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**VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

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**STATE OF MAINE**

**SENATE**

**132ND LEGISLATURE**

**SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 823, L.D. 2130, “An Act to Support Employment Opportunities for Military Spouses”

Amend the bill in section 1 in paragraph C in the last line (page 1, line 5 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "Guard" the following: 'and a person actively serving in the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces or the National Guard'

Amend the bill by inserting after section 2 the following:

**'Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §7054-B, sub-§3,** as enacted by PL 2015, c. 438, §2, is amended to read:

**3. Retention preference.** In any reduction in personnel in the state service, employees who are veterans or, gold star spouses or spouses of eligible service members must be retained in preference to all other competing employees in the same classification with equal seniority, status and performance reviews.'

Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

**SUMMARY**

This amendment expands the definition of “eligible service member” for the purpose of veteran preference in filling a position in the classified service to include a person actively serving in the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces or the National Guard. It also requires an employer, in any reduction in personnel in the state service, to retain the spouse of an eligible service member in preference to all other competing employees in the same classification with equal seniority, status and performance reviews.

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

**(See attached)**