

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 804

H.P. 553

House of Representatives, March 10, 2015

An Act To Establish the Maine Veterans Coordinating Committee

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

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative DEVIN of Newcastle.
Cosponsored by Senator GERZOFSKY of Cumberland and
Representatives: GOLDEN of Lewiston, HANINGTON 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. Establishment.** The Maine Veterans Coordinating Committee is
3 established as a nonprofit, nonpartisan and nonsectarian organization for the purpose of
4 serving the State's congressional delegation, the Legislature, local governments and the
5 general public as a clearinghouse of information and suggested legislation regarding
6 veterans' issues at local, state and federal levels.

7 **Sec. 2. Definitions.** As used in this Act, the following terms have the following
8 meanings unless otherwise indicated.

9 1. "Committee" means the Maine Veterans Coordinating Committee.

10 2. "Member organization" means any veterans' organization, including any auxiliary
11 unit or society of or trust or foundation for a veterans' organization, in the State qualifying
12 as a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(19) of the United States Internal
13 Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

14 **Sec. 3. Composition.** The committee is composed of:

15 1. Five delegates from each member organization participating in the committee.
16 Each member organization shall appoint an alternate for each delegate;

17 2. The Director of the Bureau of Veterans' Services within the Department of
18 Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management or a designee; and

19 3. The administrator of the Maine Veterans' Home or a designee.

20 The committee may invite the participation of the Center Director at VA Maine
21 Healthcare System within the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

22 The commander, president or senior officer of a member organization who is present
23 may appoint an acting delegate to replace an absent delegate if an alternate is not present
24 at any meeting of the committee.

25 **Sec. 4. Duties.** The committee shall:

26 1. Adopt bylaws to govern its doings, including bylaws concerning member
27 organization dues and voting;

28 2. Appoint officers, including a chair, a first vice-chair, a 2nd vice-chair, a secretary,
29 a treasurer, a chaplain, a judge advocate and directors, and appoint members to standing
30 committees, which must include an executive board and a budget committee. Officers
31 and members of standing committees serve 2-year terms and must be appointed in
32 October on even-numbered years;

33 3. Meet monthly from October through June; and

34 4. Serve as a clearinghouse of information and suggested legislation regarding
35 veterans' issues at local, state and federal levels.

SUMMARY

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This bill establishes the Maine Veterans Coordinating Committee to serve as a clearinghouse of information and suggested legislation regarding veterans' issues at the local, state and federal levels.