

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2014

Legislative Document

No. 1612

H.P. 1184

House of Representatives, December 30, 2013

An Act To Amend the Veterans' Services Laws

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

Received by the Clerk of the House on December 23, 2013. Referred to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 and ordered printed pursuant to Joint Rule 401.

Millicent M. MacFarland
MILLICENT M. MacFARLAND
Clerk

Presented by Representative BEAULIEU of Auburn.
Cosponsored by Senator VALENTINO of York and
Representatives: FOWLE of Vassalboro, GIFFORD of Lincoln, KINNEY of Limington,
LONGSTAFF of Waterville, SAUCIER of Presque Isle, SCHNECK of Bangor.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§5-C** is enacted to read:

3 **5-C.**

4 <u>Defense, Veterans</u>	<u>Maine Veterans'</u>	<u>Expenses Only</u>	<u>37-B MRSA §512-A</u>
5 <u>and Emergency</u>	<u>Memorial Cemetery</u>		
6 <u>Management</u>	<u>System Care Fund</u>		
7	<u>Advisory Board</u>		

8 **Sec. 2. 37-B MRSA §508**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 406, §11, is further
9 amended to read:

10 **§508. Veteran service officers**

11 Veteran service officers shall serve, assist and advocate for all veterans. A veteran
12 service officer must be trained and conversant on the issues, benefits and definitions
13 affecting all veterans, including atomic, Vietnam, Desert Storm and female veterans. The
14 bureau shall have at least one veteran service officer who specializes in female veterans'
15 issues.

16 **Sec. 3. 37-B MRSA §512-A** is enacted to read:

17 **§512-A. Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System Care Fund Advisory Board**

18 **1. Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System Care Fund Advisory Board;**
19 **establishment.** The Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System Care Fund Advisory
20 Board, as established by Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 5-C and referred to in this
21 section as "the board," shall monitor, facilitate and provide recommendations for the
22 administration, management and use of the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System
23 Care Fund.

24 **2. Members.** The board consists of the following 7 members appointed by the
25 Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management:

26 A. One member representing the interests of the Commissioner of Defense, Veterans
27 and Emergency Management;

28 B. One member representing the interests of the Treasurer of State;

29 C. One member representing the interests of the American Legion or a successor
30 organization;

31 D. One member representing the interests of the Veterans of Foreign Wars or a
32 successor organization;

33 E. One member representing the interests of Disabled American Veterans or a
34 successor organization;

35 F. One member representing the interests of American Veterans or a successor
36 organization; and

1 G. One member representing the interests of an organization that provides a forum
2 for veterans' organizations to work together on behalf of veterans in the State.

3 **3. Vacancies.** In the event of a vacancy on the board, the Commissioner of Defense,
4 Veterans and Emergency Management shall appoint a new member to fill the vacancy
5 until the expiration of the term. A vacancy on the board must be filled in the same
6 manner as the original appointment was made under subsection 2.

7 **4. Terms.** Members of the board are appointed for 3-year terms.

8 **5. Removal.** The Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management
9 may remove a member of the board for cause.

10 **6. Voting; quorum.** A quorum consists of 5 members of the board. Each member
11 has one vote. A recommendation may not be approved by the board without at least 3
12 affirmative votes.

13 **7. Board proceedings.** The board shall meet not less than annually at a date and
14 time set by the director. The director shall prepare the agenda and prepare and keep a
15 summarized record of meetings. The board may not make binding decisions but shall
16 vote on recommendations. The director shall be present at the meetings to facilitate the
17 meetings. The director does not have a vote.

18 **Sec. 4. Staggered terms.** Notwithstanding the Maine Revised Statutes, Title
19 37-B, section 512-A, subsection 4, of the initial members of the Maine Veterans'
20 Memorial Cemetery System Care Fund Advisory Board, the Commissioner of Defense,
21 Veterans and Emergency Management shall designate 2 appointees to serve for one-year
22 terms, 2 appointees to serve for 2-year terms and 3 appointees to serve for 3-year terms.

23 **SUMMARY**

24 This bill requires that the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency
25 Management, Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services have at least one veteran service
26 officer who specializes in female veterans' issues.

27 The bill also establishes the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System Care Fund
28 Advisory Board.