

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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October 25, 1939

George C. Webber, Esquire  
Box 306  
Auburn, Maine

Dear Colonel Webber:

Yesterday, for the first time, I was able to have a conference with Commissioner Packard of the Education Department, Mr. Roderick his Deputy and with Mr. Leadbetter concerning the interpretation of Chapter 194, P. L. 1933, as amended by Chapter 105, P. L. 1935, about which you wrote me on October 4th.

I am exceedingly sorry that we cannot interpret this statute in the manner suggested in your letter, and every one of us concerned wish it were possible to do so. Dr. Packard remembers that at the time this law was introduced he attended the hearing and that it was represented to the committee that it would be applied only to the children of veterans who were killed in action, or whose death from war causes occurred between the dates mentioned in the act; and that in placing the provision in the act that it should not be effective after June 30, 1943, the idea was that any child born to a veteran who died between these dates would have attained the age of 22 years prior to June 30, 1943.

Since the act was effective quite a number of youths have been helped under its provisions, but the Commissioner, Deputy and Mr. Leadbetter all say that aid has never been extended to any case where the father of the applicant died after July 2, 1921. In fact, they showed me some applications this year which had been rejected because the death did not occur between these dates. If course, it would be manifestly unfair now to interpret the way you suggest, and the way my own sentiments would prompt me to interpret it if there was any chance to do so. I hope that next time when you ask me something I can be of more assistance.

With kindest personal regards,

Very truly yours,

Franz U. Burkett  
Attorney General

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