



# 126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

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Legislative Document

No. 241

S.P. 77

In Senate, February 5, 2013

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

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Submitted by the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Reference to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT  
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator TUTTLE of York.  
Cosponsored by Representative BEAULIEU of Auburn and  
Senators: MASON of Androscoggin, PATRICK of Oxford.

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

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

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

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

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

16 **SUMMARY**

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

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

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