

PLEASE NOTE: Legislative Information **cannot** perform research, provide legal advice, or interpret Maine law. For legal assistance, please contact a qualified attorney.

An Act To Amend Certain Laws Governing the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 37-B MRSA §505, sub-§2, ¶G, as enacted by PL 2001, c. 662, §66, is amended to read:

G. In order to be eligible for benefits under this subsection, a student must apply for a Federal Pell Grant under 20 United States Code, Section 1070a. The director shall estimate the number of students anticipated that will use this program and provide the estimate to state institutions upon request.

Sec. 2. 37-B MRSA §509, sub-§1, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 404, §7, is amended to read:

1. Certificate of release. A certificate of release or discharge from active duty issued by the United States Government and filed for safekeeping with any state, county or local government authority is confidential for a period of ~~75~~62 years following its filing. During that ~~75-year~~62-year period, it is unlawful for a person to permit inspection of the record, to disclose information contained in the record or to issue a copy of all or any part of the record except as authorized by this section or by court order.

SUMMARY

This bill makes the following changes to the laws governing the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services.

1. It requires that, in order to be eligible for educational benefits provided to veterans and their dependents, a student must apply for a Federal Pell Grant.

2. It decreases from 75 years to 62 years the period of time that a certificate of release or discharge from active duty that is filed with a state, county or local government is kept confidential.