

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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L.D. 1610

Date: 3/21/16

(Filing No. H- 583)

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “^A” to H.P. 1098, L.D. 1610, Bill, “An Act To Clarify the Laws Governing Certain Benefits Provided to Veterans and Military Service Members”

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 4 and inserting the following:

Sec. 4. 12 MRSA §1819, last ¶, as enacted by PL 1997, c. 678, §13, is amended to read:

Any disabled veteran displaying on the veteran's motor vehicle special designating plates or placards issued in accordance with Title 29-A, section 523, subsections 1 and 2 is not required to pay a fee for admission to any state-owned park, camping area or beach. If a disabled veteran is traveling in a vehicle without special designated plates or placards issued in accordance with Title 29-A, section 523, subsections 1 and 2, the disabled veteran is not required to pay a fee for admission to any state-owned park, camping area or beach upon presentation of a letter or document issued by the Secretary of State verifying that the disabled veteran has been issued special designated plates or placards.

Sec. 5. 12 MRSA §1819-A, as amended by PL 2009, c. 440, §1, is further amended to read:

§1819-A. Day use passes for certain veterans

Notwithstanding section 1819, the commissioner shall enter into a memorandum of agreement with the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management for the issuance of a free day use pass to state parks and historic sites to each veteran determined by the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to meet the criteria established in Title 37-B, section 8. The pass entitles the holder, the holder's spouse and the holder's children who are 21 years of age and younger to admission free of charge to all state parks and historic sites. A driver's license or nondriver identification card issued in accordance with Title 29-A, chapter 11 with a military service designation pursuant to Title 29-A, section 1412 to denote the holder's status as a veteran, or a motor vehicle registration indicating the veteran has been issued a special veteran registration plate in accordance with Title 29-A, section 523, entitles the veteran, the veteran's spouse

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1 and the veteran's children who are 21 years of age and younger to admission free of
2 charge to all state parks and historic sites.'

3 Amend the bill in section 5 in §1819-B in the first paragraph in the 7th line (page 4,
4 line 14 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "sites." the following: 'An active military
5 service member may also present a driver's license or nondriver identification card issued
6 in accordance with Title 29-A, section 1412, which entitles the member to admission free
7 of charge to all state parks and historic sites.'

8 Amend the bill by striking out all of sections 8 and 9.

9 Amend the bill by striking out all of section 11 and inserting the following:

10 '**Sec. 11. 37-B MRSA §158, sub-§2** is enacted to read:

11 **2. Report required.** Beginning October 1, 2016, the Adjutant General shall compile
12 a quarterly report of all funds expended from the fund. The report must contain
13 information regarding the military unit of the sponsor, rank of the military member, the
14 amount of funds provided and the general reason for the award of funds, as well as any
15 other information requested by the Adjutant General which the Adjutant General deems
16 relevant. Beginning April 1, 2017 and in each odd-numbered year thereafter, the
17 Adjutant General shall submit to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having
18 jurisdiction over veterans affairs a summary report on the fund, including the number of
19 grants awarded from the fund, the range of grants and the average amount of the grants.

20 **Sec. 12. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
21 allocations are made.

22 **MUNICIPAL BOND BANK, MAINE**

23 **TransCap Trust Fund Z064**

24 Initiative: Reduces funding to reflect a reduction in revenue transferred to the TransCap
25 Trust Fund.

26	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
27	All Other	\$0	(\$52,240)
28			
29	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	(\$52,240)
30			

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

33 **SUMMARY**

34 This amendment provides that free day use passes to state parks and historic sites
35 granted to veterans and active military service members are extended to their spouses and
36 children 21 years of age and younger. It also provides for alternative methods to
37 demonstrate eligibility for free admission for veterans, disabled veterans and active
38 military service members. The amendment makes a technical change to the provision
39 requiring reporting on expenditures made from the Maine Military Family Relief Fund

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1 and provides that the report is only required every odd-numbered year. The amendment
2 also adds an appropriations and allocations section.

3 The summary of the bill mistakenly refers to the Maine State Housing Authority as
4 the administrator of the veterans rental preference. The rental preference provision in the
5 bill applies to housing operated by municipal housing authorities.

6 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

7 **(See attached)**



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1610

LR 2674(02)

An Act To Clarify the Laws Governing Certain Benefits Provided to Veterans and Military Service Members

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment "A" (H-583)
Committee: Veterans and Legal Affairs
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	\$0	\$154,776	\$163,275	\$163,275
Highway Fund	\$0	\$78,360	\$78,360	\$78,360
Appropriations/Allocations				
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$0	(\$52,240)	(\$52,240)	(\$52,240)
Revenue				
General Fund	\$0	(\$154,776)	(\$163,275)	(\$163,275)
Highway Fund	\$0	(\$78,360)	(\$78,360)	(\$78,360)

Fiscal Detail and Notes

The bill entitles a spouse, and children under 21 years of age, of certain veterans to free admission to all state parks and historic sites, resulting in a reduction in General Fund revenue of \$154,776 in fiscal year 2016-17.

This legislation removes the \$25 annual service fee on veterans vanity license plates and would result in a reduction in Highway Fund revenue of \$78,360 beginning in fiscal year 2016-17.

The bill includes an Other Special Revenue Funds deallocation of \$52,240 in fiscal year 2016-17 to the Municipal Bond Bank to reflect the loss of \$10 of the annual service fee transferred to the TransCap Trust Fund.