

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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121st MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2004

Legislative Document

No. 1699

S.P. 631

In Senate, December 17, 2003

An Act To Establish the Maine Military Family Relief Fund

Submitted by the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on December 16, 2003. Referred to the Committee on Legal and Veterans Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

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

JOY J. O'BRIEN
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator GAGNON of Kennebec.
Cosponsored by Representative LANDRY of Sanford and
Representative: Speaker COLWELL of Gardiner.

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

4 **Sec. 1. 36 MRSA §5288** is enacted to read:

6 **§5288. Maine Military Family Relief Fund voluntary checkoff**

8 **1. Maine Military Family Relief Fund.** When filing a
10 return, a taxpayer entitled to a refund under this Part may
12 designate that a portion of that refund be paid into the Maine
14 Military Family Relief Fund established in Title 37-B, section
16 158. A taxpayer who is not entitled to a refund under this Part
18 may contribute to the Maine Military Family Relief Fund by
including with that taxpayer's return sufficient funds to make
the contribution. Each individual income tax return form must
contain a designation in substantially the following form: "The
Maine Military Family Relief Fund: () \$5, () \$10, () \$25
or () Other \$."

20 **2. Contributions credited to Maine Military Family Relief**
22 **Fund.** The State Tax Assessor shall determine annually the total
24 amount contributed pursuant to subsection 1. Prior to the
26 beginning of the next year, the State Tax Assessor shall deduct
the cost of administering the Maine Military Family Relief Fund
checkoff, but not exceeding \$2,000 annually, and report the
remainder to the Treasurer of State, who shall forward that
amount to the Maine Military Family Relief Fund.

28 **3. Application.** This section applies to tax years
30 beginning on and after January 1, 2005.

32 **Sec. 2. 37-B MRSA §158** is enacted to read:

34 **§158. Maine Military Family Relief Fund**

36 The Maine Military Family Relief Fund is established as a
38 nonlapsing fund administered according to rules adopted by the
40 Adjutant General. The Adjutant General is authorized to make
42 grants from the Maine Military Family Relief Fund to families of
44 persons who are members of the Maine National Guard or residents
of the State who are members of the Reserves of the Armed Forces
of the United States who have been called to military duty. The
Military Bureau shall adopt rules establishing eligibility
criteria for the grants. Rules adopted pursuant to this section
are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375,
subchapter 2-A.

48 **SUMMARY**

50 This bill establishes the Maine Military Family Relief Fund.