

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 707

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S. P. 246

In Senate, February 10, 1971

Referred to Committee on Veterans and Retirement. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Carswell of Cumberland.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-ONE

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**AN ACT Providing Educational Assistance for Widows of Veterans and  
Wives of Totally Disabled Veterans.**

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

**Sec. 1. R. S., T. 20, § 3211, amended.** Section 3211 of Title 20 of the Revised Statutes, as amended, is further amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

For the further purpose of administering this chapter, a widow of a veteran shall be defined as a person whose husband met the residency and service requirements of this section, and the widow of any veteran who was killed in action or who died from a service-connected disability as determined by the Veterans Administration, or the wife of any veteran who has a total disability, permanent in nature, resulting from a service-connected disability as determined by the Veterans Administration, or the widow of a veteran who died while a disability so evaluated was in existence.

**Sec. 2. R. S., T. 20, § 3212, amended.** The first sentence of section 3212 of Title 20 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

In order to assist any person qualifying as an orphan or as a widow of a veteran in accordance with section 3211 in securing higher education, the department shall pay, for any person which it finds eligible for such assistance, a maximum of \$150 per year, for a period of time not exceeding 8 semesters of attendance nor exceeding 6 consecutive academic years from the date of first entrance, towards the cost of such higher education.

**Sec. 3. R. S., T. 20, § 3213, amended.** Section 3213 of Title 20 of the Revised Statutes, as last amended by section 33 of chapter 504 of the public laws of 1969, is further amended to read as follows:

§ 3213. Free tuition

All children qualifying as war orphans and widows qualifying under this chapter shall be admitted to state supported post-secondary vocational schools or institutions of collegiate grade free of tuition.

Sec. 4. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Veterans Services the sum of \$15,000 to carry out the purposes of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1971-72	1972-73
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES		
All Other	\$6,000	\$9,000

STATEMENT OF FACT

Presently under the Veterans Administration Laws, 16 widows in Maine receive payments under War Orphan Educational Benefits, amounting to \$175 each per month. If these wives and widows try to get higher education in order to better support themselves, they are forced to pay out most of this for tuition thus becoming unable to support themselves and families while at school.