

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Date: 6/5/15

L.D. 1062

(Filing No. H-312)

LABOR, COMMERCE, RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
127TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 731, L.D. 1062, Bill, "An Act To Support Housing for Homeless Veterans"

Amend the bill in section 1 in §4765 by striking out all of subsections 1 and 2 (page 1, lines 6 to 23 in L.D.) and inserting the following:

1. Fund established. The Homeless Veterans Housing Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established. The fund is administered by the Maine State Housing Authority as an interest-bearing, nonlapsing fund. The fund may include appropriations, allocations and credits for inclusion in the fund, grants and gifts from outside sources and interest earned from investments from the fund. The purpose of the fund is to provide housing solely for homeless veterans and the immediate families of homeless veterans. For purposes of this section, "immediate family" includes a spouse, domestic partner, dependent children and primary caregiver.

2. Fiscal year 2015-16 credited funds from Treasurer of State. The Maine State Housing Authority shall disburse all funds received from outside sources for the fund and \$1 of funds credited to the fund by the Treasurer of State in fiscal year 2015-16 for every \$3 received from an outside source to a nonprofit volunteer organization planning to construct housing for homeless veterans and their immediate families on the grounds of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in the Town of Chelsea for the purpose of constructing the housing, as long as prior to the construction of the housing the nonprofit volunteer organization enters into a service agreement with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs that describes the resources and services that both entities will provide to the homeless veterans who will receive housing funded under this section. The service agreement must also include a commitment by the nonprofit volunteer organization to use the utility services provided by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The nonprofit volunteer organization may request funds to be disbursed from the fund for the construction of housing for homeless veterans under this subsection on an as-needed basis, as long as the nonprofit volunteer organization enters into a service agreement with each homeless veteran who will receive housing under this section. The service agreement must describe the resources and services that

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

ROFS

1 will be provided to the homeless veteran by the United States Department of Veterans
2 Affairs and the nonprofit volunteer organization.

3 3. Annual report. Beginning January 15, 2016, a nonprofit volunteer organization
4 that has constructed housing for homeless veterans under this section shall provide an
5 annual report on the quality of the housing and services provided to homeless veterans to
6 the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Maine
7 Veterans' Services and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction
8 over veterans affairs.'

9 Amend the bill by inserting after section 2 the following:

10 'Sec. 3. 37-B MRSA §513-A is enacted to read:

11 **§513-A. Inspection of housing for homeless veterans**

12 The director may conduct quarterly site inspections of the housing constructed for
13 homeless veterans on the grounds of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs
14 medical center in the Town of Chelsea pursuant to Title 30-A, chapter 201, subchapter
15 3-C in order to ensure that the housing has been constructed in accordance with
16 applicable quality control standards.

17 **Sec. 4. Transfer from fund.** On June 30, 2017, the Maine State Housing
18 Authority shall transfer from the Homeless Veterans Housing Fund, established in the
19 Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A, section 4765, subsection 1, to the General Fund an
20 amount equal to the amount credited to the fund by the Treasurer of State in fiscal year
21 2015-16 that was not matched by funds received from outside sources.

22 **Sec. 5. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
23 allocations are made.

24 **HOUSING AUTHORITY, MAINE STATE**

25 **Homeless Veterans Housing Fund N187**

26 Initiative: Allocates funds to be matched 3-to-1 by outside sources for the construction of
27 housing for homeless veterans by Volunteers of America on the grounds of the United
28 States Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in the Town of Chelsea.

29	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
30	All Other	\$1,000,000	\$0
31			
32	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$1,000,000	\$0
33			

34 Amend the bill by relettering or renumbering any nonconsecutive Part letter or
35 section number to read consecutively.

36 **SUMMARY**

37 This amendment adds the following provisions to the bill.

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COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 731, L.D. 1062

- 1 1. It adds a provision to ensure that the housing provided by the Homeless Veterans
2 Housing Fund will be constructed for homeless veterans and their immediate families.
- 3 2. It adds a provision to require that Volunteers of America enter into a service
4 agreement with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs prior to construction
5 that describes the resources and services both entities will provide to homeless veterans
6 receiving housing funded by the fund.
- 7 3. It allows Volunteers of America to request funds from the fund, as long as the
8 organization enters into a service agreement with each homeless veteran receiving
9 housing funded by the fund that identifies the resources and services that will be provided
10 to veterans by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and by Volunteers of
11 America.
- 12 4. It authorizes the Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services within the
13 Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to conduct quarterly
14 quality control site inspections of the housing constructed for homeless veterans on the
15 grounds of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in the Town
16 of Chelsea.
- 17 5. It adds an annual reporting requirement from Volunteers of America to the Bureau
18 of Maine Veterans' Services and the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
19 jurisdiction over veterans affairs.
- 20 6. It includes a provision requiring that Volunteers of America use utility services of
21 the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

22 This amendment also adds an appropriations and allocations section to the bill.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1062

LR 848(02)

An Act To Support Housing for Homeless Veterans

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment *Aⁿ (H-312)*
Committee: Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development

Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2015-16	FY 2016-17	Projections FY 2017-18	Projections FY 2018-19
Net Cost (Savings)				
General Fund	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Appropriations/Allocations				
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Revenue				
General Fund	(\$1,000,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$0	\$0

Fiscal Detail and Notes

This bill includes a one-time Other Special Revenue Funds allocation of \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2015-16 to the Maine State Housing Authority to establish the Homeless Veterans Housing Fund to support the construction of housing for homeless veterans by the Volunteers of America on the grounds of the United State Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in Augusta. This legislation requires that \$1,000,000 of the General Fund's share of the Real Estate Transfer Tax in fiscal year 2015-16 be deposited into the Homeless Veterans Housing Fund to be matched on a 3-to-1 basis by outside sources. Any funds remaining in the Homeless Veterans Housing Fund at the end of fiscal year 2016-17 that were not matched by outside funds must be returned to the General Fund.

Additional costs to the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Services associated with performing site inspections of the housing can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.