

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SMC
ROES

L.D. 1612

Date: 3-29-14

(Filing No. H613)

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

HOUSE AMENDMENT **A** to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 1100,
L.D. 1612, Bill, "An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To
Strengthen and Align the Services Provided to Maine's Veterans Regarding
Enhancements to the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services"

Amend the amendment by striking out everything after the first occurrence of
"Amend the bill" and inserting the following:

by striking out everything after the enacting clause and before the summary and inserting
the following:

'PART A

Sec. A-1. 37-B MRSA §3, sub-§1, ¶D, as amended by PL 2013, c. 469, §1 and
c. 569, §2, is further amended to read:

D. Have the following powers and duties.

(1) The Adjutant General shall administer the department subordinate only to the
Governor.

(2) The Adjutant General shall establish methods of administration consistent
with the law necessary for the efficient operation of the department.

(3) The Adjutant General may prepare a budget for the department.

(4) The Adjutant General may transfer personnel from one bureau to another
within the department.

(5) The Adjutant General shall supervise the preparation of all state
informational reports required by the federal military establishment.

(6) The Adjutant General shall keep an accurate account of expenses incurred
and, in accordance with Title 5, sections 43 to 46, make a full report to the
Governor as to the condition of the military forces, and as to all business
transactions of the Military Bureau, including detailed statements of expenditures
for military purposes.

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1 (7) The Adjutant General is responsible for the custody, care and repair of all
2 military property belonging to or issued to the State for the military forces and
3 shall dispose of military property belonging to the State that is unserviceable.
4 The Adjutant General shall account for and deposit the proceeds from that
5 disposal with the Treasurer of State, who shall credit them to the Capital Repair,
6 Maintenance, Construction and Acquisition Account of the Military Bureau.

7 (8) The Adjutant General may sell for cash to officers of the state military forces,
8 for their official use, and to organizations of the state military forces, any military
9 or naval property that is the property of the State. The Adjutant General shall,
10 with an annual report, render to the Governor an accurate account of the sales and
11 deposit the proceeds of the sales with the Treasurer of State, who shall credit
12 them to the General Fund.

13 (9) The Adjutant General shall represent the state military forces for the purpose
14 of establishing the relationship between the federal military establishment and the
15 various state military staff departments.

16 (10) The Adjutant General shall accept, receive and administer federal funds for
17 and on behalf of the State that are available for military purposes or that would
18 further the intent and specific purposes of this chapter and chapter 3. The
19 Adjutant General shall provide the personnel, supplies, services and matching
20 funds required by a federal cost-sharing arrangement pursuant to 31 United States
21 Code, Chapters 63 and 65 (2013); 32 United States Code (2013); and National
22 Guard Regulation 5-1 (2010). The Adjutant General shall receive funds and
23 property and an accounting for all expenditures and property acquired through
24 such a federal cost-sharing arrangement and make returns and reports concerning
25 those expenditures and that property as required by such a federal cost-sharing
26 arrangement.

27 (11) The Adjutant General shall acquire, construct, operate and maintain military
28 facilities necessary to comply with this Title and Title 32 of the United States
29 Code and shall operate and maintain facilities now within or hereafter coming
30 within the jurisdiction of the Military Bureau.

31 (12) The Adjutant General may adopt rules pertaining to compliance with state
32 and federal contracting requirements, subject to Title 5, chapter 375. Those rules
33 must provide for approval of contracts by the appropriate state agency.

34 (13) The Adjutant General shall allocate and supervise any funds made available
35 by the Legislature to the Civil Air Patrol.

36 (14) The Adjutant General shall report at the beginning of each biennium to the
37 joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over veterans'
38 affairs on any recommended changes or modifications to the laws governing
39 veterans' affairs, particularly as those changes or modifications relate to changes
40 in federal veterans' laws. The report must include information on the status of
41 communications with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs regarding
42 the potential health risks to and the potential disabilities of veterans who as

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- 1 members of the Maine National Guard were exposed to environmental hazards at
2 the Canadian military support base in Gagetown, New Brunswick, Canada.
- 3 (15) The Adjutant General may receive personal property from the United States
4 Department of Defense that the Secretary of Defense has determined is suitable
5 for use by agencies in law enforcement activities, including counter-drug
6 activities, and in excess of the needs of the Department of Defense pursuant to 10
7 United States Code, Section 2576a, and transfer ownership of that personal
8 property to state, county and municipal law enforcement agencies
9 notwithstanding any other provision of law. The Adjutant General may receive
10 excess personal property from the United States Department of Defense for use
11 by the department, notwithstanding any other provision of law.
- 12 (16) The Adjutant General may establish a science, mathematics and technology
13 education improvement program for schoolchildren known as the STARBASE
14 Program. The Adjutant General may accept financial assistance and in-kind
15 assistance, advances, grants, gifts, contributions and other forms of financial
16 assistance from the Federal Government or other public body or from other
17 sources, public or private, to implement the STARBASE Program. The Adjutant
18 General may employ a director and other employees, permanent or temporary, to
19 operate the STARBASE Program.
- 20 (17) The Adjutant General shall establish a system, to be administered by the
21 Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services, to express formally
22 condolence and appreciation to the closest surviving family members of members
23 of the United States Armed Forces who, since September 11, 2001, are killed in
24 action or die as a consequence of injuries that result in the award of a Purple
25 Heart medal. In accordance with the existing criteria of the department for the
26 awarding of gold star medals, this system must provide for the Adjutant General
27 to issue up to 3 gold star medals to family members who reside in the State, one
28 to the spouse of the deceased service member and one to the parents of the
29 service member. If the parents of the service member are divorced, the Adjutant
30 General may issue one medal to each parent. If the service member has no
31 surviving spouse or parents or if they live outside of the State, the Adjutant
32 General may issue a gold star medal to the service member's next of kin, as
33 reported to the department, who resides in the State.
- 34 (18) The Adjutant General may establish a National Guard Youth Challenge
35 Program consistent with 32 United States Code, Section 509 (1990). The
36 Adjutant General may accept financial assistance from the Federal Government
37 or other public body or from other sources, public and private, to implement the
38 National Guard Youth Challenge Program. The Adjutant General may employ a
39 director and other employees, permanent or temporary, to operate the program.
- 40 (19) The Adjutant General may execute cooperative agreements for purposes
41 described or defined by this Title and other arrangements necessary to operate the
42 department.
- 43 (20) The Adjutant General shall act as the Governor's homeland security advisor.

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(21) The Adjutant General shall implement a program to identify residents of the State who are not considered veterans but are military retirees or former members of the Maine Army National Guard or Maine Air National Guard who successfully completed service.

Sec. A-2. 37-B MRSA §501, first ¶, as amended by PL 1997, c. 455, §17, is further amended to read:

The Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services, referred to in this chapter as the "bureau," is established and shall provide informational services, program assistance, memorial facilities and financial aid to veterans in the State and their dependents in order to ensure that they receive all entitlements due under the law, are relieved to the extent possible of financial hardship, receive every opportunity for self-improvement through higher education and are afforded proper recognition for their service and sacrifice to the Nation. The bureau shall serve as the primary source of information for veterans in the State regarding all services, benefits and honors administered by the State and, to the maximum extent possible, services and benefits provided by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, veterans' service organizations and other organizations dedicated to serving veterans.

Sec. A-3. 37-B MRSA §503, sub-§§7 and 8 are enacted to read:

7. Marketing and outreach program. The director shall implement, as a core function of the bureau, a marketing and outreach program to increase, to the greatest extent practicable, awareness of services and benefits available to veterans and family members of veterans and to encourage veterans to seek the benefits and services to which they are entitled. The director is authorized to employ personnel dedicated to the marketing and outreach program objectives described in this subsection. The director is authorized to enter into memoranda of understanding with other state agencies to allow for the sharing of information to achieve the objectives of the program. Upon request of the director, agencies required to enter into memoranda of understanding with the director include, but are not limited to, the Bureau of Motor Vehicles under the Department of the Secretary of State, the Bureau of Parks and Lands under the Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry, the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, the Department of Health and Human Services, the University of Maine System and the Maine Community College System. The marketing and outreach program objectives must include, but are not limited to:

- A. Identifying residents of the State who are veterans;
- B. Increasing awareness of the bureau for veterans and family members of veterans;
- C. Implementing media and technology to encourage veterans to self-identify to the bureau and communicating to veterans and family members of veterans about the services and benefits available to them;
- D. Attendance by bureau personnel at events organized for and by veterans that, as determined by the director, facilitate the objectives of this subsection; and
- E. Establishing benchmarks to measure the effectiveness of marketing and outreach efforts.

R.O.F.S

1 The program objectives listed in this subsection may also be used to assist the
2 commissioner to identify residents of this State who are military retirees or former
3 members of the Army National Guard or Air National Guard who completed service
4 requirements but never served on active duty pursuant to section 3, subsection 1,
5 paragraph D, subparagraph (21).

6 **8. Records management system.** The director shall acquire and maintain an
7 electronic database with secured remote access capabilities to facilitate management of
8 records of veterans, spouses of veterans and veterans' dependents served by the bureau.
9 When selecting a records management system, the director shall ensure that, at a
10 minimum, the system supports the bureau in meeting the following objectives:

11 A. Reducing reliance on paper records;

12 B. Allowing for immediate access by authorized users to update records;

13 C. Displaying a complete record of assistance provided by the bureau to veterans and
14 veterans' family members; and

15 D. Providing efficient and timely customer service to veterans seeking assistance
16 from the bureau.

17 **Sec. A-4. 37-B MRSA §503-B** is enacted to read:

18 **§503-B. Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services Special Operations Fund**

19 The Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services Special Operations Fund, referred to in this
20 section as "the fund," is established as a dedicated, nonlapsing account that must be used
21 exclusively for the purposes listed in this section. The fund may not be used for the
22 general administrative costs or general operating expenses of the bureau. The fund must
23 be used to support the following initiatives.

24 **1. Reducing homelessness among veterans.** The bureau shall use the fund for
25 efforts by the bureau to address homelessness among veterans, including, but not limited
26 to, funding the costs of a veteran service officer who is specifically assigned the duties of
27 addressing veteran homelessness and the costs incurred by the bureau by the requirement
28 that the director or the director's designee serve on the Statewide Homeless Council under
29 Title 30-A, chapter 202, subchapter 5-A and the responsibilities associated with that
30 membership.

31 **2. Mobile veteran service officers.** The bureau shall use the fund to fund the costs
32 of employment of 2 veteran service officers who are not assigned to a specific region or
33 office but who are directed to work in parts of the State or on issues for which there is the
34 greatest need among veterans as determined by the director.

35 **3. Records management system.** The bureau shall use the fund to pay for the costs
36 of the acquisition and ongoing maintenance of an electronic records management system
37 as required by section 503, subsection 8.

38 **4. Marketing and outreach.** The bureau shall use the fund to fund the costs of
39 meeting the objectives described by section 503, subsection 7 for a marketing and
40 outreach program to increase awareness of services and benefits available to veterans and
41 their family members, including the costs of employing a dedicated, full-time outreach

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1 coordinator. The director shall dedicate no less than 20% of the money in the fund
2 toward marketing and outreach, including contracting for the professional services of a
3 marketing firm to facilitate meeting the objectives described in section 503, subsection 7.

4 **Sec. A-5. Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services to establish**
5 **mobile Veteran Service Officer positions.** No later than October 15, 2016, the
6 Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services within the Department of Defense,
7 Veterans and Emergency Management shall establish 2 additional Veteran Service
8 Officer positions within the bureau. The positions may not be assigned exclusively to a
9 particular region or office within the State but must be used to assist veterans in the State
10 where the demand for services is greatest, as determined by the director.

11 **PART B**

12 **Sec. B-1. 30-A MRSA §5047, sub-§1,** as amended by PL 2007, c. 600, §2, is
13 further amended to read:

14 **1. Membership; chair.** The council consists of ~~13~~ 14 members appointed as
15 follows:

16 A. Six members appointed by the Governor, 2 from each of 3 regional homeless
17 councils, based on nominations provided by the 3 regional homeless councils;

18 B. The Director of the Maine State Housing Authority;

19 C. Three members appointed jointly by the President of the Senate and the Speaker
20 of the House, one from each of 3 regional homeless councils, based on nominations
21 provided by the 3 regional homeless councils;

22 D. One member representing the Office of the Governor, who serves as the chair;

23 E. The Commissioner of Health and Human Services or the commissioner's
24 designee; ~~and~~

25 F. The Commissioner of Corrections or the commissioner's designee; ~~and~~

26 G. The Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services or the director's designee.

27 **Sec. B-2. 30-A MRSA §5048, sub-§7,** as amended by PL 2007, c. 600, §4, is
28 further amended to read:

29 **7. Review, monitor and implement plans.** On an annual basis, review and
30 comment on plans submitted pursuant to Title 34-B, section 1221 and propose
31 amendments and updates to and implement a plan to end homelessness; ~~and~~

32 **Sec. B-3. 30-A MRSA §5048, sub-§8,** as enacted by PL 2007, c. 600, §5, is
33 amended to read:

34 **8. Advise departments.** Advise the Department of Corrections and the Department
35 of Health and Human Services on issues related to homelessness and other issues related
36 to the duties of the council; ~~and~~

37 **Sec. B-4. 30-A MRSA §5048, sub-§9** is enacted to read:

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1 **9. Develop strategic plan regarding homelessness among veterans.** Develop
2 strategies to enhance coordination and communication among agencies and organizations
3 that provide services that seek to place veterans in permanent housing and that seek to
4 improve access to services known to support housing stability for veterans who are
5 experiencing homelessness or veterans who are at risk of homelessness. The council shall
6 develop and periodically review a strategic plan that:

7 A. Establishes a baseline for homelessness in the State from which improvements
8 can be measured. In determining the baseline, the council is not required to use the
9 federal definition of homelessness and may include levels of housing instability or
10 ranges of homelessness;

11 B. Develops a method of measuring homelessness among veterans in the State to
12 demonstrate whether efforts to reduce the number of homeless veterans in the State
13 have been successful;

14 C. Identifies specific processes for improving communication among agencies that
15 provide services to veterans, including services unrelated to homelessness, that will
16 facilitate identification of veterans in need of housing assistance or veterans who may
17 be at risk of homelessness and maximize resources available to address homelessness
18 among veterans; and

19 D. Develops a framework and timeline for determining progress of communication
20 and coordination efforts targeting homelessness among veterans and the effectiveness
21 of those efforts in reducing homelessness among veterans.

22 The Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services shall periodically report to the
23 council regarding the progress of implementing the strategies described in this subsection.
24 Beginning February 1, 2018, the director shall report annually to the joint standing
25 committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over veterans affairs on the
26 implementation of the strategic plan. The report must include, but is not limited to, the
27 effect of the strategic plan on homelessness among veterans based on the measurements
28 required to be established by this subsection.

29 **Sec. B-5. Development of initial strategic plan.** By February 15, 2017, the
30 Statewide Homeless Council, established in the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 30-A,
31 chapter 202, subchapter 5-A, shall develop an initial strategic plan pursuant to Title 30-A,
32 section 5048, subsection 9.

33 **Sec. B-6. Report to Legislature.** By March 1, 2017, the Director of the Bureau
34 of Maine Veterans' Services within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency
35 Management shall present the strategic plan developed pursuant to the Maine Revised
36 Statutes, Title 30-A, section 5048, subsection 9, including a description of the process
37 used to develop it, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction
38 over veterans affairs.

39 **Sec. B-7. Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services to establish**
40 **Veteran Service Officer position.** No later than February 1, 2017, the Director of the
41 Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services within the Department of Defense, Veterans and
42 Emergency Management shall establish one additional Veteran Service Officer position

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1 within the bureau. Duties must include coordination of efforts to address homelessness
2 among veterans in the State.

3 **PART C**

4 **Sec. C-1. 36 MRSA §1760, sub-§100** is enacted to read:

5 **100. Certain veterans' service organizations.** Sales to an organization that
6 provides services to veterans and their families that is chartered under 36 United States
7 Code, Subtitle II, Part B, including posts or local offices of that organization, and that is
8 recognized as a veterans' service organization by the United States Department of
9 Veterans Affairs.

10 **Sec. C-2. Effective date.** This Part takes effect August 1, 2016.

11 **PART D**

12 **Sec. D-1. 30-A MRSA §6054, sub-§§3 to 5,** as enacted by PL 2013, c. 269, Pt.
13 B, §2, are amended to read:

14 **3. Use of fund during bond retirement period; fiscal years before July 1, 2017.**
15 Money in the fund must be held and applied solely to the payment of the liquor operation
16 revenue bonds and any ancillary obligations secured by the fund as the bonds and
17 ancillary obligations become due and payable and for the retirement of liquor operation
18 revenue bonds, including costs of administering the fund, the bonds and the ancillary
19 obligations and the payment of any redemption premium required to be paid when any
20 liquor operation revenue bonds are redeemed or retired before maturity or for the
21 payment of ancillary obligations; except that, to the extent there is money in the fund not
22 needed in accordance with terms of the liquor operation revenue bonds and ancillary
23 obligations, before June 30th of each year, the bond bank shall withdraw an amount not
24 exceeding \$16,714,844 in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015, \$16,639,000 in the fiscal
25 year ending June 30, 2016 and ~~\$16,817,000~~ \$17,445,720 in the fiscal year ending June
26 30, 2017 to be paid to the State and distributed in the manner and priority as follows:

27 A. First, to the General Fund as undedicated revenue up to \$9,714,884 in the fiscal
28 year ending June 30, 2015, \$9,639,000 in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2016 and
29 ~~\$9,817,000~~ \$9,897,546 in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017;

30 A-1. Second, to the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services Special Operations Fund
31 established under Title 37-B, section 503-B in the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017,
32 \$548,174. Distributions required by this paragraph must be made before October 1,
33 2016;

34 B. ~~Second~~ Third, the remainder, if any, in each fiscal year divided in equal amounts
35 to an account within the Department of Health and Human Services and an account
36 within the Department of Environmental Protection, up to \$3,500,000 per account or
37 the maximum amount allowed for federal matching funds purposes under federal
38 water programs, whichever is less, to be used for revolving loan funds for drinking
39 water systems and wastewater treatment; and

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1 C. ~~Third~~ Fourth, the remainder, if any, to an account within the Department of
2 Transportation to be used for the construction of highways and bridges.

3 **4. Use of fund during bond retirement period; from July 1, 2017 until bonds**
4 **retired.** Money in the fund must be held and applied solely to the payment of the liquor
5 operation revenue bonds and any ancillary obligations secured by the fund as the bonds
6 and ancillary obligations become due and payable and for the retirement of liquor
7 operation revenue bonds, including costs of administering the fund, the bonds and the
8 ancillary obligations and the payment of any redemption premium required to be paid
9 when any liquor operation revenue bonds are redeemed or retired before maturity or for
10 the payment of ancillary obligations; except that, to the extent there is money in the fund
11 not needed in accordance with terms of the liquor operation revenue bonds and ancillary
12 obligations, before June 30th of each year, the bond bank shall withdraw an amount not
13 exceeding ~~\$7,000,000~~ \$7,548,174 to be paid to the State and distributed in the manner
14 and priority as follows:

15 A. First, an amount not exceeding \$7,000,000 distributed in equal amounts to an
16 account within the Department of Health and Human Services and an account within
17 the Department of Environmental Protection, up to \$3,500,000 per account or the
18 maximum amount allowed for federal matching funds purposes under federal water
19 programs, whichever is less, to be used for revolving loan funds for drinking water
20 systems and wastewater treatment; ~~and~~

21 A-1. Second, \$548,174 to the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services Special
22 Operations Fund established under Title 37-B, section 503-B; and

23 B. The remainder, if any, to an account within the Department of Transportation to
24 be used for the construction of highways and bridges.

25 Immediately upon retirement of all outstanding liquor operation revenue bonds and
26 ancillary obligations secured by the fund, the bond bank shall withdraw any excess
27 money in the fund and transfer it to the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund established in
28 Title 5, section 1532.

29 **5. Use of fund after bond retirement.** After all liquor operation revenue bonds and
30 any ancillary obligations secured by the fund have been retired, additional proceeds
31 credited to the fund from Title 22-A, section 216 and Title 28-A, section 90 must be
32 disbursed on a quarterly basis to the State, after payment of costs of administering the
33 fund, and credited by the State Controller as follows:

34 A. The lesser of 15% and the maximum amount allowed for federal matching funds
35 purposes under federal water programs, divided equally between an account within
36 the Department of Health and Human Services and an account within the Department
37 of Environmental Protection for revolving loan funds for drinking water systems and
38 wastewater treatment;

39 A-1. Five hundred forty-eight thousand one hundred seventy-four dollars to the
40 Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services Special Operations Fund established under Title
41 37-B, section 503-B;

42 B. Thirty-five percent of the remainder, if any, to an account within the Department
43 of Transportation for construction of highways and bridges; and

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1 C. The remainder to the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund established in section
2 1532.

3 **PART E**

4 **Sec. E-1. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
5 allocations are made.

6 **DEFENSE, VETERANS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT**
7 **OF**

8 **Veterans Services 0110**

9 Initiative: Provides an allocation for one Veteran Service Officer position and related
10 costs.

11	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
12	POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	1,000
13	Personal Services	\$0	\$81,258
14	All Other	\$0	\$10,000
15			
16	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$91,258

17 **Veterans Services 0110**

18 Initiative: Provides an allocation for 2 Veteran Service Officer positions and related costs.

19	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
20	POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	0.000	2,000
21	Personal Services	\$0	\$162,516
22	All Other	\$0	\$28,000
23			
24	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$190,516

25 **Veterans Services 0110**

26 Initiative: Provides an allocation for the purchase and maintenance of an electronic case
27 management system.

28	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2015-16	2016-17
29	All Other	\$0	\$80,000
30			
31	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$80,000

32 **Veterans Services 0110**

33 Initiative: Provides an allocation to implement a marketing and outreach program for
34 veterans.

HOUSE AMENDMENT

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1 system, fund mobile veteran service officers and cover the costs of efforts aimed at
2 reducing veteran homelessness.

3 Part B proposes changes to current law to address homelessness among veterans by
4 requiring coordination of agencies that provide services to veterans to maximize
5 resources available to support stable, permanent housing for veterans at risk of
6 homelessness. Part B requires that the Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans'
7 Services within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management be
8 appointed to an existing entity, the Statewide Homeless Council. Part B requires the
9 Statewide Homeless Council to develop a strategic plan to maximize existing services,
10 enhance communication among providers and improve access to services that support
11 permanent and stable housing for veterans. The director is required to report annually to
12 the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over veterans affairs
13 regarding the implementation of the plan and its effect on homelessness among veterans.
14 Part B authorizes the director to employ a veteran service officer whose duties include
15 working on tasks relative to homelessness among veterans.

16 Part C provides a sales tax exemption to all federally chartered veterans' service
17 organizations, beginning August 1, 2016.

18 Part D designates revenues from the Liquor Operation Revenue Fund to the Bureau
19 of Maine Veterans' Services Special Operations Fund to fund the costs of marketing and
20 outreach, efforts to address homelessness, the costs of an electronic records management
21 system, positions in the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services within the Department of
22 Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management tasked with working on homelessness
23 and outreach coordination and 2 mobile veteran service officers.

24 Part E provides for allocations to fund the initiatives proposed in this amendment.

25 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

26 (See attached)

27 SPONSORED BY: Jared F. Golden

28 (Representative GOLDEN)

29 TOWN: Lewiston



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1612

LR 2675(04)

An Act To Implement the Recommendations of the Commission To Strengthen and Align the Services Provided to Maine's Veterans Regarding Enhancements to the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services

Fiscal Note for House Amendment *A* to Committee Amendment "A"

Sponsor: Rep. Golden of Lewiston

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	(\$345,516)	(\$303,561)	(\$307,121)
Appropriations/Allocations				
General Fund	\$0	(\$345,516)	(\$395,383)	(\$403,075)
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$0	\$548,174	\$598,479	\$608,682
Revenue				
General Fund	\$0	\$0	(\$91,822)	(\$95,954)
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$0	\$546,531	\$546,300	\$546,216

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Under current law, the Liquor Operation Revenue Fund (Liquor Fund) within the Maine Municipal Bond Bank is required to distribute funds in the following order in fiscal year 2016-17: (1) Liquor Operation Revenue Bonds debt service, which will be \$26,841,273 in fiscal year 2016-17; (2) \$9,817,000 to the General Fund (GF); (3) up to \$3,500,000 to each of the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and; (4) remaining amounts to the Department of Transportation (DOT). This amendment raises the maximum transfer by an additional \$628,720 in fiscal year 2016-17 and has the following new order of distributions: (1) same payment of debt service; (2) \$9,897,546 to the GF; (3) \$548,174 to the Bureau of Veterans Services Special Operations Fund; (4) up to \$3,500,000 to each of the DEP and the DHHS, and; (5) remaining amounts to the DOT.

Under current law, the Liquor Fund is required to distribute funds in the following order in fiscal years 2017-18 through 2023-24: (1) payment of debt service; (2) up to \$3,500,000 each to the DEP and the DHHS, and; (3) remainder to the DOT. The new distribution would raise the maximum transfer by an additional \$548,174 and has the following new order of distributions: (1) same payment of debt service; (2) up to \$3,500,000 each to the DEP and the DHHS; (3) \$548,174 to the Bureau of Veterans Services Operations Fund, and; (4) the remainder to the DOT.

Under current law, the Liquor Fund, after all debt service and any ancillary obligations secured by the fund have been retired, proceeds are distributed as follows: (1) up to a total of 15% of funds to the DEP and the DHHS; (2) 35% to the DOT, and; (3) the remainder to the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund. This amendment has a new distribution as follows: (1) up to a total of 15% to the DEP and the DHHS; (2) \$548,174 to the Bureau of Veterans Services Special Operations Fund; (3) 35% of the remaining funds to the DOT, and; (4) 65% of the remainder to the Maine Budget Stabilization Fund.

The Liquor Fund is expected to receive sufficient revenue from liquor operations to make these transfers to the various entities. This amendment contains the necessary OSRF allocations to sufficiently operate the Veterans Services Special Operations Fund.

This bill also provides a sales tax exemption to all federally-chartered veterans' service organizations. This will reduce General Fund revenue and Local Government Fund revenue annually beginning in fiscal year 2016-17. The reduction to the General Fund will be \$80,546 in fiscal year 2016-17, \$91,822 in fiscal year 2017-18 and \$95,954 in fiscal year 2018-19. A one-time Liquor Fund revenue transfer will reimburse the General Fund in fiscal year 2016-17 only for the \$80,546 loss. No Liquor Fund transfers will be made after fiscal year 2016-17 to reimburse the General Fund for the loss of sales tax revenue in subsequent years.