

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
119TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1661, L.D. 2330, Bill, "An Act to Require the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to Report to the Legislature on Matters Related to State Veterans Laws"

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 2 (page 1, lines 15 to 22 in L.D.) and inserting in its place the following:

'Sec. 2. Veterans' benefits eligibility criteria study. The Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management shall study the laws governing eligibility for state veterans' benefits. The study must examine the inconsistencies among eligibility criteria and make recommendations to resolve those inconsistencies. The commissioner shall report findings and recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over legal and veterans' affairs by December 31, 2000. Following receipt of the study report, the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over legal and veterans' affairs may report out a bill to the First Regular Session of the 120th Legislature.'

Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the summary the following:

'FISCAL NOTE

The Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management will incur some minor additional costs to report to the Legislature on changes in federal veterans laws and study veterans' benefits eligibility criteria. These costs can be absorbed within the department's existing budgeted resources.'

SUMMARY

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4 This amendment amends the original bill by specifying the
6 report of the Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency
8 Management on laws governing eligibility for state veterans'
benefits must be made to the joint standing committee of the
Legislature having jurisdiction over legal and veterans'
affairs. It also adds a fiscal note to the bill.