

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SECOND REGULAR SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTEENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

NO. 2214

H.P. 1627 House of Representatives, February 9, 1988

Approved for introduction by a majority of the
Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 26.

Reference to the Committee on Appropriations and
Financial Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative HOLT of Bath.

Cosponsored by Representatives BELLERT of Gardiner,
LISNIK of Presque Isle and President PRAY of Penobscot.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Establish the Agent Orange
Information Commission.

1
2
3

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

6 Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004, sub-§II, ¶A, sub-¶(6) is
7 enacted to read:

8 (6) Veterans Maine Agent Expenses 5 MRSA

1 malathion, hexachlorobenzene, dioxol, trinoxol,
2 diguat, bromacil, monuron, tandex and dalapon;
3 and

4 E. Any form of dioxin or
5 tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin.

6 2. Vietnam veteran. "Vietnam veteran" means
7 any person who served on active duty in the Armed
8 Forces of the United States during the Vietnam War,
9 August 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975.

10 §19503. Commission established; membership

11 The Maine Agent Orange Information Commission,
12 as established by chapter 379, shall be comprised as
13 follows: 4 members, 3 of whom must be Vietnam
14 veterans, to be appointed jointly by the President of
15 the Senate and the Speaker of the House; and 3
16 members, one of whom must be a Vietnam veteran, to be
17 appointed by the Governor. The members shall serve
18 for terms of 2 years, except that, of those first
19 appointed, 2 of the members appointed by the President
20 of the Senate and Speaker of the House and one of the
21 members appointed by the Governor shall serve for
22 terms of one year. The commission shall select its
23 own chairman. Members shall be compensated in
24 accordance with chapter 379.

25 The commission shall meet at least once every
26 month.

27 §19504. Duties

28 The commission shall:

29 1. Compile information. Compile information
30 concerning the use of toxic chemicals in Southeast
31 Asia;

32 2. Outreach. Identify, locate and provide
33 factual, updated information on the issues of exposure
34 to toxic chemicals in Southeast Asia to Maine Vietnam
35 veterans, their families and other interested persons;

1 3. Referral. Refer to other federal, state,
2 local or private agencies those Vietnam veterans
3 exposed to toxic chemicals during service in Southeast
4 Asia, and their families, needing assistance;

5 4. Coordination. Ensure that legal, medical,
6 administrative and social assistance due the Vietnam
7 veterans exposed to toxic chemicals during service in
8 Southeast Asia, and their families, is coordinated;

9 5. Cooperation. Cooperate with other state,
10 federal and private agencies and veterans' groups to
11 carry out its duties;

12 6. Registry. Maintain, in cooperation with the
13 Department of Defense, Veterans' Services Bureau, a
14 registry of all Vietnam veterans in the State; and

15 7. Recommendations. Make written
16 recommendations and proposals to other State agencies
17 concerning possible research efforts or surveys
18 regarding exposure to toxic chemicals.

19 §19505. Executive director; staff

20 The commission shall employ an executive
21 director and clerical support to serve at the pleasure
22 of the commission as is necessary to carry out this
23 chapter.

24 §19506. Assistance; Bureau of Veterans' Services

25 The Department of Defense and Veterans'
26 Services, Bureau of Veterans' Services shall render
27 all assistance requested by the commission to carry
28 out this chapter.

29 **Sec. 3. Report.** The commission shall submit
30 a report, including any recommended legislation, no
31 later than April 1, 1989, to the First Regular Session
32 of the 114th Legislature. The report shall cover all
33 aspects of the commission's work undertaken since the
34 effective date of this Act.

