

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

Legislative Document

No. 1231

H.P. 853

House of Representatives, March 30, 2017

An Act Regarding Mental Health Care for Maine Veterans

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 GOLDEN of Lewiston.
Cosponsored by Senator LIBBY of Androscoggin and
Representatives: FECTION of Biddeford, Speaker GIDEON of Freeport, HERBIG of Belfast,
LUCHINI of Ellsworth, McCREIGHT of Harpswell, PARKER of South Berwick, Senator:
CARSON of Cumberland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 37-B MRSA §516** is enacted to read:

3 **§516. Provision and coordination of mental health care**

4 **1. Social workers assigned.** The director shall station at each of the bureau’s field
5 offices a social worker who is an employee of the State, who shall both provide direct
6 mental health care and coordinate mental health care for veterans. The social workers
7 shall also work with the Federal Government and state and local providers to provide
8 mental health care to veterans residing in the State.

9 **2. Grants to providers.** The director shall administer a program to provide grants to
10 mental health service providers that provide mental health services to veterans residing in
11 the State. Grants may be used by the mental health service providers to provide services
12 only to veterans.

13 **Sec. 2. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
14 allocations are made.

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

17 **Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services**

18 Initiative: Provides ongoing funding to provide grants to providers of mental health
19 services to veterans residing in the State.

| | | | |
|----|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 20 | | | |
| 21 | GENERAL FUND | 2017-18 | 2018-19 |
| 22 | All Other | \$1,000,000 | \$1,000,000 |
| 23 | | | |
| 24 | GENERAL FUND TOTAL | <u>\$1,000,000</u> | <u>\$1,000,000</u> |

25 **SUMMARY**

26 This bill directs the Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans’ Services within the
27 Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to station at each of the
28 bureau’s field offices a social worker to provide direct mental health care to veterans, to
29 coordinate mental health care for veterans and to work with the Federal Government and
30 state and local mental health service providers to provide mental health care to veterans.
31 It also requires the director to administer a program to provide grants to providers of
32 mental health services to veterans and appropriates ongoing funds of \$1,000,000 annually
33 for the program.