

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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1 FIRST REGULAR SESSION
2

3 ONE HUNDRED AND TWELFTH LEGISLATURE
4

5 Legislative Document

No. 1287
6

7 H.P. 892

House of Representatives, April 10, 1985

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

10 EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative Dellert of Gardiner.

Cosponsored by Representative Jalbert of Lisbon.
11

12 STATE OF MAINE
13

14 IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
15 NINETEEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE
16

17 AN ACT to Establish Registers for Maine
18 Veterans Exposed to Herbicides and
19 Nuclear Radiation.
20

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

23 Sec. 1. 37-B MRSA c. 8 is enacted to read:

24 CHAPTER 8

25 HERBICIDE INFORMATION

26 §521. Definitions

27 As used in this chapter, unless the context oth-
28 erwise indicates, the following terms have the fol-
29 lowing meanings.

30 1. Agent orange. "Agent orange" means the her-
31 bicide composed primarily of trichlorophenoxyacetic
32 acid and dichlorophenoxyacetic acid.

1 2. Herbicide. "Herbicide" means any herbicide,
2 defoliant or other causative agent, including, but
3 not limited to, agent orange.

4 3. Viet Nam veteran. "Viet Nam veteran" means
5 any member of the United States Armed Forces who
6 served on active duty in Viet Nam during any period
7 between August 5, 1964, and May 7, 1975.

8 §522. Information concerning Viet Nam veterans ex-
9 posed to herbicides

10 The Bureau of Veterans' Services shall cooperate
11 with other state, federal and private agencies to or-
12 ganize and distribute information on the effects of
13 herbicides on Viet Nam veterans. The bureau shall:

14 1. Outreach program. Provide an outreach pro-
15 gram to inform Viet Nam veterans in the State of the
16 possible detrimental effects of herbicide exposure in
17 Viet Nam. This program shall include, but not be
18 limited to, dissemination of information to veteran
19 organizations and agencies;

20 2. Information. Establish, maintain and promote
21 a reporting process for Viet Nam veterans who were
22 exposed to herbicides and retain information on those
23 Viet Nam veterans responding to the outreach program;
24 and

25 3. Referrals. Refer Viet Nam veterans to appro-
26 priate state and federal agencies for the purpose of
27 filing claims to remedy medical and financial prob-
28 lems caused by exposure to herbicides.

29 Sec. 2. 37-B MRSA c. 8-A is enacted to read:

30 CHAPTER 8-A

31 NUCLEAR RADIATION INFORMATION

32 §531. Definitions

33 As used in this chapter, unless the context oth-
34 erwise indicates, the following terms have the fol-
35 lowing meanings.

1 1. Veteran. "Veteran" means any member of the
2 United States Armed Forces who served on active duty
3 during any federally recognized war period, including
4 the Korean Campaign and the Viet Nam War, or who re-
5 ceives any form of pension or compensation from the
6 Federal Government, for a service-connected disabili-
7 ty, as a veteran. "Veteran" includes any member of
8 the United States Armed Forces who served on active
9 duty in Viet Nam during any period between August 5,
10 1964, and May 7, 1975.

11 §532. Information concerning veterans exposed to nu-
12 clear radiation

13 The Bureau of Veterans' Services shall cooperate
14 with other state, federal and private agencies to or-
15 ganize and distribute information on the effects of
16 exposure to nuclear radiation on veterans. The bu-
17 reau shall:

18 1. Outreach Program. Provide an Outreach Pro-
19 gram to inform veterans in the State of the possible
20 detrimental effects of exposure to nuclear radiation.
21 This program shall include, but not be limited to,
22 dissemination of information to veteran organizations
23 and agencies;

24 2. Information. Establish, maintain and promote
25 a reporting process for veterans who were exposed to
26 nuclear radiation during the course of their active
27 military duty and retain information on those veter-
28 ans responding to the Outreach Program; and

29 3. Referrals. Refer veterans to appropriate
30 state and federal agencies for the purpose of filing
31 claims to remedy medical and financial problems
32 caused by exposure to nuclear radiation during active
33 military duty.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is to require the Bureau of Veterans' Services to establish programs to gather and disseminate information concerning:

- 1. Exposure of Viet Nam veterans to herbicides;
and
- 2. Exposure of veterans to nuclear radiation.

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