



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE & FINANCIAL SERVICES
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SERVING THE PUBLIC AND DELIVERING ESSENTIAL SERVICES TO STATE GOVERNMENT

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*Testimony of Margaret Eddy, Policy Analyst
State of Maine Bureau of Human Resources
Department of Administrative and Financial Services
Testifying in Support of*

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

Sponsored by Sen. Bradlee Farrin
Before the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and members of the Joint Standing Committee Veterans and Legal Affairs: I am Margaret Eddy, Policy Analyst for the State of Maine Bureau of Human Resources. I am providing testimony today in support of LD 2130, An Act to Support Employment Opportunities for Military Spouses.

This is a bill that is easy for the State of Maine Bureau of Human Resources to get behind. The State of Maine already provides a hiring preference which guarantees an interview to veterans and gold star spouses who meet the minimum qualification of the position; providing them a foot in the door and opportunity to distinguish themselves. This legislation would merely extend that preference to the spouses of active-duty members of the United States Armed Forces, Reserves, and National Guard.

Much is demanded from the spouses of our military men and women; often this means uprooting themselves when their partner is restationed, disrupting their own employment and making building their own career challenging. In addition, during deployments they may be temporarily parenting alone and shouldering household duty by themselves.

The State is Maine's 2nd largest employer and state jobs are highly sought after for their quality of workplace, benefits, and opportunity to serve. Across our many departments and agencies, the State offers fulfilling careers in a broad array of professions. Whether you're an attorney, accountant, biologist, equipment operator, nurse, social worker, engineer, human resources professional, information technology expert, law enforcement officer, social worker, or transportation worker, the State has job opportunities for you. In addition, working for the State of Maine can often provide stability, regular hours, and flexibility that a military spouse who is temporarily parenting alone while their spouse is deployed needs. This bill recognizes the excellent fit that the State and military spouses may be.

In conclusion, we encourage the Committee to vote LD 2130 Ought to Pass.