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**To: House Committee on Commerce, Labor and Economic Development**  
**From: Kraig Knowlton, Director of the Office of Personnel Services, Department of Administration**  
**Written Testimony in Support of HB 2701**  
**Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of House Bill 2701.

The Department of Administration fully supports this establishment of a statutory hiring preference for persons with disabilities. In fact, this legislation is the solution to a series of legal and practical challenges that have hampered the State's ability to put into place this program that was first contemplated several years ago.

The clarity established by this legislation with respect to who will be eligible for this preference, how that eligibility is ascertained, and the nature of the preference provided addresses each of those challenges.

Combined with improvements to the State's hiring process that have been made in the past year, this legislation will allow this important program to be implemented with only minor modifications to the system and current practices.

The Department of Administration would be happy to answer any questions from the committee.