

126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2013

Legislative Document

No. 1137

H.P. 802

House of Representatives, March 21, 2013

An Act To Facilitate Veterans' and Their Spouses' Access to Employment, Education and Training

Reference to the Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.

Millicent M. Mac Jarland

MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND Clerk

Presented by Representative GRAHAM of North Yarmouth. Cosponsored by Senator CAIN of Penobscot and Representatives: BEAUDOIN of Biddeford, BRIGGS of Mexico, COTTA of China, FREDETTE of Newport, KNIGHT of Livermore Falls, NUTTING of Oakland.

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

2 Sec. 1. 10 MRSA §8010 is enacted to read:

3 §8010. Veterans and military spouses

4 By January 1, 2014, each board, commission and agency within the department listed 5 in section 8001 or affiliated with the department under section 8001-A shall adopt a 6 process to facilitate qualified returning military veterans and qualified spouses of 7 returning military veterans or of active duty service members to qualify for professional 8 licenses granted by those boards, commissions and agencies in an expeditious manner. 9 Procedures adopted pursuant to this section supersede general licensing requirements of 10 those boards, commissions and agencies. For the purposes of this section, "returning military veteran" means a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States who has been 11 12 discharged from active duty within the previous 12 months. The department shall adopt 13 rules providing uniform standards for procedures that may be used by the boards, 14 commissions and agencies to comply with this section, including the following options.

15 1. Endorsement. The board, commission or agency may permit a returning military
veteran or a spouse of a returning military veteran or of an active duty service member
who holds a comparable license in another state to acquire a license by endorsement in
this State for the remainder of the term of the license from the other state or until a license
is obtained in this State.

2. Temporary license. The board, commission or agency may permit a returning
military veteran or a spouse of a returning military veteran or of an active duty service
member who holds a comparable license in another state to obtain a temporary license in
this State for a period of time necessary to obtain a license in this State.

Acceptance of military credentials. The board, commission or agency shall
permit a returning military veteran whose military training formed the basis for enabling
the veteran to perform a function that requires a license in this State to acquire a
temporary license until a license is obtained in this State.

4. Continuing education requirements. The board, commission or agency may not
require evidence of continuing education for initial relicensure of a returning military
veteran or the spouse of a returning military veteran or of an active duty service member.
Evidence of completion of continuing education requirements may be required for a
subsequent license or renewal. A board, commission or agency shall provide that
continuing education requirements may be met by comparable military training or
experience.

35 <u>Rules adopted under this section are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5,</u> 36 <u>chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.</u>

37 Sec. 2. 20-A MRSA §10010, as amended by PL 2009, c. 463, §1, is further
38 amended to read:

1 **§10010.** Veterans

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2 Regardless of the state of residence, a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United 3 States using the benefits under the Post-9/11 Veterans Educational Assistance Act of 2008 must receive a waiver from the tuition that remains after the application of all 4 5 payments from the federal Department of Veterans Affairs, including payments under the Yellow Ribbon G.I. Education Enhancement Program in the Post-9/11 Veterans 6 7 Educational Assistance Act of 2008, and the application of other nonrepayable resources 8 for which the veteran may be eligible. The amount of the tuition waiver received by a veteran under this section may not exceed an amount that lowers the tuition to less than 9 10 the in-state tuition charged by the institution. This section applies to all veterans enrolled at any campus of the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System 11 12 or Maine Maritime Academy in an undergraduate program of education. A nonresident 13 student entitled to a waiver under this section must be considered eligible for in-state 14 tuition.

SUMMARY

16 This bill requires each board, commission and agency under the oversight of or affiliated with the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to adopt a 17 process to facilitate qualified returning military veterans and qualified spouses of 18 19 returning military veterans or of active duty service members to qualify for professional 20 licenses granted by those boards, commissions or agencies in an expeditious manner. The bill also provides that nonresident students receiving certain federal assistance with 21 education costs for veterans must be considered eligible for in-state tuition for purposes 22 23 of the state waiver.