

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

SECOND REGULAR SESSION-2024

Legislative Document

No. 2217

S.P. 948

In Senate, February 20, 2024

**An Act to Strengthen the Maine Veterans' Homes with Increased
and Ongoing Funding**

Approved for introduction by a majority of the Legislative Council pursuant to Joint Rule 203.

Reference to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D M Grant".

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by President JACKSON of Aroostook.
Cosponsored by Representative SUPICA of Bangor and
Senators: BENNETT of Oxford, BRENNER of Cumberland, DUSON of Cumberland,
FARRIN of Somerset, HICKMAN of Kennebec, Representatives: HYMES of Waldo,
MALON of Biddeford, Speaker TALBOT ROSS of Portland.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §45-A** is enacted to read:

3 **§45-A. Transfer to Department of Health and Human Services, Nursing Facilities -**
4 **Maine Veterans' Homes Other Special Revenue Funds**

5 Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, beginning September 1, 2024
6 and every September 1st thereafter, the State Controller shall transfer \$3,135,000 from the
7 General Fund to the Department of Health and Human Services, Nursing Facilities-MVH
8 Other Special Revenue Funds account for payment to the Maine Veterans' Homes to
9 support ongoing operations. Beginning October 1, 2024 and every October 1st thereafter,
10 the transfer amount in effect must be increased by the increase, if any, in the cost of living.
11 The increase in the cost of living must be measured by the percentage increase, if any, as
12 of August of the previous year over the level as of August of the year preceding that year
13 in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, CPI-W, for
14 the Northeast Region, or its successor index, as published by the United States Department
15 of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics or its successor agency, with the amount of the increase
16 rounded to the nearest multiple of \$1. Funds must be transferred to the Maine Veterans'
17 Homes on or before January 15th of each year.

18 **Sec. 2. 37-B MRSA §613, sub-§5** is enacted to read:

19 **5. Surplus funds.** Any unencumbered funds appropriated by the Legislature to the
20 Veterans Services program do not lapse but must be transferred to the fund.

21 **SUMMARY**

22 This bill requires the State Controller to transfer \$3,135,000 from the General Fund to
23 the Department of Health and Human Services, Nursing Facilities-MVH Other Special
24 Revenue Funds account for payment to the Maine Veterans' Homes to support ongoing
25 operations. The transfer amount must be increased annually by the increase in the cost of
26 living. The bill also requires unencumbered appropriated funds for the Maine Veterans'
27 Homes remaining at the end of each fiscal year to be deposited in the Maine Veterans'
28 Homes Stabilization Fund.