

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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OFFICE OF
THE GOVERNOR

NO. 16 FY 11/12
DATE May 10, 2011

**AN ORDER ESTABLISHING THE MAINE MILITARY
AND COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP COUNCIL**

WHEREAS, the State of Maine has a moral duty to support those citizens who have served or are serving in the United States Armed Forces, whether on Active Duty, in the Reserves, or in the National Guard, as well as their families;

WHEREAS, this duty owed is shared among agencies and branches of state, federal, and local government;

WHEREAS, the resources of government should be coordinated to provide veterans, service members, and their families with the support they need;

WHEREAS, communication among the various officials, stakeholders, and providers is necessary to ensure that government remains responsive to the needs of veterans, service members, and their families; and

WHEREAS, a formal organizational structure can help foster such communication and coordinate governmental efforts;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Paul R. LePage, Governor of the State of Maine, hereby order as follows:

1. The Maine Military and Community Leadership Council (“council”) is hereby established.
2. The membership of the council shall consist of twenty one (21) persons as follows:
 - a. Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, *ex officio*, or his designee;
 - b. Commissioner of Health and Human Services, *ex officio*, or her designee;
 - c. Commissioner of Labor, *ex officio*, or his designee;
 - d. Commissioner of Public Safety, *ex officio*, or his designee;
 - e. Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans’ Services, *ex officio*;
 - f. Maine National Guard, Director of Psychological Health, *ex officio*;
 - g. Director of the Maine National Guard Development Cycle Support, *ex officio*;
 - h. Commander of the Maine Army National Guard medical command, *ex officio*;

- i. Six (6) members, appointed by the Governor to serve at his pleasure, one (1) each from the following services:
 1. Maine Army National Guard or Maine Air National Guard;
 2. United States Army, active or reserve;
 3. United States Air Force, active or reserve;
 4. United States Navy, active or reserve;
 5. United States Marine Corps, active or reserve;
 6. United States Coast Guard, active or reserve;
- j. Six (7) members, appointed by the Governor to serve at his pleasure, one (1) each from the following stakeholder constituencies:
 1. Military spouses;
 2. Brain injury services community;
 3. Substance abuse services community;
 4. Community-based counseling service community;
 5. Maine Military and Community Network;
 6. Practicing physicians; and
 7. Community Spiritual Leaders.

The Council is encouraged to invite non-member participation from the Maine Congressional delegation, VA Togus and veterans' service organizations.

The Governor shall appoint one member of the council to serve as chair at the pleasure of the Governor.

Members of the council shall serve without compensation but shall be entitled to reimbursement of travel expenses for attending meetings of the council. Such reimbursement shall be paid by the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, which Department shall also provide administrative support to the council.

3. The duties of the council shall include:
 - a. To advise the Governor on issues and challenges concerning military members, veterans and their families;
 - b. To monitor the State's progress in the implementation of the Action Plan developed by the federal Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Returning Service Members, Veterans, and their Families Policy Academy in June 2010 and review future revisions to said plan;
 - c. To ensure that members and veterans of the United States Armed Forces and their families are provided support and services; and
 - d. To meet at least four (4) times annually (twice regionally and one state-wide conference) at the call of the chair, and, by January 15th each year submit a report of activities and recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature's Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs or such successor committee having jurisdiction over veteran's affairs.

The effective date of this Executive Order is May 10, 2011.


Paul R. LePage, Governor