

Date:

(Filing No. H-)

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
131ST LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 978, L.D. 1523, “An Act to Establish a Qualifying Condition Review Board to Provide Benefits to Certain Service Members”

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 2 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 2. 37-B MRSA §504, sub-§4, ¶A-1, as amended by PL 2021, c. 37, §2, is further amended by amending subparagraph (3) to read:

(3) "Program of general amnesty" does not include the process for upgrading a discharge for state law purposes under section ~~503~~, ~~subsection 9~~ 517.'

Amend the bill in section 3 in §517 in the first line (page 1, line 6 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "Qualifying" the following: 'Condition'

Amend the bill in section 3 in §517 in subsection 1 in paragraph A in the first line (page 1, line 9 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "Qualifying" the following: 'Condition'

Amend the bill in section 3 in §517 in subsection 2 in the first line (page 1, line 16 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "Qualifying" the following: 'Condition'

Amend the bill in section 3 in §517 in subsection 3 in the 2nd line (page 1, line 19 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "board." the following: 'Board members must have clinical experience working with veterans who have been discharged or are at risk of discharge based on a circumstance listed in subsection 4.'

Amend the bill in section 3 in §517 in subsection 5 in the 15th and 16th lines (page 2, lines 11 and 12 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "United States Department of Veterans Affairs" and inserting the following: 'Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services'

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

SUMMARY

This amendment is the majority report of the committee. It adds the requirement that members of the Qualifying Condition Review Board have relevant clinical experience

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1 working with veterans, it permits a veteran whose discharge characterization is upgraded
2 pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 37-B, section 517 to be buried in a veterans'
3 cemetery and it clarifies that the decision on an application for a discharge characterization
4 upgrade is a decision of the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services.

5 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

6 **(See attached)**