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Date: (Filing No. S- )

**VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

**STATE OF MAINE  
SENATE  
129TH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 772, L.D. 2145, “An Act To Help Veterans Access Jobs, Education, Health Care and Housing and Provide General Support to Veterans”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

**'An Act To Help Veterans Access Jobs, Education and Housing'**

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

**'PART A**

**Sec. A-1. 10 MRSA §8003, sub-§2-A, ¶M**, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 173, §2, is amended to read:

M. To ~~exercise discretionary authority, after consultation with licensing boards if applicable, to~~ review and determine on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with any applicable licensing board, examination and licensing eligibility for applications for licensure submitted by ~~individuals who identify themselves as~~ veterans with military service, experience and training; and

**Sec. A-2. 10 MRSA §8003, sub-§2-A, ¶N**, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 173, §2, is amended to read:

N. To ~~exercise discretionary authority to~~ waive examination fees and license fees for applicants for licensure who ~~identify themselves as~~ are veterans with military service, experience and training.

**Sec. A-3. 10 MRSA §8011**, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 424, Pt. D, §2 and affected by §3, is amended to read:

**§8011. Veterans and military spouses**

By January 1, 2014, each board, commission, office and agency within the department listed in section 8001 or affiliated with the department under section 8001-A shall adopt a process to facilitate qualified returning military veterans and qualified spouses of returning

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1 military veterans or of active duty service members to qualify for professional licenses  
2 granted by those boards, commissions, offices and agencies in an expeditious manner. For  
3 the purposes of this section, "returning military veteran" means a veteran of the Armed  
4 Forces of the United States who has been ~~honorably~~ discharged from active duty with an  
5 honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions. Notwithstanding  
6 any other provision of law, the Director of the Office of Professional and Occupational  
7 Regulation and each licensing board within or affiliated with the department shall, upon  
8 presentation of satisfactory evidence by an applicant for professional or occupational  
9 licensure, accept education, training or service completed by the applicant as a member of  
10 the Armed Forces of the United States or Reserves of the United States Armed Forces, the  
11 national guard of any state, the military reserves of any state or the naval militia of any  
12 state toward the qualifications to receive the license.

13 **1. Endorsement.** The board, commission, office or agency ~~may~~ shall permit a  
14 returning military veteran or a spouse of a returning military veteran or of an active duty  
15 service member who holds a comparable license in another state to acquire a license by  
16 endorsement in this State for the remainder of the term of the license from the other state  
17 or until a license is obtained in this State.

18 **2. Temporary license.** The board, commission, office or agency ~~may~~ shall permit a  
19 returning military veteran or a spouse of a returning military veteran or of an active duty  
20 service member who holds a comparable license in another state to obtain a temporary  
21 license in this State for a period of time necessary to obtain a license in this State.

22 **3. Acceptance of military credentials.** The board, commission, office or agency shall  
23 permit a returning military veteran who applies for a license less than 2 years after being  
24 discharged from active duty and whose military training qualifies and experience qualify  
25 the veteran for a license in a profession or occupation that requires a license in this State to  
26 acquire a temporary license until a license is issued.

27 **4. Continuing education requirements.** The board, commission, office or agency  
28 may allow a full or partial exemption from continuing education requirements for a  
29 returning military veteran or the spouse of a returning military veteran or of an active duty  
30 service member. Evidence of completion of continuing education requirements may be  
31 required for a subsequent license or renewal. A board, commission, office or agency shall  
32 provide that continuing education requirements may be met by comparable military  
33 training.

34 **Sec. A-4. 32 MRSA §88, sub-§2, ¶I,** as enacted by PL 1991, c. 588, §16, is  
35 amended to read:

36 I. The board may establish and collect licensure fees, application fees, examination  
37 fees, course and conference fees, tuition and other charges as determined necessary by  
38 the board for the efficient administration of this chapter. The board may waive  
39 examination fees and license fees for applicants for licensure as emergency medical  
40 services persons those persons who are veterans with military service, experience and  
41 training. All funds received pursuant to this paragraph must be deposited into a  
42 nonlapsing fund established for the purpose. Maine Emergency Medical Services shall  
43 administer the fund with the advice and consent of the commissioner. Funds must be  
44 deposited with the Treasurer of State to the credit of the fund and may be invested as  
45 provided by law. Interest on these investments must be credited to the fund.



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

### 3 SUMMARY

4 This amendment strikes and replaces the bill, which is a concept draft.

5 Part A of the amendment helps veterans access jobs in the following ways.

6 1. It requires the Director of the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation  
7 within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to review the examination  
8 and licensing eligibility of applicants for licensure who are veterans with military service,  
9 experience and training and to waive any applicable examination and licensing fees for  
10 these veterans. Under current law, the director has discretion to conduct these reviews and  
11 to grant these fee waivers for individuals who self-identify as veterans.

12 2. It requires each professional licensing board within or affiliated with the department  
13 to grant a license by endorsement or a temporary license to a person who holds a  
14 comparable license in another state and who is a returning military veteran, the qualified  
15 spouse of a returning military veteran or the qualified spouse of an active duty service  
16 member. Under current law, these professional licensing boards may, but are not required  
17 to, provide licensure by endorsement or temporary licenses in these circumstances.

18 3. It requires each professional licensing board within or affiliated with the department  
19 to permit a returning military veteran who applies for a license less than 2 years after being  
20 discharged from active duty and whose military training and experience qualify the veteran  
21 for a license in this State to acquire a temporary license until the full license is issued.

22 4. It clarifies that a returning military veteran who is eligible for professional and  
23 occupational licensing assistance is a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States who  
24 was discharged from active duty with either an honorable discharge or a general discharge  
25 under honorable conditions.

26 5. It authorizes the Department of Public Safety, Emergency Medical Services' Board  
27 to waive examination and initial licensing fees for a veteran with military service,  
28 experience and training who is an applicant for licensure as an emergency medical services  
29 person.

30 6. It authorizes the Commissioner of Public Safety to waive initial licensing fees for a  
31 veteran with military service, experience and training who is an applicant for licensure as  
32 a private security guard.

33 Part B of the amendment helps veterans access postsecondary education in the State by  
34 requiring the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and the  
35 Maine Maritime Academy to each designate liaisons to provide academic counseling and  
36 benefits assistance to students who are members of the United States Armed Forces or who  
37 are veterans of the United States Armed Forces and to designate a specific location at each  
38 university or college where those students may congregate to study, to provide support to  
39 their peers and to receive assistance from the liaison.

40 Part C of the amendment helps veterans access housing by requiring the Department  
41 of Health and Human Services, in coordination with the Director of the Maine Bureau of  
42 Veterans' Services within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency

1 Management, to develop a method of identifying veterans who are homeless and eligible  
2 for temporary housing assistance under the Bridging Rental Assistance Program.

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**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

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**(See attached)**