

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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2 Date: 5/8/17

(Filing No. H-140)

3 **VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

4 Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

5 **STATE OF MAINE**
6 **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**
7 **128TH LEGISLATURE**
8 **FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

9 COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to H.P. 844, L.D. 1208, Bill, "An Act To
10 Amend the Veterans Service Laws"

11 Amend the bill by inserting after the title and before the enacting clause the
12 following:

13 **'Emergency preamble. Whereas,** acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
14 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

15 **Whereas,** under current law, veterans in the State experiencing crises are eligible to
16 receive financial assistance, distributed by the Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans'
17 Services; and

18 **Whereas,** the Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services currently has no
19 authority to administer emergency funds; and

20 **Whereas,** funds recently appropriated for the purpose of providing veterans with
21 this financial assistance must be placed in a fund to be administered by the director; and

22 **Whereas,** veterans are experiencing crises now, for which financial assistance is
23 immediately necessary; and

24 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
25 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
26 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
27 therefore,'

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

29 **'Sec. 4. 37-B MRSA §505, sub-§1-B** is enacted to read:

30 **1-B. Veterans Temporary Emergency Assistance Fund.** The Veterans Temporary
31 Emergency Assistance Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established as a
32 dedicated, nonlapsing Other Special Revenue Funds account in the bureau. The fund is
33 administered and used by the director for the purposes of offering financial assistance to
34 veterans as prescribed by subsection 1-A, paragraphs A and B. '

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 Amend the bill by inserting after section 5 the following:

2 **'Sec. 6. Maine Revised Statutes amended; revision clause.** Wherever in the
 3 Maine Revised Statutes the words "Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services" appear, they are
 4 amended to read "Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services" and the Revisor of Statutes shall
 5 implement this revision when updating, publishing or republishing the statutes.

6 **Sec. 7. Transfer from General Fund unappropriated surplus;**
 7 **Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Veterans**
 8 **Temporary Emergency Assistance Fund.** Notwithstanding any other provision of
 9 law, the State Controller shall transfer \$375,000 from the General Fund unappropriated
 10 surplus to the Veterans Temporary Emergency Assistance Fund, Other Special Revenue
 11 Funds account within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management
 12 no later than June 30, 2017.

13 **Sec. 8. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
 14 allocations are made.

15 **DEFENSE, VETERANS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT**
 16 **OF**

17 **Veterans Services 0110**

18 Initiative: Reduces funding previously appropriated in Public Law 2017, chapter 2, Part
 19 A.

20	GENERAL FUND	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
21	All Other	(\$375,000)	\$0	\$0
22				
23	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>(\$375,000)</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

24 **Veterans Services 0110**

25 Initiative: Establishes the Veterans Temporary Emergency Assistance Fund and provides
 26 an allocation to provide financial assistance to veterans.

27	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
28	FUNDS			
29	All Other	\$375,000	\$500	\$500
30				
31	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	<u>\$375,000</u>	<u>\$500</u>	<u>\$500</u>
32	FUNDS TOTAL			

1	DEFENSE, VETERANS AND			
2	EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT,			
3	DEPARTMENT OF			
4	DEPARTMENT TOTALS	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
5				
6	GENERAL FUND	(\$375,000)	\$0	\$0
7	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE	\$375,000	\$500	\$500
8	FUNDS			
9				
10	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL	\$0	\$500	\$500
11	FUNDS			

12 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this
 13 legislation takes effect when approved.

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

16 **SUMMARY**

17 This amendment adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause to the bill. The
 18 bill repeals current law governing how the Department of Defense, Veterans and
 19 Emergency Management, Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services issues temporary financial
 20 assistance to veterans in financial crises and in its place authorizes the bureau to provide
 21 grants to private organizations for the purpose of providing financial assistance to
 22 veterans. The amendment strikes that provision and establishes an account within the
 23 bureau for the purpose of issuing temporary emergency financial assistance to veterans
 24 and provides for a transfer of \$375,000 from the administrative account of the bureau to
 25 the Other Special Revenue Funds account established by the amendment. The
 26 amendment adds a revision clause to change the name of the Bureau of Maine Veterans'
 27 Services to the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services throughout the Maine Revised
 28 Statutes.

29 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

30 **(See attached)**



128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1208

LR 778(02)

An Act To Amend the Veterans Service Laws

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment *A (H-140)*
 Committee: Veterans and Legal Affairs
 Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

	FY 2016-17	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19	Projections FY 2019-20	Projections FY 2020-21
Net Cost (Savings)					
General Fund	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Appropriations/Allocations					
General Fund	(\$375,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$375,000	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500
Transfers					
General Fund	(\$375,000)	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other Special Revenue Funds	\$375,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Fiscal Detail and Notes

The bill includes a General Fund deappropriation of \$375,000 in fiscal year 2016-17 to the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management. It also includes a transfer from the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund of \$375,000 in fiscal year 2016-17 to the newly created Veteran Temporary Emergency Assistance Fund.

The bill establishes the Veteran Temporary Emergency Assistance Fund and provides an Other Special Revenue Funds allocation of \$375,000 in fiscal year 2016-17 and \$500 annually beginning in fiscal year 2017-18 to provide financial assistance to veterans.