

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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119th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-1999

Legislative Document

No. 1894

S.P. 672

In Senate, March 16, 1999

An Act to Amend the Statutes Regarding Maine Veterans.

Reference to the Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joy J. O'Brien".

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator DAGGETT of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Representative MAYO of Bath and
Senators: FERGUSON of Oxford, President LAWRENCE of York, MITCHELL of
Penobscot, NUTTING of Androscoggin, Representative: GAGNE of Buckfield.

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1831, sub-§1, ¶D is enacted to read:

D. As part of the admission process, the hospital or nursing facility shall identify all patients or residents who have served at least 180 days on active duty in the United States Armed Forces and inform such patients or residents prior to discharge of the availability and locations statewide of Maine Veterans' Homes facilities and services. The facilities and services of the Maine Veterans' Homes and of all other entities identified by the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Veterans' Services as providing health care services to veterans in Maine must be included on all lists of licensed providers provided to patients and residents pursuant to this subsection by hospitals and nursing facilities.

Sec. 2. 37-B MRSA §601, as amended by PL 1997, c. 395, Pt. P, §1, is further amended to read:

§601. Home established; purpose

There must be public homes for veterans in Maine known as "Maine Veterans' Homes." In addition to the existing 120-bed home located in Augusta, a 120-bed home located in Scarborough, a home not to exceed 40 beds located in Caribou, a home located in Bangor not to exceed 120 beds, of which 40 beds are dedicated to senile dementia patients, and a home located in South Paris not to exceed 90 beds, of which 30 beds are dedicated to senile dementia patients, may be constructed if federal Veterans' Administration funds are available to meet part of the costs of each facility for construction or operation. In addition, a home located in Machias not to exceed 60 beds may be constructed if federal Veterans' Administration funds or funds from any other state, federal or private source are available to meet part of the costs of the facility for construction or operation, except that the Machias home may not begin operation prior to July 1, 1995 and the construction and funding of the Machias home may not in any way jeopardize the construction, funding or financial viability of any other home. The Maine Veterans' Homes also are authorized to provide nonnursing facility care and services to Maine veterans if approved by appropriate state and federal authorities. The Board of Trustees of the Maine Veterans' Homes shall plan and develop the Machias home and any nonnursing facility care and services using any funds available for that purpose, except for the Augusta facility's funded depreciation account. Any funds loaned to the Maine Veterans' Homes for operating purposes from the funded depreciation accounts of the Maine Veterans' Homes must be reimbursed from any funds received by the Maine Veterans' Homes and available for that purpose. The

2 primary purpose of the homes Maine Veterans' Homes is to provide
3 support and care for honorably discharged veterans who served on
4 active duty in the United States Armed Forces for no less than
5 180 days.

6 **Sec. 3. 37-B MRSA §610-B, first ¶**, as enacted by PL 1997, c.
7 395, Pt. P, §6, is amended to read:

8
9 The Maine Veterans' Homes shall expend stipend funds
10 received pursuant to section 610-A ~~first~~ primarily on the payment
11 of debt service on, or the setting aside of funds irrevocably to
12 repay as soon as possible, the outstanding principal amount of
13 the bonded indebtedness of the homes and the bonded indebtedness
14 of the State on which the homes are obligated to pay debt
15 service. Any interest earned on funds set aside irrevocably to
16 repay such bonded indebtedness must be credited to the General
17 Fund.

18

19

20 SUMMARY

21 This bill clarifies that the Maine Veterans' Homes can
22 provide nonnursing facility care and services to eligible Maine
23 veterans, if approved by appropriate federal and state
24 authorities.

25

26 The bill also requires that stipend funds received from the
27 federal Veterans' Administration and retained by the Maine
28 Veterans' Homes are to be used primarily for the payment of debt
29 service on the debt payable by the Maine Veterans' Homes.

30
31 The bill also requires veterans being discharged from
32 hospitals and nursing facilities and requiring continuing care to
33 receive sufficient notice of the availability statewide of the
34 facilities and services of the Maine Veterans' Homes.