

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2019

Legislative Document

No. 184

H.P. 147

House of Representatives, January 17, 2019

**An Act To Amend the Veterans' Homelessness Prevention
Coordination Program**

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

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative DeVEAU of Caribou.
Cosponsored by Senator FARRIN of Somerset and
Representatives: ANDREWS of Paris, DOLLOFF of Rumford, FAULKINGHAM of Winter
Harbor, FECTEAU of Augusta, HANINGTON of Lincoln, JOHANSEN of Monticello,
MORRIS of Turner, STROM of Pittsfield.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 37-B MRSA §513**, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 329, §1, is repealed.

3 **Sec. 2. 37-B MRSA §513-A** is enacted to read:

4 **§513-A. Veterans' homelessness prevention coordination**

5 **1. Veterans' homelessness prevention partnership.** The director shall establish
6 partnerships with human services-based volunteer organizations to coordinate efforts to
7 remedy and prevent homelessness among veterans in this State. The volunteer
8 organizations must have as their core programs addressing homelessness and veterans'
9 services and have been active in the State for at least 2 years. Priority must be given to an
10 organization founded, chartered or organized in the State. The director may accept
11 donations from outside sources and state and federal funding to accomplish the priorities
12 of the partnerships. If state, federal or outside funding is available, the priorities of these
13 partnerships, listed in order of priority, include, but are not limited to:

14 A. Identifying homeless veterans in the State;

15 B. Identifying and securing temporary or permanent living space for veterans within
16 the veterans' communities; and

17 C. Conducting annual outreach events, targeted to reach the maximum number of
18 veterans in need, to disseminate information on resources and services available to
19 assist homeless veterans.

20 **2. Fund established.** The Veterans' Homelessness Prevention Partnership Fund, a
21 nonlapsing fund, is established under the bureau for the purpose of receiving funds from
22 state, federal and other sources, including donations from private citizens, corporations
23 and entities for the purpose of this section. The bureau, in collaboration with the
24 Department of Economic and Community Development, shall distribute any available
25 funds in the fund to support the priorities described in this section.

26 **SUMMARY**

27 This bill repeals the current provisions regarding veterans' homelessness prevention
28 coordination and instead enacts a provision that allows for multiple partnerships rather
29 than a single partnership. It removes the requirement that the organizations chosen for
30 the partnerships be national organizations in existence for at least 30 years. It requires
31 that the organizations chosen be active in the State for at least 2 years, with priority given
32 to organizations founded, chartered or organized in Maine. It changes the order of
33 priorities for the partnerships, prioritizing identifying and securing temporary or
34 permanent living space for veterans within the veterans' communities over conducting
35 annual outreach events. It establishes a nonlapsing fund to support services for homeless
36 veterans and directs the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management,
37 Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services to collaborate with the Department of Economic and
38 Community Development to distribute any funds.