

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 1208

H.P. 844

House of Representatives, March 28, 2017

An Act To Amend the Veterans Service Laws

Submitted by the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

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 LUCHINI of Ellsworth.

1 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:**

2 **Sec. 1. 37-B MRSA §4**, as repealed and replaced by PL 2013, c. 251, §2, is
3 amended to read:

4 **§4. Directors of bureaus**

5 **1. Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services.** The Director of the Maine Bureau of
6 ~~Maine~~ Veterans' Services is appointed by the commissioner and serves at the pleasure of
7 the commissioner.

8 **2. Maine Emergency Management Agency.** The Director of the Maine Emergency
9 Management Agency is appointed by the Governor upon the recommendation of the
10 commissioner, reports administratively to the commissioner and serves at the pleasure of
11 the Governor.

12 The Director of the Maine Bureau of ~~Maine~~ Veterans' Services and the Director of
13 the Maine Emergency Management Agency shall perform civilian duties as assigned by
14 the commissioner or Governor.

15 **Sec. 2. 37-B MRSA §501, first ¶**, as amended by PL 2015, c. 465, Pt. A, §2, is
16 further amended to read:

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

28 **Sec. 3. 37-B MRSA §502**, as amended by PL 1997, c. 455, §18, is further
29 amended to read:

30 **§502. Director of Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services**

31 The Director of the Maine Bureau of ~~Maine~~ Veterans' Services, referred to in this
32 chapter as the "director," shall direct the operation of the bureau.

33 **Sec. 4. 37-B MRSA §505, sub-§1-A**, as amended by PL 2009, c. 415, Pt. A,
34 §§24 and 25, is repealed and the following enacted in its place:

35 **1-A. Financial assistance.** The following provisions govern financial assistance to
36 veterans.

37 D. The bureau may accept money in order to provide financial assistance to veterans.

