

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 5/6/2013

(Filing No. S-57)

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

126TH LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 58, L.D. 169, Bill, "An Act To Provide Revenue to Veterans' Organizations and the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System Care Fund from Table Game Revenue"

Amend the bill in the emergency preamble in the 3rd Whereas paragraph in the 2nd line (page 1, line 6 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "Grant"

Amend the bill in section 1 in paragraph D in the next to the last line (page 1, line 18 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "Grant"

Amend the bill in section 2 in subsection 1 in 4th line from the end (page 1, line 30 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "Grant"

Amend the bill by striking out all of sections 3 and 4 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 3. 37-B MRSA §514 is enacted to read:

§514. Coordinated Veterans Assistance Fund; establishment; report

The Coordinated Veterans Assistance Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established to provide financial assistance to veterans' service organizations. Beginning July 1, 2013 the director shall make distributions from the fund as follows:

1. Transportation for medical needs of veterans. Fifteen thousand dollars annually to a veterans' service organization that has maintained for the previous 5 years consecutively as of January 1, 2013 a program of providing transportation to veterans receiving medical services at the Veterans Administration Hospital at Togus or outreach centers of the veterans hospital;

2. Veteran service officers at veterans hospital. Sixty-four thousand five hundred dollars annually to each veterans' service organization that has funded and maintained a veteran service officer at the Veterans Administration Hospital at Togus for at least one year as of January 1, 2013; and

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

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1 **3. Other veterans programs.** The remainder of the funds, distributed by the
2 director after payment of any fees applied by the State for administration of the fund, as
3 follows:

4 A. Sixty-eight percent to the Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery System Care Fund
5 established by section 512, subsection 1;

6 B. Twenty percent to organizations that coordinate an annual event to benefit
7 homeless veterans by providing warm clothing and personal items; and

8 C. Twelve percent to purchase flags for graves at veterans' cemeteries.

9 Beginning in 2014, the director shall submit a report annually by February 15th
10 regarding the distribution of these funds, including information from organizations that
11 received the funds, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction
12 over veterans affairs.

13 **Sec. 4. Honorable service commemoration in fiscal year 2014-15.**
14 Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 37-B, section 514, the Director of the
15 Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services within the Department of Defense, Veterans and
16 Emergency Management shall make a one-time distribution of \$15,000 to the fund
17 established by Title 37-B, section 511.

18 **Sec. 5. Gambling Control Board to transfer funds.** Within 30 days after the
19 effective date of this Act, all funds received as of June 30, 2013 by the Gambling Control
20 Board within the Department of Public Safety for distribution to charitable nonprofit
21 organizations pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 8, section 1036, subsection
22 2-C, paragraph D must be transferred to the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System
23 Care Fund established in Title 37-B, section 512.

24 **Sec. 6. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
25 allocations are made.

26 **DEFENSE, VETERANS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT**
27 **OF**

28 **Veterans Services 0110**

29 Initiative: Establishes the Coordinated Veterans Assistance Fund with 2% of the net table
30 game income from the casino in Bangor.

| 31 | OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 |
|----|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 32 | FUNDS | | | |
| 33 | All Other | \$186,707 | \$152,360 | \$148,448 |
| 34 | | | | |
| 35 | OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE | <u>\$186,707</u> | <u>\$152,360</u> | <u>\$148,448</u> |
| 36 | FUNDS TOTAL | | | |

ROFS

| | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1 | DEFENSE, VETERANS AND | | | |
| 2 | EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, | | | |
| 3 | DEPARTMENT OF | | | |
| 4 | DEPARTMENT TOTALS | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 |
| 5 | | | | |
| 6 | OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE | \$186,707 | \$152,360 | \$148,448 |
| 7 | FUNDS | | | |
| 8 | | | | |
| 9 | DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL | \$186,707 | \$152,360 | \$148,448 |
| 10 | FUNDS | | | |

11 **PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT OF**
 12 **Gambling Control Board Z002**

13 Initiative: Reduces funding from eliminating the 2% of net table game income from the
 14 casino in Bangor previously distributed to charitable nonprofit organizations that were
 15 eligible to conduct beano games and games of chance.

| | | | | |
|----|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 16 | OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 |
| 17 | FUNDS | | | |
| 18 | All Other | (\$186,707) | (\$152,360) | (\$148,448) |
| 19 | | | | |
| 20 | OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE | (\$186,707) | (\$152,360) | (\$148,448) |
| 21 | FUNDS TOTAL | | | |

| | | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 22 | PUBLIC SAFETY, DEPARTMENT | | | |
| 23 | OF | | | |
| 24 | DEPARTMENT TOTALS | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 |
| 25 | | | | |
| 26 | OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE | (\$186,707) | (\$152,360) | (\$148,448) |
| 27 | FUNDS | | | |
| 28 | | | | |
| 29 | DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL | (\$186,707) | (\$152,360) | (\$148,448) |
| 30 | FUNDS | | | |

| | | | | |
|----|----------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 31 | SECTION TOTALS | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 |
| 32 | | | | |
| 33 | OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| 34 | FUNDS | | | |
| 35 | | | | |
| 36 | SECTION TOTAL - ALL FUNDS | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| 37 | | | | |

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SUMMARY

Current law requires 2% of the net table game income generated at a casino in Bangor to be held by the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Board for distribution to charitable nonprofit organizations eligible to conduct beano games and games of chance. This amendment provides that distribution of the table game income will go to the Coordinated Veterans Assistance Fund, which is established to assist veterans' service organizations with transportation of veterans to medical appointments and outreach to homeless veterans and to provide funding for veteran service officers at the Veterans Administration Hospital at Togus, for flags for veterans graves and for the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System Care Fund.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)



126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 169

LR 48(02)

An Act To Provide Revenue to Veterans' Organizations and the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System Care Fund from Table Game Revenue

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (S-57)
Committee: Veterans and Legal Affairs
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

| | FY 2012-13 | FY 2013-14 | FY 2014-15 | Projections FY 2015-16 | Projections FY 2016-17 |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Appropriations/Allocations | | | | | |
| Other Special Revenue Funds | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |
| Revenue | | | | | |
| Other Special Revenue Funds | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 | \$0 |

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This legislation proposes to change the net table game distribution at the Hollywood Casino without affecting the overall tax structure. It eliminates the 2% currently held for distribution to charitable nonprofit corporations eligible to conduct beano or games of chance and instead distributes that 2% to the Coordinated Veterans Assistance Grant Fund within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management. It also specifies certain distributions to be made annually from this Fund.

The bill includes an Other Special Revenue Funds deallocation to the Department of Public Safety of \$186,707 in fiscal year 2012-13 and \$152,360 in fiscal year 2013-14 with a corresponding Other Special Revenue Funds allocation to the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management. Other Special Revenue Funds revenue would also be reduced and increased by the same amounts.