

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 214

H.P. 170

House of Representatives, January 24, 2017

**Resolve, To Establish the Commission To Streamline Veterans'
Licensing and Certification**

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative GOLDEN of Lewiston.
Cosponsored by Senator JACKSON of Aroostook and
Representatives: CASÁS of Rockport, FARRIN of Norridgewock, HANINGTON of Lincoln,
LONGSTAFF of Waterville, LUCHINI of Ellsworth, Senators: COLLINS of York, LIBBY of
Androscoggin, MASON of Androscoggin.

1 **Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** this Resolve establishes the Commission To Streamline Veterans'
4 Licensing and Certification to identify ways to streamline licensing and certification
5 requirements for veterans; and

6 **Whereas,** the study must be initiated before the 90-day period expires in order that
7 the study may be completed and a report submitted in time for submission to the next
8 legislative session; and

9 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
10 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
11 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
12 therefore, be it

13 **Sec. 1. Commission To Streamline Veterans' Licensing and Certification.**
14 **Resolved:** That, notwithstanding Joint Rule 353, the Commission To Streamline
15 Veterans' Licensing and Certification, referred to in this resolve as "the commission," is
16 established; and be it further

17 **Sec. 2. Commission membership. Resolved:** That the commission consists of
18 13 members appointed as follows:

19 1. Two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate who are
20 veterans of military service or who are members of either the Joint Standing Committee
21 on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development or the Joint Standing
22 Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs;

23 2. Three members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the
24 House of Representatives who are veterans of military service or who are members of
25 either the Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic
26 Development or the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs;

27 3. The Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management or the
28 commissioner's designee;

29 4. The Commissioner of Professional and Financial Regulation or the
30 commissioner's designee;

31 5. The Commissioner of Labor or the commissioner's designee;

32 6. Three members appointed by the President of the Senate with experience in:

33 A. Membership on a licensing or certification board;

34 B. Work at an educational institution with programming that results in licensing or
35 certification;

36 C. Work in the field of human resources; or

- 1 D. Prior or current service in the military; and
- 2 7. Two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives with
- 3 experience in:
 - 4 A. Membership on a licensing or certification board;
 - 5 B. Work at an educational institution with programming that results in licensing or
 - 6 certification;
 - 7 C. Work in the field of human resources; or
 - 8 D. Prior or current service in the military; and be it further

9 **Sec. 3. Chairs. Resolved:** That the first appointed Senate member is the Senate
10 chair and the first appointed House of Representatives member is the House chair of the
11 commission; and be it further

12 **Sec. 4. Appointments; convening of commission. Resolved:** That all
13 appointments must be made no later than 30 days following the effective date of this
14 resolve. The appointing authorities shall notify the Executive Director of the Legislative
15 Council once all appointments have been completed. After appointment of all members,
16 the chairs shall call and convene the first meeting of the commission. If 30 days or more
17 after the effective date of this resolve a majority of but not all appointments have been
18 made, the chairs may request authority and the Legislative Council may grant authority
19 for the commission to meet and conduct its business; and be it further

20 **Sec. 5. Duties. Resolved:** That the commission shall:

21 1. Identify workforce needs in the State that could be met by the recruitment of
22 veterans and service members who are transitioning out of the military;

23 2. Identify similarities and differences between military occupational specialty
24 training and state licensing and certification requirements for those fields of work
25 identified by the commission;

26 3. Address barriers commonly encountered by transitioning service members and
27 veterans by:

28 A. Assisting civilian licensing boards in recognizing the military documentation of
29 veterans' training and experience;

30 B. Developing strategies to prevent duplicative training requirements for attaining
31 relevant licensure or certification; and

32 C. Streamlining the administrative rules and processes within civilian licensing and
33 certification systems that create barriers for veterans to obtain licensure or
34 certification; and

35 4. Develop strategies to accelerate veterans' licensure and certification by:

36 A. Assessing the equivalency of military training courses and using official
37 documentation to permit veterans with fully or partially equivalent training and

1 experience either to sit for civilian licensure examinations or to be licensed by
2 endorsement;

3 B. Addressing training gaps by working with educational institutions to set up
4 accelerated programs for veterans that bridge training gaps, provide veterans
5 advanced standing in existing programs or offer bridge courses that prepare veterans
6 to enter existing programs;

7 C. Addressing administrative or process challenges by assessing any non-skill-
8 related licensing or certification requirements that might place veterans at a
9 disadvantage, such as fees or length of experience; and

10 D. Taking steps to make civilian employment pathways friendlier to veterans
11 through concerted outreach to both veterans and prospective employers; and be it
12 further

13 **Sec. 6. Staff assistance. Resolved:** That the Legislative Council shall provide
14 necessary staffing services to the commission; and be it further

15 **Sec. 7. Report. Resolved:** That, no later than January 15, 2018, the commission
16 shall submit a report that includes its findings and recommendations, including suggested
17 legislation, to both the Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and
18 Economic Development and the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal
19 Affairs. The Joint Standing Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic
20 Development and the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs may
21 report out a bill to the Second Regular Session of the 128th Legislature based upon the
22 report.

23 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this legislation
24 takes effect when approved.

25 **SUMMARY**

26 This resolve creates the Commission To Streamline Veterans' Licensing and
27 Certification to study and address military service members' and veterans' transition from
28 military service to the civilian workforce. The commission is also charged with making
29 recommendations to streamline licensing and certification processes for service members
30 and veterans.