| 1                          | L.D. 2145   |
|----------------------------|---|
| 2                          | Date: (Filing No. S- )  |
| 3                          | VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS  |
| 4                          | Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.  |
| 5                          | STATE OF MAINE  |
| 6                          | SENATE  |
| 7                          | 129TH LEGISLATURE   |
| 8                          | SECOND SPECIAL SESSION  |
| 9<br>10<br>11              | COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "" to S.P. 772, L.D. 2145, "An Act To Help Veterans Access Jobs, Education, Health Care and Housing and Provide General Support to Veterans"  |
| 12                         | Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:  |
| 13                         | 'An Act To Help Veterans Access Jobs, Education and Housing'  |
| 14<br>15                   | Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:  |
| 16                         | 'PART A   |
| 17<br>18                   | <b>Sec. A-1. 10 MRSA §8003, sub-§2-A, </b> ¶ <b>M,</b> as enacted by PL 2017, c. 173, §2, is amended to read:   |
| 19<br>20<br>21<br>22<br>23 | M. To exercise discretionary authority, after consultation with licensing boards if applicable, to review and determine on a case-by-case basis, in consultation with any applicable licensing board, examination and licensing eligibility for applications for licensure submitted by individuals who identify themselves as veterans with military service, experience and training; and |
| 24<br>25                   | <b>Sec. A-2. 10 MRSA §8003, sub-§2-A, </b> ¶ <b>N</b> , as enacted by PL 2017, c. 173, §2, is amended to read:  |
| 26<br>27<br>28             | N. To exercise discretionary authority to waive examination fees and license fees for applicants for licensure who identify themselves as <u>are</u> veterans with military service, experience and training.   |
| 29<br>30                   | Sec. A-3. 10 MRSA §8011, as enacted by PL 2013, c. 424, Pt. D, §2 and affected by §3, is amended to read:   |
| 31                         | §8011. Veterans and military spouses  |
| 32<br>33<br>34             | By January 1, 2014, each board, commission, office and agency within the department listed in section 8001 or affiliated with the department under section 8001-A shall adopt a process to facilitate qualified returning military veterans and qualified spouses of returning  |

Page 1 - 129LR2615(02)

military veterans or of active duty service members to qualify for professional licenses 1 granted by those boards, commissions, offices and agencies in an expeditious manner. For 2 the purposes of this section, "returning military veteran" means a veteran of the Armed 3 Forces of the United States who has been honorably discharged from active duty with an 4 honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions. Notwithstanding 5 any other provision of law, the Director of the Office of Professional and Occupational 6 Regulation and each licensing board within or affiliated with the department shall, upon 7 presentation of satisfactory evidence by an applicant for professional or occupational 8 licensure, accept education, training or service completed by the applicant as a member of 9 the Armed Forces of the United States or Reserves of the United States Armed Forces, the 10 national guard of any state, the military reserves of any state or the naval militia of any 11 state toward the qualifications to receive the license. 12

13 **1. Endorsement.** The board, commission, office or agency may shall permit a 14 returning military veteran or a spouse of a returning military veteran or of an active duty 15 service member who holds a comparable license in another state to acquire a license by 16 endorsement in this State for the remainder of the term of the license from the other state 17 or until a license is obtained in this State.

Temporary license. The board, commission, office or agency may shall 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.

3. Acceptance of military credentials. The board, commission, office or agency shall
 permit a returning military veteran who applies for a license less than 2 years after being
 discharged from active duty and whose military training qualifies and experience qualify
 the veteran for a license in a profession or occupation that requires a license in this State to
 acquire a temporary license until a license is issued.

4. Continuing education requirements. The board, commission, office or agency
 may allow a full or partial exemption from continuing education requirements for 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, office or agency shall
 provide that continuing education requirements may be met by comparable military
 training.

34 Sec. A-4. 32 MRSA §88, sub-§2, ¶I, as enacted by PL 1991, c. 588, §16, is 35 amended to read:

36 I. The board may establish and collect licensure fees, application fees, examination 37 fees, course and conference fees, tuition and other charges as determined necessary by the board for the efficient administration of this chapter. The board may waive 38 examination fees and license fees for applicants for licensure as emergency medical 39 services persons those persons who are veterans with military service, experience and 40 training. All funds received pursuant to this paragraph must be deposited into a 41 nonlapsing fund established for the purpose. Maine Emergency Medical Services shall 42 administer the fund with the advice and consent of the commissioner. Funds must be 43 deposited with the Treasurer of State to the credit of the fund and may be invested as 44 45 provided by law. Interest on these investments must be credited to the fund.

Page 2 - 129LR2615(02)

Sec. A-5. 32 MRSA §9407, sub-§1, as amended by PL 1983, c. 221, §3, is further
 amended to read:

3 1. Application; fee. Applications for original licenses shall must be made to the 4 commissioner on forms prescribed by him the commissioner with respect to the requirements of section 9405. The fee for a license application is \$400, of which \$100 must 5 be submitted with the application and \$300 must be submitted upon issuance of the license. 6 7 If the previously issued license has expired and has not been renewed within a period of 60 days, the application shall must be considered the original application and the same fees 8 9 and all requirements of an original application shall apply. The commissioner may waive 10 the license fees for applicants for original licensure who are veterans with military service, experience and training. 11

- 12 **PART B**
- Sec. B-1. 20-A MRSA §10010, as repealed and replaced by PL 2013, c. 488, §1, is
  amended to read:
- 15 §10010. Current members and veterans of the United States Armed Forces

16 If a current member of the United States Armed Forces or a veteran of the United States 17 Armed Forces who has been honorably discharged from active duty with an honorable 18 discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions is enrolled in a program of 19 education at any campus of the University of Maine System, the Maine Community 20 College System or the Maine Maritime Academy, that member or veteran is eligible for in-21 state tuition rates, regardless of the member's or veteran's state of residence.

22 The Maine Maritime Academy, the University of Maine System and the Maine 23 Community College System shall designate liaisons to provide benefits assistance to enrolled and prospective students who are members of the United States Armed Forces or 24 25 veterans of the United States Armed Forces who have been discharged from active duty with an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable conditions. The Maine 26 Maritime Academy shall designate at least one liaison, the University of Maine System 27 shall designate at least one liaison at each of its universities and the Maine Community 28 29 College System shall designate at least one liaison at each of its colleges. To the extent space is available, the Maine Maritime Academy, the University of Maine System and the 30 31 Maine Community College System shall designate a specific location at each institution, 32 equipped with at least one computer with Internet access, where enrolled students who are 33 members of the United States Armed Forces and veterans of the United States Armed Forces who have been discharged from active duty with an honorable discharge or a general 34 35 discharge under honorable conditions may congregate to study, to provide support to their 36 peers and to receive assistance from the designated liaison.

37

#### PART C

- 38 Sec. C-1. 34-B MRSA §3011, as corrected by RR 2017, c. 1, §31, is amended by
  39 adding at the end a new paragraph to read:
- 40In coordination with the Director of the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services within the41Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, the department shall42develop a method for identifying eligible veterans who are homeless and for assisting those43persons with receiving assistance under this section.'

Page 3 - 129LR2615(02)

Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or section number to read consecutively.

- 1 2 3 **SUMMARY** 4 This amendment strikes and replaces the bill, which is a concept draft. 5 Part A of the amendment helps veterans access jobs in the following ways. 6 1. It requires the Director of the Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation 7 within the Department of Professional and Financial Regulation to review the examination and licensing eligibility of applicants for licensure who are veterans with military service, 8 experience and training and to waive any applicable examination and licensing fees for 9 10 these veterans. Under current law, the director has discretion to conduct these reviews and to grant these fee waivers for individuals who self-identify as veterans. 11 2. It requires each professional licensing board within or affiliated with the department 12 to grant a license by endorsement or a temporary license to a person who holds a 13 comparable license in another state and who is a returning military veteran, the qualified 14 spouse of a returning military veteran or the qualified spouse of an active duty service 15 member. Under current law, these professional licensing boards may, but are not required 16 17 to, provide licensure by endorsement or temporary licenses in these circumstances. 3. It requires each professional licensing board within or affiliated with the department 18 19 to permit a returning military veteran who applies for a license less than 2 years after being discharged from active duty and whose military training and experience qualify the veteran 20 for a license in this State to acquire a temporary license until the full license is issued. 21 22 4. It clarifies that a returning military veteran who is eligible for professional and 23 occupational licensing assistance is a veteran of the Armed Forces of the United States who was discharged from active duty with either an honorable discharge or a general discharge 24 25 under honorable conditions. 26 5. It authorizes the Department of Public Safety, Emergency Medical Services' Board to waive examination and initial licensing fees for a veteran with military service, 27 28 experience and training who is an applicant for licensure as an emergency medical services 29 person. 30 6. It authorizes the Commissioner of Public Safety to waive initial licensing fees for a veteran with military service, experience and training who is an applicant for licensure as 31 a private security guard. 32 Part B of the amendment helps veterans access postsecondary education in the State by 33 34 requiring the University of Maine System, the Maine Community College System and the Maine Maritime Academy to each designate liaisons to provide academic counseling and 35 benefits assistance to students who are members of the United States Armed Forces or who 36 37 are veterans of the United States Armed Forces and to designate a specific location at each 38 university or college where those students may congregate to study, to provide support to 39 their peers and to receive assistance from the liaison. Part C of the amendment helps veterans access housing by requiring the Department
- 40 41 of Health and Human Services, in coordination with the Director of the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency 42

Page 4 - 129LR2615(02)

- 1 Management, to develop a method of identifying veterans who are homeless and eligible
- 2 for temporary housing assistance under the Bridging Rental Assistance Program.
  - FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED
- 3 4

(See attached)

Page 5 - 129LR2615(02)