

132nd Legislature
Senate of
Maine
Senate District 2

Senator Harold 'Trey' Stewart, III
Senate Republican Leader
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**LD 462, "An Act to Amend the Eligibility Criteria for Creditable Service
in the Armed Forces of the United States Under the
Maine Public Employees Retirement System"**

**Joint Standing Committee on Labor
March 5, 2025**

Senator Tipping, Representative Roeder and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Labor:

I am Trey Stewart; and I represent Senate District 2, which includes several communities in Penobscot and Aroostook Counties. I am here today to once again present LD 462, "*An Act to Amend the Eligibility Criteria for Creditable Service in the Armed Forces of the United States Under the Maine Public Employees Retirement System.*"

Last session I submitted similar legislation on behalf of a constituent, which was enacted in the House and ultimately died on the Appropriations Table when we adjourned. It is my hope that you, as Committee members, can come to a similar conclusion and unanimously support this measure.

The bill amends the state retirement laws governing creditable service to provide credit for service during operations in Lebanon, occurring from August 21, 1982 to February 26, 1984, and operations in Grenada, occurring from October 25, 1983 to December 15, 1983.

I understand Mr. Stanley Hull, my constituent who has shared his concerns with this inequity, has spoken with several people in an attempt to hone in on what's really needed to allow certain veterans to purchase subsidized military credit for their service. I believe if this measure is passed with funding, it would allow Mr. Hull to purchase military service credit at a subsidized rate as well as others who served during the dates specified in the bill. Should Mr. Hull opt to purchase the four years of military service credit at an unsubsidized rate, it would amount to a whopping \$45,000! That just doesn't seem fair for our veterans.

Mr. Hull has submitted testimony for you to consider and I believe others who will speak behind me will be able to further explain the specifics surrounding this issue.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important measure.