

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1735

H. P. 1457

House of Representatives, April 8, 1975

On Motion of Mr. Smith of Dover-Foxcroft referred to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Dam of Skowhegan.

Cosponsor: Mr. Lewin of Augusta.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT to Establish a State Veterans Home.

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

Sec. 1. 37-A MRSA c. 28 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 28

MAINE VETERANS HOME

§ 1401. Establishment

There is established in the State of Maine a home known as "Maine Veterans Home" primarily for support and care of honorably discharged veterans, hereinafter in this chapter referred to as members who served in the Armed Forces of the United States in any war, including the Korean War and Vietnam conflicts.

§ 1402. Board of trustees

The administration of the home is vested in the Board of Trustees of Maine Veterans Home. The board shall consist of 9 members, one of whom shall be the Director of the Bureau of Veterans Services who shall serve without term. The remaining trustees shall be appointed by the Governor, with the consent of the Council, to a term of 3 years. All trustees of the board shall be honorably discharged war veterans and one member shall be appointed from and shall represent each of the largest veterans organizations, not exceeding 5, which are nationally chartered and have a department in Maine. The remaining members shall be appointed at large. Three of the trustees

shall be appointed for a term of one year, 3 shall be appointed for a term of 2 years and 2 shall be appointed for a term of 3 years at the time of the initial appointments. Appointments thereafter shall be for the regular term of 3 years. In the event of a vacancy, the successor shall be appointed to complete the unexpired term. Each trustee shall continue to hold office until his successor is appointed and qualified.

§ 1403. Duties of the board

The board shall meet at least 6 times annually and adhere to the same fiscal year as the State of Maine. They shall hold their first meeting for organizational and other purposes, at which meeting the board shall elect a chairman and secretary for the fiscal year. Each succeeding year, the board shall hold their first meeting in July. Five members shall constitute a quorum. Special meetings may be called by agreement of a majority of trustees. The board shall adopt such rules and regulations as are necessary to administer the home, to provide for just charges for maintenance of members, to determine the admittance and discharge of members and generally to oversee the operation of the home. The board shall appoint an administrator to administer the home. The board is empowered to apply for any grants-in-aid federal or otherwise, to which the State or the Maine Veterans Home may be eligible.

§ 1404. Administrator

The administrator shall be an honorably discharged war veteran and shall administer the home in accordance with the rules, regulations, guidelines and general policy as may be established by the board. He shall serve an indefinite term, but may be removed for cause by the board. His salary shall be set by the board. The administrator shall hire, subject to the Personnel Law, the necessary employees to operate the home and, whenever possible, shall give preference in hiring to war veterans. The administrator shall be encouraged to live on the grounds of the home, in quarters owned and maintained by the home and if so, he shall pay telephone and electrical charges attributable to his domicile, but shall not be required to pay rent, heating costs or repairs and renovations.

§ 1405. Admission of members

Veterans desiring admission to the home shall make application on forms prescribed by the administrator and admission will be made by the administrator only to veterans who were residents of Maine at the time of their entry into the Armed Forces of the United States or who have been residents of Maine at least 3 years prior to requesting admission, and the spouses of such veterans, providing suitable facilities are available. Admission will be granted when provisions of the rules and regulations are met, when there is a vacancy and in order of application, unless otherwise provided in the rules and regulations.

§ 1406. Charges to members

Each member shall pay to the State such share of the costs of his maintenance as he can afford and as prescribed in the rules and regulations.

§ 1407. Donations

The board of trustees is empowered to receive, on behalf of the State, all bequests and donations that may be made to improve the general comfort and welfare of the members or for the betterment of the home.

§ 1408. Custodian of funds

The Treasurer of State shall receive funds paid to the administrator from members for their maintenance, the United State Treasury and other funds given or granted to the home, other than state appropriations.

§ 1409. Continuous fund

All funds received by the Treasurer of State shall be held by him in a permanent continuous fund to be drawn upon by the administrator of the home for support and maintenance of the home as it is required. A percentage of these funds should be placed in reserve for capital improvement expenditures as approved by the board of trustees.

§ 1410. Reports

The board shall make an annual report to the Governor. Such report shall account for all moneys received and expended, statistics on members who resided in the home during the year, recommendations to the Governor and Legislature and such other matters as the board may deem pertinent. The administrator, subject to approval of the board, shall compile a biennial budget on the forms and at the time as required of all other state agencies.

§ 1411. Compensation of the board

No trustees shall receive compensation for any services rendered the home but necessary expenses incurred by a trustee in the performance of his official duties shall be paid by the State.

Sec. 2. **Appropriation.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Trustees of the Maine Veterans Home the sum of \$600,000 to carry out the purposes of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

| | 1975-76 | 1976-77 |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| MAINE VETERANS HOME, TRUSTEES OF | | |
| Personal Services | \$128,333 | \$128,333 |
| All Other | 113,333 | 113,333 |
| Capital Expenditures | 58,334 | 58,334 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | \$300,000 | \$300,000 |

STATEMENT OF FACT

Such sums are the amounts necessary for operation in addition to the grants estimated to be received from the United States Government and payments from resident members of the Maine Veterans Home. Maine is the only New England State which does not have a veterans home.