

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 383

S. P. 118

In Senate, January 28, 1975

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

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Curtis of Penobscot.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

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

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

Sec. 1. 37-A MRSA, § 50-J, last ¶, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 788, § 196, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

This subchapter shall apply to the wives and children of those veterans of World War II, Korea and the Viet Nam War who were listed 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:

	1975-76	1976-77
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.