



Bradlee T. Farrin
Senator, District 3

THE MAINE SENATE
131st Legislature

3 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333

LD 2130, "An Act to Support Employment Opportunities for Military Spouses"

Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs January 21, 2026

Good morning, Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and Distinguished Members of the Joint Standing Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs:

I am Senator Brad Farrin; and I represent the people of Senate District 3, which includes several communities in Kennebec, Penobscot and Somerset Counties. I am here today to talk about a promise. It's the promise we make as a state to support those who serve our nation and, just as importantly, the families who stand with them. LD 2130 is about keeping that promise.

Right now, living within our communities is an incredible, untapped reservoir of talent: our military spouses. These are individuals who are educated, resilient, and ready to work; yet they face a staggering 21% unemployment rate. Why? Because their commitment to their family's service means they are uprooted every two to three years. Their careers are put on hold, not for lack of skill but for lack of stability.

This isn't just a challenge for these families; it's a missed opportunity for Maine. In a time when employers are actively seeking skilled, dedicated talent, we have a motivated workforce right in our backyard that we could help integrate.

LD 2130 presents a simple, powerful, and commonsense solution. It provides a framework for employers to give hiring preference to military spouses. This is not a mandate but an opportunity and a tool to help Maine employers connect with an exceptional talent pool.

Think of it as a win-win. We help military families achieve the financial stability they deserve which, in turn, strengthens the readiness of our service members; and we give the State of Maine a competitive edge in recruiting dedicated, skilled, and adaptable professionals.

You will also be receiving written testimony from our partners at the Defense-State Liaison Office. In that testimony you will be provided a more-detailed look at the data and the day-to-day realities our military families face. My purpose today is to frame the issue for what it is: a chance for Maine to lead and a chance to align our economic needs with our values. So far eight states have enacted legislation providing military spouses with employment preference in state or private employment, our neighbors to the west in New Hampshire being one.

By passing LD 2130 we send a clear message. We are saying that in Maine we don't just thank our military families for their sacrifice – we actively invest in their future and, in doing so, we invest in our own.

I urge you to support this bill. It is good for our families and it is good for Maine.