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Testimony Neither for Nor Against:
L.D. 2130, "An Act to Support Employment Opportunities for Military Spouses"
Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs

Senator Hickman, Representative Supica, and distinguished members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs. I'm David Richmond, Director of the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services (MBVS) and I'm here today, also representing the Department of Defense, Veterans, and Emergency Management, to testify in support of L.D. 2130, "An Act to Support Employment Opportunities for Military Spouses".

Smoothing the transitions of active duty servicemembers, reservists and national guard members—back to our state, or back into civilian life after a deployment—is a very important mission of our department. This includes providing all available supports to their spouses as they also transition with their families.

The Maine Bureau of Veterans, through our Welcome Home project, establishes contact with transitioning service members early in their planning stages of return. We connect them with state and federal benefits that they have earned, and connect them with our Veterans' Services Officers (all veterans themselves)—to make sure that they have access to all available support. LD 2130, clearly aligns with our mission.

Our department will be on hand during the work session to help clarify details and definitions on how this benefit would be applied for Maine spouses seeking employment with our state.

I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully Submitted,

David Richmond
Director, Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services