

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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116th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1993

Legislative Document

No. 53

S.P. 41

In Senate, January 14, 1992

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator VOSE of Washington

Cosponsored by Representative TOWNSEND of Eastport, Representative FARREN of Cherryfield and Representative LOOK of Jonesboro.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND NINETY-THREE

An Act to Improve Access to Maine's Veterans' Homes.

(EMERGENCY)

Emergency preamble. Whereas, Acts of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted
as emergencies; and

4
Whereas, the Maine Veterans' Home and the Department of
6 Human Services are in the process of obtaining federal funds and
determining the need for and location of additional veterans'
8 homes; and

10
Whereas, a change in the implementing law is necessary to
permit greater geographic diversity in the location of veterans'
12 homes; and

14
Whereas, this change must be effective sooner than 90 days
after this legislative session in order to be taken into
16 consideration during the approval process; and

18
Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts
create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of
20 Maine and require the following legislation as immediately
necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and
22 safety; now, therefore,

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

26 **Sec. 1. 37-B MRSA §601**, as amended by PL 1991, c. 702, §1, is
further amended to read:

28 **§601. Home established; purpose**

30
32 There must be 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
34 Maine, a home, not to exceed 60 beds, located in Aroostook
County, a home one or more homes located in eastern Maine not to
36 exceed 120 beds and a home one or more homes located in western
38 Maine not to exceed 120 beds, the combined total of the homes
located in eastern and western Maine not to exceed 240 beds, may
be constructed if federal Veterans' Administration funds are
40 available to meet part of the costs of each facility for
construction or operation. The board of trustees shall plan and
42 develop these additional homes and may use any funds available
for those purposes, except for the Augusta facility's funded
44 depreciation account. The primary purpose of the homes is to
provide support and care for honorably discharged veterans who
46 served in the United States Armed Forces during wartime,
including the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam War.

48
Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the
50 preamble, this Act takes effect when approved.

STATEMENT OF FACT

2

4 This bill improves the availability of Maine Veterans' Homes
by permitting greater geographic diversity in the location of
those homes.