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Date: (Filing No. S-)

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
SENATE
132ND LEGISLATURE
SECOND REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to S.P. 834, L.D. 2135, “An Act to Provide Funding to Keep Maine Veterans Housed”

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the enacting clause and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 37-B MRSA §513-B is enacted to read:

§513-B. Veterans' Housing Provider Incentive Program; establishment; report

The Veterans' Housing Provider Incentive Program is established to provide grants to organizations to support permanent housing for veteran populations.

1. Fund established. The Veterans' Housing Provider Incentive Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established under the bureau for the purpose of receiving funds from state, federal and other sources, including donations from private citizens, corporations and entities for the purposes of this section.

2. Grants to support permanent housing. The bureau shall use the fund to award grants to organizations that have been determined by the United States Internal Revenue Service to be exempt from taxation under the United States Internal Revenue Code of 1986, Section 501(c)(3) and have as a core program supporting permanent housing for veteran populations. An organization awarded a grant under this section may use the funding for housing provider incentives, risk mitigation payments and past rental debt payments for veterans experiencing homelessness.

3. Rules. The bureau may adopt rules necessary to implement this section, including requirements for organizations to report on the use of grant funding received under this section. Rules adopted under this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

4. Report. The bureau shall submit a report by February 15, 2027, and by February 15th in any year in which a grant is issued, regarding grants awarded to organizations under this section, including information from the organizations on their use of that funding, to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction over veterans affairs.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Sec. 2. Transfer; Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Unit, Sports Wagering program, Other Special Revenue Funds account.

Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before June 30, 2027, the State Controller shall transfer \$90,000 from the Sports Wagering program, Other Special Revenue Funds account in the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Unit to the Veterans' Housing Provider Incentive Fund, Other Special Revenue Funds account in the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services for a grant program to support permanent housing for veteran populations.

Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

DEFENSE, VETERANS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF

Veterans' Housing Provider Incentive Fund N570

Initiative: Provides one-time funds to issue grants to eligible organizations to support permanent housing.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$0	\$90,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$0	\$90,000

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

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill. The amendment establishes the Veterans' Housing Provider Incentive Program and the Veterans' Housing Provider Incentive Fund within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services. The purpose of the fund is to receive funds from state, federal and other sources for the purpose of awarding grants to tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organizations who have as a core program supporting permanent housing for veteran populations. Grant funding may be used by the organization for housing provider incentives, risk mitigation payments and past rental debt payments for veterans experiencing homelessness. The bureau may adopt routine technical rules related to the awarding of grants. The amendment also requires the bureau to submit a report regarding grants issued and the use of grant funding by organizations by February 15, 2027 and in any year in which a grant is issued.

The amendment also provides a one-time transfer of \$90,000 from the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Unit, Sports Wagering program to the Veterans' Housing Provider Incentive Fund.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)