

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND TENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 824

H. P. 699

House of Representatives, February 12, 1981

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Nelson of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-ONE

AN ACT Relating to Eligibility for World War Assistance.

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

Sec. 1. 37-A MRSA § 28, sub-§ 3, first sentence, as amended by PL 1979, c. 541, Pt. A, § 254, is further amended to read:

“Veteran” shall be construed to mean any person who served in Armed Forces of the United States on active duty during World War I, World War II, the Korean Campaign or Viet Nam War, ~~not dishonorably discharged~~ **and who received an honorable or general discharge under honorable conditions, provided that the discharge was not upgraded through a program of general amnesty.**

Sec. 2. 37-A MRSA § 29, first sentence, as amended by PL 1975, c. 701, § 20, is further amended to read:

Aid shall be granted under sections 28 to 37 **to a single veteran residing in the State who is in dire need and** to the needy spouse, child or parent or parents, residing in the State, of a veteran, who if living, is disabled and a resident of the State or who is deceased.

Sec. 3. Appropriation. The following funds are appropriated from the General Fund to carry out the purposes of this Act.

1981-82

DEFENSE AND VETERANS SERVICES,
DEPARTMENT OF

All Other

\$40,000

To provide World War Assistance to
needy single veterans.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill implements a recommended change in the law made by a legislative review staff. The wording to be added "received an honorable or general discharge under honorable conditions, provided that the discharge was not upgraded through a program of general amnesty," is already included in our present law allowing veterans and spouses to be buried in the Maine Memorial Cemetery.

The bill also amends the present law which only allows World War Assistance to dependents of qualifying veterans. A single veteran should as well be qualified to receive World War Assistance at a time of need. Single veterans have had considerable difficulties in recent years and should also be available for World War Assistance when determined to be in dire need. On this addition to the law there would be an appropriation of \$40,000.