

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

NINETY - SECOND LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1212

S. P. 467

In Senate, July 9, 1946

Referred to Committee on Military Affairs and Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent down for concurrence and 1,500 copies ordered printed.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Brown of Aroostook.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-SIX

RESOLVE in Favor of Ricker Classical Institute and Junior College.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, there has developed throughout the state a situation of scarcity of college and secondary school facilities, due to the return of veterans of World War II for whom the federal government, under the G. I. Bill of Rights, so called, has committed itself to finance secondary and college education; and

Whereas, Ricker Classical Institute and Junior College, after total destruction of its main building, containing class rooms, laboratories and gymnasium, by fire, in March, 1944, has, by private subscription of \$145,000, rebuilt such building to a point where the sum of \$50,000 would complete said building and equip it for a two-year college course and secondary school; and

Whereas, the appropriation of said sum of \$50,000 by the state would provide two-year college facilities for 150 veterans in addition to the secondary school students entering during the fall of the current year; and

Whereas, the purpose of this resolve is to provide for the welfare of the people of the state, and particularly veterans of World War II, during this period of economic readjustment; and

Whereas, the foregoing facts in the judgment of this legislature constitute an emergency within the meaning of section 16, part third, article IV of the constitution of Maine as enacted by article XXXI, and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety ; now, therefore, be it

Resolved: That the sum of \$50,000 be appropriated from the Maine Post War Public Works Reserve to be expended by the president and board of trustees of Ricker Classical Institute and Junior College for the purpose of completion and equipment of its main school building and for furnishing facilities for housing veterans of World War II attending said Ricker Classical Institute and Junior College under the G. I. Bill of Rights, so called.

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this resolve shall take effect when approved.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Ricker Classical Institute and Junior College lost its main administration building by fire in March, 1944. Friends of the Institute raised \$145,000 for the purpose of rebuilding it. The building itself has been completed, but there is now lacking the sum of \$50,000 for equipment, without which it will be impossible for the school to open. The problem of providing educational training for veterans in northern and eastern Maine is a serious one. The 4-year colleges are already filled to capacity and at least one of them, the University of Maine, has more than 1,200 Maine men and women on their waiting lists. There are approximately 8,000 veterans of World War II in Aroostook county alone. At the present time the Madawaska and Presque Isle teacher training schools and Ricker Junior College in Houlton are the only available schools where the veterans may receive training beyond the high school years. No other school in the whole area offers pre-professional and business courses of study. Ninety former servicemen have already registered for the coming academic year in the Junior College and it is expected that there will be at least 150 to 200 applications for admission to the Junior College alone.