

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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37M
R. & S.

L.D. 1630

Date: **2-28-12**

(Filing No. S- **403**)

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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STATE OF MAINE

SENATE

125TH LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT " **A**" to S.P. 540, L.D. 1630, "Resolve, To Establish a Stakeholder Group for the Development of a Plan for the Inventory and Proper Care of Veterans' Graves"

Amend the resolve by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting the following:

Sec. 1. Creation of stakeholder group; membership. Resolved: That, within its existing resources, the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services shall establish a stakeholder group, referred to in this resolve as "the stakeholder group," for the development of a plan for the inventory and proper care of veterans' graves. The bureau shall invite the participation of representatives of municipal government, county government, genealogy groups and veterans' organizations; a designee of the Maine Old Cemetery Association and a designee of the Maine Cemetery Association; and interested members of the public; and be it further

Sec. 2. Duties. Resolved: That the stakeholder group shall review the status of the graves of all veterans of the United States Armed Forces throughout the State. The stakeholder group is not required to consider veterans' graves in private cemeteries unless they are considered ancient burying grounds subject to care and maintenance by a town or county as prescribed by the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 13, sections 1101 to 1102. The stakeholder group shall issue a report that makes recommendations to ensure that veterans' graves are properly cared for, especially those of veterans who no longer have family members who are able to monitor and maintain those graves; and be it further

Sec. 3. Report. Resolved: That, no later than January 15, 2013, the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services shall report the stakeholder group's findings and recommendations and any suggested legislation to the joint standing committees of the Legislature having jurisdiction over veterans matters and state and local government matters.'

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SUMMARY

This amendment requires the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services to invite participation from genealogy groups and the Maine Cemetery Association in the stakeholder group to develop a plan for the inventory and proper care of veterans' graves. The amendment specifies that the stakeholder group is not required to consider private cemeteries in its plan unless the cemeteries are considered ancient burying grounds. Finally, the amendment requires the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services to report the stakeholder group's findings and recommendations and any suggested legislation to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over state and local government matters in addition to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over veterans matters as specified in the resolve.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)



Approved: 02/23/12 *MRC*

125th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1630

LR 2326(02)

Resolve, To Establish a Stakeholder Group for the Development of a Plan for the Inventory and Proper Care of Veterans' Graves

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" S - 403

Committee: Veterans and Legal Affairs

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Minor cost increase - General Fund

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Additional costs to the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management associated with convening a stakeholder group and reporting the group's findings and recommendations can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources and with existing staff.