

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 397

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S. P. 157

In Senate, January 21, 1965

Referred to Committee on Veterans & Military Affairs. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Secretary

Presented by Senator Shiro of Kennebec.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SIXTY-FIVE

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**AN ACT to Provide for Establishment of a Veterans Memorial Cemetery.**

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

**Sec. 1. R. S., T. 37, c. 2, additional.** Title 37 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new chapter 2 to read as follows :

**'CHAPTER 2**

**VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY**

**Sec. 1. Land purchase.** The Commissioner of Veterans Services shall acquire by purchase, gift or otherwise from the owners thereof, at such price as shall be mutually agreed upon between the commissioner and such owners, such real estate as in his judgment is suitable and necessary for the purpose of carrying into effect the provisions for a Veterans Memorial Cemetery, and obtain from such owners the title in fee simple for the same. Such real estate shall not be less than 50 acres and shall be near the center of population of the State of Maine.

**Sec. 22. Monument; buidings, etc.** The Commissioner of Veterans Services shall purchase and cause to be erected in the center of the Veterans Memorial Cemetery, to be suited to the topography of the land, a suitable monument with suitable flag poles on which shall be displayed in accordance with the Flag Code, the National Emblem and the State of Maine flag. The immediate area surrounding this monument shall be prepared and reserved as a suitable place for Memorial Day or other patriotic or memorial observances. The remainder shall be laid out in a wheel-like pattern surrounding the monument, being expanded from the center as required. Suitable buildings shall be provided for the use

of the superintendent and the care of equipment, and for the storage of bodies during such time as burial is impossible because of frozen ground.

**Sec. 23. Superintendent.** A competent and trustworthy superintendent shall be appointed and whatever additional help, equipment and material is necessary for adequate maintenance of the cemetery shall be arranged for by the Commissioner of Veterans Services.

**Sec. 24. Grave markers.** All grave markers shall be the flat type marble, granite or bronze as furnished by the Memorial Division, Department of the Army, or similar thereto. No other markers or stones shall be permitted in the cemetery. All boxes used for burial shall be protected with liners or permanent vaults. Stones, liners or vaults shall not be at state expense.

**Sec. 25. Burials.** Any veteran without regard to race, creed or color, who served in the United States Armed Forces during any recognized period of war and received an honorable discharge may be buried in this cemetery without charge, if he entered service from Maine or has lived in Maine for 5 years immediately prior to his death. The wife, husband, surviving spouse, minor child or adult child who became incapable of self-support before reaching the age of 18 because of mental or physical defects may be buried in graves adjacent to the veteran without charge, provided that if the veteran dies first, the survivors specify in writing their intent to be so buried or if the dependent dies first, the veteran specifies in writing his intent to be buried in the Veterans Memorial Cemetery. The plots shall be reserved as indicated and a permanent record of all burials shall be kept.

The bodies of eligible veterans previously buried in other locations may be reinterred in this cemetery upon request of anyone legally entitled to make such request, provided that no cost shall be borne by the State other than that which would be incurred in an original burial.

**Sec. 26. Regulations.** The Commissioner of Veterans Services shall be authorized to make such regulations regarding burials, maintenance and operation of the cemetery as he deems necessary which are not in conflict with this chapter.

**Sec. 27. Interpretation.** This chapter shall not be construed as obligating the State beyond the furnishing of a grave site, the opening and closing of the grave and maintenance thereafter in perpetuity of the grave and the cemetery as a whole.

**Sec. 28. Name.** The cemetery provided by this chapter shall be known as the Maine Veterans Memorial Cemetery.'

**Sec. 2. Appropriation.** There is appropriated from the Unappropriated Surplus of the General Fund the sum of \$50,000 for the purpose of planning and starting development of the cemetery provided for by this Act.