges.

This important legislation can be implemented with relatively minor modifications to our current system and practices. The Department of Administration would be happy to answer any questions from the committee.