



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2016

Legislative Document

No. 1625

H.P. 1104

House of Representatives, March 1, 2016

**An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To
Strengthen and Align the Services Provided to Maine's Veterans by
Requiring the University of Maine System To Provide Supportive
Services to Student-veterans**

Reported by Representative LUCHINI of Ellsworth for the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs pursuant to Resolve 2015, chapter 48, section 7.

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 218.

Handwritten signature of Robert B. Hunt in cursive.

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

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

2 **Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §10910** is enacted to read:

3 **§10910. Assistance to student-veterans**

4 No later than January 15, 2017, the university shall establish on each campus of the
5 university that has a student population with a significant number of enrolled student-
6 veterans an office at which a student-veteran recently separated from military service may
7 obtain assistance with that student-veteran's transition from military service to the campus
8 environment and support for the successful completion of the student-veteran's
9 postsecondary education. The office must also serve as a resource for students, faculty
10 and staff who are not veterans in order to create awareness about the issues faced by
11 student-veterans recently separated from military service. The university shall ensure that
12 each office established pursuant to this section, to the greatest extent possible, provides
13 services offered at a similar office serving the University of Southern Maine campuses
14 during the 2015-2016 academic year. As used in this section, "a significant number of
15 enrolled student-veterans" means 25 or more student-veterans or a number of student-
16 veterans equal to or greater than 5% of the number of enrolled students, whichever is less.
17 As used in this section, "veteran" means a person who served on active duty as a member
18 of the National Guard or in the United States Armed Forces, including the Reserves of the
19 United States Armed Forces, who has received a discharge other than dishonorable.

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SUMMARY

21 This bill implements one of the recommendations made by the final report of the
22 Commission To Strengthen and Align the Services Provided to Maine's Veterans and is
23 submitted pursuant to Resolve 2015, chapter 48. The bill requires each campus of the
24 University of Maine System with a significant number of student-veterans to include an
25 office that provides assistance to those veterans with the intent of facilitating transition
26 from military life and supporting successful completion of the veterans' postsecondary
27 education. The bill requires that any office established pursuant to this bill must use, to
28 the greatest extent possible, the office at the University of Southern Maine as a model.