MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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3   VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

4   Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Secretary of the Senate.

5   STATE OF MAINE

6   SENATE

7   129TH LEGISLATURE

8   SECOND REGULAR SESSION

9   COMMITTEE AMENDMENT " A " to S.P. 668, L.D. 1926, Bill, "An Act To
10   Amend the Laws Governing the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System"

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

12   'Sec. 2. 37-B MRSA §505, sub-§1-C, as enacted by PL 2017, c. 419, §6, is
13   amended to read:

14   1-C. Financial assistance. The following provisions apply to grants of temporary
15   financial assistance to veterans.

16   A. The bureau may provide a grant of temporary assistance not to exceed $2,000 to a
17   veteran currently a resident of this State who has filed a valid claim for a veteran's
18   pension, pending notification of the award of such a pension. For purposes of this
19   paragraph, "claim for a veteran's pension" means a claim filed with the United States
20   Department of Veterans Affairs pursuant to 38 United States Code, Chapter 15.

21   B. The bureau may provide a grant of temporary assistance not to exceed $2,000 to a
22   veteran currently a resident of this State who demonstrates to the bureau's satisfaction
23   a financial need and suffers an emergency, including but not limited to:

24   (1) Damage to that veteran's home due to fire, flood or hurricane that is not fully
25   compensable by insurance;

26   (2) Illness or the illness of an immediate family member; or

27   (3) Hardship that would result in the veteran becoming homeless.

28   C. A veteran who requests temporary assistance under this subsection and is denied
29   such assistance by the bureau may request a reconsideration and review of this
30   decision. Requests for reconsideration of a claim must be reviewed by the director
31   and the commissioner or the commissioner's designee, and the decision after the
32   reconsideration is final and may not be appealed to a court.

33   D. The bureau may contract with an organization incorporated in the State as a
34   nonprofit corporation in accordance with Title 13-B or an organization with tax-

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1 exempt status under 26 United States Code, Section 501(c) for the purpose of
2 providing temporary financial assistance to veterans as described in this subsection.
3 A contract authorized under this subsection may provide only for the distribution of
4 direct temporary financial assistance to veterans and may not provide for
5 compensation for personnel costs of the organization, funding of positions of
6 employment within the organization or administrative costs of the organization
7 except those directly related to the distribution of temporary financial assistance
8 grants to veterans.

9 E. The department may adopt rules to implement this subsection. Rules adopted
10 pursuant to this paragraph are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter
11 375, subchapter 2-A.

12 F. For the purposes of this subsection, "veteran" means any person who:

13   (1) Served in the active United States Armed Forces and who, if discharged,
14   received an honorable discharge or a general discharge under honorable
15   conditions, as long as the discharge was not upgraded through a program of
16   general amnesty;

17   (2) Served in the Reserve Components of the United States Armed Forces and
18   who is entitled to retired pay under 10 United States Code, chapter 1223 or would
19   be entitled to retired pay under chapter 1223 except that the person is under 60
20   years of age;

21   (3) Served in the United States Armed Forces and, although the person does not
22   meet the requirements of subparagraph (1) or (2), is determined by the director,
23   on a case-by-case basis, to be eligible for temporary financial assistance; or

24   (4) Served in the Maine National Guard and is determined by the director, on a
25   case-by-case basis, to be eligible for temporary financial assistance.

26 ~~For the purposes of this subsection, "veteran" has the same meaning as "eligible veteran"~~
27 ~~in section 504, subsection 4, paragraph A-1. The director may also determine eligibility~~
28 ~~for temporary financial assistance on a case-by-case basis.~~'

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

SUMMARY
31

32 The bill amends the definition of "eligible veteran" with respect to eligibility for
33 burial in the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System. That definition of "eligible
34 veteran" is also employed in current law to define veteran eligibility for temporary
35 financial assistance. This amendment, which is the unanimous report of the committee,
36 amends the statute governing the temporary financial assistance program by removing the

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1   cross-reference to the definition of "eligible veteran" in the cemetery statute and replacing
2   it with the definition of "veteran" that is currently used in the rules governing the
3   temporary financial assistance program to determine eligibility for assistance under that
4   program.

5   **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

6   **(See attached)**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

129th MAINE LEGISLATURE

LD 1926   LR 3038(02)

An Act To Amend the Laws Governing the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System

Fiscal Note for Bill as Amended by Committee Amendment " '
Committee: Veterans and Legal Affairs
Fiscal Note Required: Yes

Fiscal Note

Current biennium cost increase - Federal Expenditures Funds
Current biennium revenue increase - Federal Expenditures Funds

Fiscal Detail and Notes

Federal Expenditures Fund costs and revenue to the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management will increase as a result of the bill. The amount of the increase will depend on the number of additional eligible veterans requesting burial in the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System and cannot be determined at this time.