

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# 128th MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2017

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Legislative Document

No. 1233

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H.P. 856

House of Representatives, March 30, 2017

**An Act To Provide Veterans and Gold Star Families Free Admission  
to the Maine State Museum**

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Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Robert B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT  
Clerk

Presented by Representative SHEATS of Auburn.  
Cosponsored by Senator CARSON of Cumberland and  
Representatives: CASÁS of Rockport, LONGSTAFF of Waterville, MADIGAN of Rumford,  
PICCHIOTTI of Fairfield, STROM of Pittsfield, Senator: CARPENTER of Aroostook.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 27 MRSA §83, sub-§5**, as amended by PL 2013, c. 595, Pt. M, §1, is  
3 further amended to read:

4 **5. Establish fees.** To establish fees for admission to the Maine State Museum and  
5 miscellaneous services. All revenues derived from these fees must be credited as  
6 undedicated revenue to the General Fund through June 30, 2014. Beginning July 1, 2014,  
7 all revenues derived from these fees must be credited as dedicated revenue to the Maine  
8 State Museum - Operating Fund, Other Special Revenue Funds account to be used to  
9 support the operations of the Maine State Museum. Notwithstanding this subsection, the  
10 commission shall enter into a memorandum of agreement with the Department of  
11 Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management for the issuance of a free admission pass  
12 to the Maine State Museum to each person who is determined by the Department of  
13 Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management to meet the criteria established in Title  
14 37-B, section 8-A; and

15 **Sec. 2. 37-B MRSA §8-A** is enacted to read:

16 **§8-A. Issuance of free admission pass to Maine State Museum to veterans and gold**  
17 **star families**

18 The Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, in accordance  
19 with a memorandum of agreement entered into with the Maine State Museum  
20 Commission under Title 27, section 83, subsection 5 and this section, shall issue a free  
21 admission pass to the Maine State Museum to eligible persons pursuant to subsection 1.

22 **1. Eligibility.** The department shall determine a person's eligibility for a pass under  
23 this section by establishing that the following criteria are met:

24 A. If the person is a veteran:

25 (1) The person is a resident of this State; and

26 (2) The person received an honorable discharge or general discharge under  
27 honorable conditions; or

28 B. If the person is a member of a gold star family:

29 (1) The person is a resident of this State; and

30 (2) The person is eligible to possess:

31 (a) A gold star lapel button pursuant to 10 United States Code, Section 1126  
32 or 32 Code of Federal Regulations, Section 578.63; or

33 (b) A lapel button for next of kin of deceased personnel pursuant to 32 Code  
34 of Federal Regulations, Section 578.63.

35 **2. Responsibilities of commissioner.** The Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and  
36 Emergency Management shall identify a point of contact within the department to issue  
37 free admission passes in accordance with this section and the memorandum of agreement  
38 entered into with the Maine State Museum Commission pursuant to Title 27, section 83.

1 subsection 5. The Commissioner of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management  
2 shall periodically report to the Maine State Museum Commission a list of the names and  
3 addresses of all persons receiving passes to the Maine State Museum and the beginning  
4 dates for those passes. A pass issued under this section does not expire and is valid for  
5 the lifetime of the holder.

6 **SUMMARY**

7 This bill provides for free admission to the Maine State Museum for veterans and  
8 persons who are eligible to possess gold star lapel buttons or lapel buttons for next of kin  
9 of deceased military personnel.