

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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114th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION - 1989

Legislative Document

No. 1380

H.P. 991

House of Representatives, April 27, 1989

Reference to the Committee on Aging, Retirement and Veterans suggested and ordered printed.

Ed Pert

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Representative RICHARD of Madison.

Cosponsored by Senator ERWIN of Oxford and Representative PARADIS of Old Town.

STATE OF MAINE

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

An Act to Provide for Public Bell Ringing on Veterans Day.



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

3 **30-A MRSA §2901**, as enacted by PL 1987, c. 737, Pt. A, §2
5 and Pt. C, §106, and as amended by PL 1989, cc. 6 and 9, is
further amended to read:

7 **§2901. Observance of Memorial Day and Veterans Day**

9 1. **Decoration of veterans' graves.** Each municipality, as
11 directed by its municipal officers, shall annually decorate on
13 May 30th the graves of veterans of the Armed Forces of the United
States of America with an American flag and appropriate floral
decorations.

15 2. **Erection of flagpole as alternative.** When authorized by
17 the municipal officers, any group of citizens or any veterans'
organization of that municipality may erect a flagpole of durable
19 material in any cemetery within the municipality in which at
21 least 25 veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States are
interred. The American flag may be flown from this pole between
23 the dates of April 20th and May 10th of each year, or on any day
officially designated to commemorate veterans of the Armed Forces
of the United States. The display of a flag under this
25 subsection satisfies the requirements of subsection 1.

27 3. **No effect on individuals' right to decorate.** This
section does not in any way affect the right of any friend or
29 relative of a deceased veteran to decorate the grave.

31 4. Bell ringing on Veterans Day. Each municipality shall,
33 unless it will cause the municipality to incur an additional
expense, cause any public bell or clarion within its possession
or control to be rung at 11:00 a.m. on Veterans Day, and the
35 municipal officers of each municipality shall request that any
other bell or clarion within the town be rung voluntarily at
37 11:00 a.m. on Veterans Day, and shall take such steps as are
necessary to properly coordinate public and volunteer events.

39
41 **STATEMENT OF FACT**

43 This bill requires that bells owned by municipalities be
45 rung at 11:00 a.m. on Veterans Day, and requires municipal
officers to request others to ring bells on Veterans Day and to
47 properly coordinate public and private efforts in this area.
Veterans Day bell ringing was once an honored tradition that has
49 been allowed to die out, and this bill is designed to ensure that
our towns and cities appropriately recognize the sacrifice of
veterans.