

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 704

H. P. 522

House of Representatives, February 8, 1973

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

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Curtis of Orono.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

AN ACT Relating to Educational Benefits for Dependents of Veterans and
Prisoners of War and Missing in Action.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 20, § 3211, amended. The 3rd paragraph of section 3211 of Title 20 of the Revised Statutes, as enacted by section 1 of chapter 516 of the public laws of 1971, is amended to read as follows:

This chapter shall apply to the wives and children of those ~~members of the Armed Forces on active duty~~ veterans of World War II, Korea and the Viet Nam War who ~~have been~~ were listed for more than 90 days as missing in action, captured or forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty by a foreign government or power; **provided that wives must remain married to the men upon whom their eligibility is based.**

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Bureau of Veterans' Services the sum of \$10,000 to carry out the purposes of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1973-74	1974-75
MILITARY, CIVIL DEFENSE AND VETERANS' SERVICES		
Bureau of Veterans' Services		
All Other	\$5,000	\$5,000

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill would broaden present coverage of persons eligible for benefits. The 105th Legislature extended coverage of educational benefits, free tuition at a state institution of higher learning and a \$300 annual education stipend to include the dependents of prisoners of war. An opinion from the Attorney General's office states that the benefits cease to exist after the prisoner is released under the existing wording of the statutes, however, none of the dependents of Viet Nam prisoners of war are old enough to qualify. The intent of this legislation is to make the dependents of prisoners of war eligible after their release from captivity. This is an appropriate way for Maine to pay tribute to our brave Americans who have been prisoners and their patient and courageous families for their sacrifices and the hardships they endured on behalf of our country.