

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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LEGAL AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
118TH LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to S.P. 823, L.D. 2212, Bill, "An Act to Amend the Authority of the Adjutant General to Sell Armories, to Increase the Authorized Size of the Veterans' Memorial Cemetery and to Authorize the Department of Administrative and Financial Services to Purchase Land in Houlton for a New Public Safety Facility"

Amend the bill in section 1 in subsection 3 in paragraph A (page 1, line 10 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "Armory" the following: 'or the Bath Armory, but not both'

Further amend the bill in section 1 in subsection 3 by striking out all of paragraph F.

Further amend the bill in section 1 in subsection 3 by relettering the paragraphs to read consecutively.

Further amend the bill by inserting after section 3 the following:

Sec. 4. Feasibility study. The Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management is directed to convene a group of people to study the feasibility of locating a veterans' cemetery in Aroostook County. The group consists of the following:

1. Three members of the American Legion, to be appointed by the District 7, North American Legion Commander;

2. Three members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, to be appointed by the District 1 Veterans of Foreign Wars Commander;

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2 3. Two veterans at large, to be appointed by the Aroostook
County commissioners; and

4 4. One member of the Department of Defense, Veterans and
Emergency Management, appointed by the Commissioner of Defense,
6 Veterans and Emergency Management or the commissioner's designee.

8 The study must include, but is not limited to, a review of
potential in-kind donation of land and resources and utilization
10 of volunteers for the purpose of establishing the veterans'
cemetery. The members of the group shall serve without
12 compensation. The group shall submit a report of their findings
and recommendations not later than February 1, 1999 to the joint
14 standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over
legal and veterans affairs.'

16 Further amend the bill by inserting at the end before the
18 summary the following:

20 **FISCAL NOTE**

22 This bill will result in an undetermined increase of
24 dedicated revenue to the Capitol Repair Account within the
Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management from the
26 sale of designated armories and parcels of land. The increase in
dedicated revenue will depend on the timing of these sales as
28 well as the properties' appraised values. Public Law 1997,
chapter 24 includes allocations of \$500,000 annually in fiscal
30 years 1997-98 and 1998-99 to authorize expenditures from this
account.

32 Removing the acreage restriction for land at the Veterans
34 Memorial Cemetery will allow the Department of Defense, Veterans
and Emergency Management to acquire more land. The Governor's
36 proposed 1998-1999 supplemental budget, L.D. 1950 as proposed for
amendment by the Bureau of the Budget, includes a General Fund
38 appropriation of \$200,000 in fiscal year 1998-99 for this purpose.

40 The Department of Administrative and Financial Services
currently has approximately \$110,000 designated as available in
42 the Capital Construction/Repairs/Improvements - Administration
account for the purchase of land for a public safety facility.

44 The Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management
46 will incur some minor additional costs to convene a group to
study the feasibility of locating a veterans' cemetery in

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2 Aroostook County. These costs can be absorbed within the
Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management's
4 existing budgeted resources.'

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SUMMARY

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10 This amendment clarifies that only the Bath or the Brunswick
armory, but not both, are authorized for sale by the Adjutant
General and adds a feasibility study on the advisability of
12 locating a veterans' cemetery in Aroostook County to the bill.
It also adds a fiscal note to the bill.