

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2016

Legislative Document

No. 1515

H.P. 1040

House of Representatives, January 6, 2016

An Act To Update the Laws Governing the Maine Public Employees Retirement System as They Relate to Wartime Veterans

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative WARD of Dedham.

Cosponsored by Representatives: FECTEAU of Biddeford, FREDETTE of Newport, HOBBS of Saco, HUBBELL of Bar Harbor, LUCHINI of Ellsworth, PICKETT of Dixfield, VACHON of Scarborough.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §17760, sub-§3, ¶C**, as enacted by PL 2003, c. 693, §3, is
3 amended to read:

4 C. For purposes of this subsection, "federally recognized period of conflict" means
5 World War I, April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918 or to March 31, 1920 if service
6 was in Russia; World War II, December 7, 1941 to December 31, 1946; the Korean
7 Conflict, June 27, 1950 to January 31, 1955; the Vietnam War, August 5, 1964 to
8 May 7, 1975 and the period beginning on February 28, 1961 and ending on May 7,
9 1975 in the case of a veteran who served in the Republic of Vietnam during that
10 period; and operations in Lebanon, August 21, 1982 to February 26, 1984; Operation
11 Urgent Fury, October 25, 1983 to November 2, 1983; the Persian Gulf War, August 7
12 2, 1990 to April 6, 1991; Operation Enduring Freedom, October 7, 2001 to December
13 28, 2014; Operation Iraqi Freedom, March 19, 2003 to August 31, 2010; Operation
14 New Dawn, September 1, 2010 to the date that the United States Government
15 recognizes as the end of the Persian Gulf War Operation New Dawn; and Operation
16 Freedom's Sentinel, January 1, 2015 to the date that the United States Government
17 recognizes as the end of Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

18 **Sec. 2. 5 MRSA §18360, sub-§2, ¶E**, as amended by PL 2007, c. 249, §29, is
19 further amended to read:

20 E. Except as provided in paragraph I, a member who served in the armed forces
21 during any federally recognized period of conflict, is entitled to service credit under
22 this subsection. For purposes of this paragraph, "federally recognized period of
23 conflict" means World War I, April 6, 1917 to November 11, 1918 or to March 31,
24 1920 if service was in Russia; World War II, December 7, 1941 to December 31,
25 1946; the Korean Conflict, June 27, 1950 to January 31, 1955; the Vietnam War,
26 August 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975 and the period beginning on February 28, 1961 and
27 ending on May 7, 1975 in the case of a veteran who served in the Republic of
28 Vietnam during that period; and operations in Lebanon, August 21, 1982 to February
29 26, 1984; Operation Urgent Fury, October 25, 1983 to November 2, 1983; the Persian
30 Gulf War, August 7 2, 1990 to April 6, 1991; Operation Enduring Freedom, October
31 7, 2001 to December 28, 2014; Operation Iraqi Freedom, March 19, 2003 to August
32 31, 2010; Operation New Dawn, September 1, 2010 to the date that the United States
33 Government recognizes as the end of the Persian Gulf War Operation New Dawn;
34 and Operation Freedom's Sentinel, January 1, 2015 to the date that the United States
35 Government recognizes as the end of Operation Freedom's Sentinel.

36 **SUMMARY**

37 Current law allows members of the Maine Public Employees Retirement System to
38 purchase military time to add those years to their years of creditable service for purposes
39 of calculating their retirement benefits. The cost of purchasing military time depends in
40 part on whether a member served during a federally recognized period of conflict. This
41 bill updates the definition of "federally recognized period of conflict" to include service
42 during operations in Lebanon, August 21, 1982 to February 26, 1984; operations in

1 Grenada, October 25, 1983 to November 2, 1983; the Persian Gulf War, August 2, 1990
2 to April 6, 1991; and operations in Afghanistan and Iraq, October 7, 2001 to the present.