

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T Y - S E V E N T H L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 81

H. P. 84

House of Representatives, January 19, 1955.

Referred to the Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs, sent up for concurrence and 1000 copies ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Brown of Baileyville.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-FIVE

AN ACT to Authorize Issuance of Bonds in the Amount of Twenty Two Million Dollars for Bonus to Maine Veterans of World War II and the Korean Campaign.

Preamble. Two-thirds of both houses of the legislature deeming it necessary in accordance with Section 14 of Article IX of the Constitution; to authorize the issuance of bonds on behalf of the State of Maine for the purpose of paying a bonus to Maine veterans of World War II and the Korean Campaign;

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

Sec. 1. Bond issue of \$22,000,000 authorized. The Treasurer of State is hereby authorized, under the direction of the Governor and Council, to issue bonds from time to time as they are needed, to an amount not exceeding in the aggregate \$22,000,000. Such bonds shall be designated "Maine Military Service Loan, Act of 1955," shall mature not more than 20 years from the date thereof, and shall bear such rate of interest, and be in such form and on such terms and conditions, not inconsistent herewith, as the Governor and Council may determine. Such bonds shall contain such callable features as the Governor and Council shall determine. Such bonds 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 credited to a fund hereby created, which fund shall be known as "The Veterans' Bonus Fund," and from which the payments authorized by section 4 shall be made. Beginning April 1, 1957 and for each and every succeeding year for 19 years there shall be appropriated from the general fund a sum sufficient for the redemption of such bonds to an amount not exceeding \$1,100,000 per year and such additional sum as may be required for the payment of interest on all such bonds outstanding.

Sec. 2. Contingent upon ratification of bond issue. No action shall be taken or liability incurred under this act unless and until the people of Maine shall have ratified the issuance of bonds on behalf of the State at such time and in such amounts as set forth in this act for the purpose of paying a bonus to Maine veterans of World War II and the Korean Campaign.

Sec. 3. Referendum for ratification. The aldermen of cities, the selectmen of towns and the assessors of the several plantations of this State are hereby empowered and directed to notify the inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations to meet in the manner prescribed by law for calling and holding biennial meetings of said inhabitants for the election of Senators and Representatives at the general state-wide election to be held in September, 1956, to give in their votes upon the acceptance or rejection of the foregoing act, and the question shall be: "Shall a bond issue be ratified for the purposes set forth in 'An Act to Authorize Issuance of Bonds in the Amount of Twenty Two Million Dollars for Bonus to Maine Veterans of World War II and the Korean Campaign,' passed by the 97th Legislature?"

And the inhabitants of said cities, towns and plantations shall indicate by a cross or check mark placed within a square upon their ballots their opinion of the same, those in favor of said ratification voting "YES" and those opposed to said ratification voting "NO", and the ballots shall be received, sorted, counted and declared in open ward, town and plantation meetings, and return made to the office of the Secretary of State in the same manner as votes for Governor and Members of the Legislature, and the Governor and Council shall count the same and if it shall appear that a majority of the inhabitants voting on the question are in favor of said act, the Governor shall forthwith make known the fact by his proclamation, and the act shall thereupon become effective as of the date of said proclamation.

Secretary of State shall prepare ballots. The Secretary of State shall prepare and furnish to the several cities, towns and plantations ballots and blank returns in conformity with the foregoing act, accompanied by a copy thereof.

Sec. 4. Veterans of World War II and Korean Campaign entitled to bonus. 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 and the Korean Campaign, 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," sums as follows:

- I. One hundred dollars to each veteran who was in service, while a bona fide resident of Maine, 6 months but less than 1 year, but served no part thereof in Alaska or in any place outside the continental United States.
- II. One hundred and fifty dollars to each veteran who was in service, while a bona fide resident of Maine, more than 1 year, but served no part thereof in Alaska or in any place outside the continental limits of the United States.
- III. Two hundred and fifty dollars to each veteran who was in service, while a bona fide resident of Maine, outside the continental limits of the United States or in Alaska.

Sec. 5. The word "veteran" defined. The word "veteran" as used in this act 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, or between June 15, 1950 and until such date as the United States concludes its participation in hostilities in Korea, 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. 6. 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 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. 7. "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 Director of Veterans Affairs, 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. 8. 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 act; and the funds necessary for such administration and carrying out of the provisions of this act shall be expended from said Veterans' Bonus Fund.

Sec. 9. In case of decease of veteran, bonus to be paid to dependents; order of precedence; bonus not subject to assignment nor to claims of creditors. In case of the decease of any person who would, if alive, be entitled to the benefits of this act, the sums 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 de-

pendents; provided, however, that no right or payment under this act 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. 10. Conditional upon adoption of constitutional amendment. This act shall take effect only under the provisions of section 3 and upon the adoption of the proposed amendment to Section 14 of Article IX of the Constitution providing for the payment of a bonus to Maine veterans of World War II and the Korean Campaign.