



# 127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2016

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Legislative Document

No. 1658

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H.P. 1128

House of Representatives, March 17, 2016

### **An Act To Reform the Veteran Preference in State Hiring and Retention**

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Reference to the Committee on State and Local Government suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative HANINGTON of Lincoln. (GOVERNOR'S BILL)  
Cosponsored by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec and  
Representatives: ALLEY of Beals, GOLDEN of Lewiston, HOBART of Bowdoinham,  
KINNEY of Limington, LONGSTAFF of Waterville, PRESCOTT of Waterboro, TURNER of  
Burlington, VEROW of Brewer.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §7054**, as amended by PL 2003, c. 20, Pt. OO, §2 and affected by  
3 §4, is repealed.

4 **Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §7054-B** is enacted to read:

5 **§7054-B. Veteran preference**

6 **1. Definition.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates,  
7 "veteran" means a person who has served on active duty in the United States Armed  
8 Forces including the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces and the National Guard  
9 and received a discharge other than dishonorable.

10 **2. Interview.** In filling any position in the classified service, the employing agency  
11 shall offer an interview to any veteran who meets the minimum qualifications established  
12 for the position.

13 **3. Retention preference.** In any reduction in personnel in the state service,  
14 employees who are veterans must be retained in preference to all other competing  
15 employees in the same classification with equal seniority, status and performance  
16 reviews.

17 **Sec. 3. 5 MRSA §7055**, as enacted by PL 1985, c. 785, Pt. B, §38, is repealed.

18 **SUMMARY**

19 Current law provides that, in making appointments to positions in the classified  
20 service, preference in the form of points added to test scores must be given to honorably  
21 separated veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States and to the spouse of a  
22 disabled veteran, the widow or widower of a veteran and the parents of a deceased  
23 veteran who lost his or her life under honorable conditions while serving on active duty.  
24 This bill repeals that language and provides preference in the form of an interview to any  
25 person who has served on active duty in the United States Armed Forces including the  
26 Reserves of the United States Armed Forces and the National Guard and received a  
27 discharge other than dishonorable and who meets the minimum qualifications established  
28 for a position.

29 The bill also repeals the provision that authorizes certain veterans and certain family  
30 members of disabled or deceased veterans to file an application for and reopen an open  
31 competitive examination during the life of an eligible register resulting from a published  
32 announcement.