

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

NINETY - SECOND LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1249

House of Representatives, July 19, 1946

Filed with the Clerk for reproduction or printing. To be presented by Mr. Donahue of Biddeford.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-SIX

House Amendment C to H. P. 1528, L. D. 1245, Bill "An Act Providing for the Payment of a Bonus to or Insurance Premiums for Maine Veterans of World War II and for the Payment of Other Veterans' Benefits and to Provide for Such Payments by a Sales Tax."

Amend said Bill by striking out the title and inserting in place thereof the following:

'AN ACT Providing for the Payment of a \$500 Bonus to or a \$500 Insurance Premium for Maine Veterans of World War II and for the Payment of Other Veterans' Benefits.'

Further amend said Bill by striking out all after the enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the following:

'TITLE I

Bonus

Sec. 1. Veterans in World War II entitled to bonus of \$500. In order to promote the spirit of patriotism and loyalty, in testimony of the gratitude of the state of Maine, and in recognition of the splendid services of Maine men and women in World War II, every veteran, as hereinafter defined, shall be entitled to receive from the state of Maine, from a fund

hereinafter created and called "The Veterans' Bonus Fund," the sum of \$500.

Sec. 2. The word "veteran" defined. The word "veteran" as used in this title shall mean any male or female officer, soldier, sailor, marine, nurse or any other person regularly enlisted or inducted, who has been a part of the military or naval forces of the United States in World War II at least 3 months between December 8, 1941 and August 14, 1945, inclusive, unless honorably discharged for physical disability incident to such service, and who was a resident of the state of Maine at the time he or she was commissioned, enlisted, inducted, appointed or mustered into the military or naval service of the United States, and who has been or may be given an honorable discharge or release from such service.

Sec. 3. Application for bonus, when and where filed; what application shall contain. Applications for such bonus shall be filed with the adjutant-general, on forms provided by him, within 6 months from the date this act goes into effect; or, in the case of an applicant whose final discharge from service is received after the date this act goes into effect, within 6 months after the date of such discharge. Such application shall state facts sufficient to establish the status of such applicant as veteran as defined herein, and shall be duly verified.

Sec. 4. "Veterans' Bonus Board" created, powers and duties. There is hereby created a board to be known as "The Veterans' Bonus Board," to consist of the finance commissioner, the treasurer of state and the adjutant-general. It shall be the duty of the said board to examine into such applications and make any other examination necessary to establish facts, and approve or disapprove the same. Whenever any such application is approved by said board, it shall be the duty of the adjutant-general to prepare a voucher and transmit the same to the state controller; said state controller shall issue his warrant therefor, for the amount stated therein, and the treasurer of state shall pay the same upon the approval of the governor and council out of said Veterans' Bonus Fund. The board shall have the authority to determine the date when bonus payments shall commence.

Sec. 5. Board authorized to employ assistance for administration. The Veterans' Bonus Board is hereby empowered, subject to the provisions of the personnel law, to employ such assistance and, with the approval of the governor and council, to incur such other expense as may be necessary for the administration and the carrying out of the provisions of this title; and the funds necessary for such administration and carrying out of the provisions of this title shall be expended from said Veterans' Bonus Fund.

Sec. 6. In case of decease of veteran, bonus to be paid to dependents; order of procedure; bonus not subject to assignment nor to claims of creditors. In the case of the decease of any person who would if alive be entitled to the benefits of this title, the sum herein named shall be paid in cash to his or her dependents, if any, and otherwise to his or her heirs-at-law; provided that if there is more than one dependent, or heir-at-law, payments shall in either case be made in such proportions as the said Veterans' Bonus Board shall determine, and in determining the order of precedence the following order so far as practicable shall be observed: spouse and children, mother or father, brother or sister, other dependents; provided, however, that no right or payment under this title shall be subject to the claims of creditors, capable of assignment and no assignment of the same shall be valid or binding, regarded as assets legal or equitable of the estate of the deceased or made the basis for administration thereof.

Sec. 7. Eligibility. Any veteran who applies for benefits under the provisions of this title shall not be eligible for benefits under the provisions of Title II.

TITLE II

Insurance Premiums

Sec. 1. Veterans in World War II entitled to insurance premium payments. In order to promote the spirit of patriotism and loyalty in testimony of the gratitude of the state of Maine, and in recognition of the splendid services of Maine men and women in World War II, every veteran, as hereinafter defined, shall be entitled to apply to the state of Maine for the payment of the premiums, or parts thereof, for his or her national service life insurance in an amount not to exceed \$500. Such payment shall be in not less than 3 nor more than 4 equal yearly installments.

Sec. 2. The word "veteran" defined. The word "veteran" as used in this title shall mean any male or female officer, soldier, sailor, marine, nurse or any other person regularly enlisted or inducted, who has been a part of the military or naval forces of the United States in World War II at least 3 months between December 8, 1941 and August 14, 1945, inclusive, unless honorably discharged for physical disability incident to such service, and who was a resident of the state of Maine at the time he or she was commissioned, enlisted, inducted, appointed or mustered into the military or naval service of the United States, and who has been or may be given an honorable discharge or release from such service.

Sec. 3. Application for insurance premium payments, when and where

filed; what application shall contain. Applications for such insurance premium payments shall be filed with the adjutant-general, on forms provided by him, within 6 months from the date this act goes into effect; or, in the case of an applicant whose final discharge from service is received after the date this act goes into effect, within 6 months after the date of such discharge. Such application shall state facts sufficient to establish the status of such applicant as veteran as defined herein, and shall be duly verified.

Sec. 4. "Veterans' Bonus Board" powers and duties. The veterans' bonus board, as created by section 5 of Title I, shall be empowered to carry out the provisions of this title. It shall be the duty of the said board to examine into such applications and make any other examination necessary to establish facts, and approve or disapprove the same. Whenever any such application is approved by said board and the insurance premiums are payable, it shall be the duty of the adjutant-general to prepare a voucher and transmit the same to the state controller; said state controller shall issue his warrant therefor, for the amount stated therein, and the treasurer of state shall pay the same to the treasurer of the United States upon the approval of the governor and council out of the Veterans' Insurance Fund.

The veterans' bonus board is hereby authorized to adopt whatever rules and regulations are necessary to carry out the provisions of this title.

Sec. 5. Board authorized to employ assistance for administration. The Veterans' Bonus Board is hereby empowered, subject to the provisions of the personnel law, to employ such assistance and, with the approval of the governor and council, to incur such other expense as may be necessary for the administration and the carrying out of the provisions of this title; and the funds necessary for such administration and carrying out of the provisions of this title shall be expended from the Veterans' Insurance Fund.

Sec. 6. Eligibility. Any veteran who applies for benefits under the provisions of this title shall not be eligible for benefits under the provisions of Title I.

TITLE III

State Technical and Vocational Institute

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 37, § 177-A, additional. Chapter 37 of the revised statutes is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to be numbered 177-A, to read as follows:

'Sec. 177-A. State technical and vocational institute; purpose; supervision. The vocational education board is authorized and empowered to pur-

chase or lease lands, buildings, equipment, materials and supplies, or to construct or improve the same for the purpose of establishing a state technical and vocational institute. All costs thus incurred shall be subject to the approval of the governor and council. Such institute shall promote specialized training for veterans of World War II and other persons who give evidence of special aptitude or need and who desire specialized preparation designed specifically to train for service in trade, industry or commerce. The supervision and administration of such institute shall be under the control and direction of the vocational education board.'

Sec. 2. Appropriation. There is hereby appropriated from the bonds issued under the provisions of title V the sum of \$700,000 to carry out the provisions of section 1 of this title.

Sec. 3. Expenses. There is hereby appropriated from the general fund the sum of \$100,000 for operational and maintenance expenses of the state technical and vocational institute established under the provisions of section 1 of this title.

TITLE IV

Plant Science Building and Engineering Building at University of Maine

Plant science building and engineering building; appropriation for. There is hereby appropriated in favor of the University of Maine the sum of \$400,000 for aid in constructing a plant science building and an engineering building.

TITLE V

Bond Issue

Sec. 1. Bond issue authorized to provide funds; bonds to mature within 10 years of issue. For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act, the treasurer of state is hereby authorized, with the approval of the governor and council, to issue bonds or notes from time to time as they are needed, to an amount not exceeding in the aggregate \$60,000,000. Such bonds or notes shall be designated "Maine Military Service Loan, Act of 1946," shall mature not more than 10 years from the date thereof, and shall bear such rate of interest, and be in such form and on such terms and conditions, other than those herein specified, as the governor and council may determine. Such bonds shall contain such callable features as the governor and council shall determine. Such bonds or notes shall be issued in the name and behalf of the state, and shall be deemed a pledge of the

faith and credit of the state. The proceeds of the sale thereof shall be paid into the general fund and expended in the following manner:

- I.** Such sum as may be necessary to the credit of a fund hereby created, which fund shall be known as "The Veterans' Bonus Fund," and from which the payments authorized by Title I shall be made;
- II.** Such sum as may be necessary to the credit of a fund hereby created, which fund shall be known as "The Veterans' Insurance Fund," and from which the payments authorized by Title II shall be made; and
- III.** Such sum as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of:
 - A.** Title III, relating to the establishment of a technical and vocational institute;
 - B.** Title IV, relating to the aid in construction of a plant science building and an engineering building at the University of Maine.
- IV.** The sum of \$1,000,000 to be paid into the Maine Post War Public Works Reserve.'