

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
115TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 964, L.D. 1391, Bill, "An Act Concerning Access to Maine Veterans' Homes and the Veterans' Memorial Cemetery"

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act Concerning Access to Maine Veterans' Homes'

Further amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the statement of fact and inserting in its place the following:

'37-B MRSA §601, as amended by PL 1989, c. 502, Pt. A, §141, is further amended to read:

§601. Home established; purpose

There shall-be are established public homes for veterans in Maine known as "Maine Veterans' Homes." In addition to the presently existing home located in Augusta, a 120-bed home located in southern Maine and a home, not to exceed 60 beds, located in Aroostook County, may be constructed if federal Veterans' Administration funds are available to meet part of the costs of each facility for construction or operation. The board of trustees shall plan and develop these additional homes and may use any funds available for those purposes, except for the Augusta facility's funded depreciation account. The primary purpose of the homes shall-be is to provide support and care for honorably discharged veterans who served in the United States Armed Forces during wartime, including the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War. The homes must give priority in admissions to veterans who served during wartime, but may admit veterans who did not serve during wartime if space is available.

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FISCAL NOTE

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This bill will expand the number of veterans eligible to be residents at the Maine Veterans' Homes by allowing veterans who did not serve during wartime to be admitted on a space-available basis. This may result in future requests for General Fund appropriations from the Maine Veterans' Homes to meet the demand for additional space.

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STATEMENT OF FACT

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This amendment deletes from the bill provisions relating to access to the Veterans' Memorial Cemetery. It also permits the Maine Veterans' Homes to admit veterans who did not serve during wartime, if space is available, provided that veterans who served during wartime are given priority.

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Reported by the Committee on Aging, Retirement and Veterans
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House
(5/22/91) (Filing No. H- 403)