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Date: (Filing No. H-)

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
129TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 147, L.D. 184, Bill, “An Act To Amend the Veterans' Homelessness Prevention Coordination Program”

Amend the bill by striking out everything after the title and before the summary and inserting the following:

'Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the need to support homeless veterans is immediate and crucial for their health, safety and welfare; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. 37-B MRSA §513, as enacted by PL 2011, c. 329, §1, is repealed.

Sec. 2. 37-B MRSA §513-A is enacted to read:

§513-A. Veterans' homelessness prevention coordination

1. Veterans' homelessness prevention partnership. The director shall, through one or more collaborative agreements, establish a program of partnerships with human services-based volunteer organizations to provide transitional housing to homeless veterans and coordinate efforts to remedy and prevent homelessness among veterans in this State. The volunteer organizations must have as their core programs addressing homelessness and veterans' services and have been active in the State for at least 2 years. Priority must be given to an organization founded, chartered or organized in the State. The director may accept donations from outside sources and state and federal funding to accomplish the priorities of the partnerships. To the extent state, federal or outside

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 funding is available, the priorities of these partnerships, listed in order of priority,
2 include, but are not limited to:

3 A. Identifying homeless veterans in the State;

4 B. Identifying and securing temporary or permanent living space for veterans within
5 the veterans' communities;

6 C. Providing reimbursement to human services-based volunteer organizations that
7 provide transitional housing to homeless veterans pursuant to collaborative
8 agreements entered into pursuant to this subsection; and

9 D. Conducting annual outreach events, targeted to reach the maximum number of
10 veterans in need, to disseminate information on resources and services available to
11 assist homeless veterans.

12 **2. Rules.** The bureau may adopt rules necessary to implement this section, including
13 to define "veterans" for purposes of this section, to govern collaborative agreements with
14 human services-based volunteer organizations and to govern the reimbursement of
15 organizations that provide transitional housing to homeless veterans through
16 disbursements from the Veterans' Homelessness Prevention Partnership Fund.

17 Rules adopted under this subsection are routine technical rules as defined in Title 5,
18 chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

19 **3. Fund established.** The Veterans' Homelessness Prevention Partnership Fund, a
20 nonlapsing fund, is established under the bureau for the purpose of receiving funds from
21 state, federal and other sources, including donations from private citizens, corporations
22 and entities for the purpose of this section. The bureau shall use the fund to provide
23 reimbursement to human services-based volunteer organizations that provide transitional
24 housing to homeless veterans and to otherwise carry out the purposes of this section.

25 **Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
26 allocations are made.

27 **DEFENSE, VETERANS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT**
28 **OF**

29 **Veterans Services 0110**

30 Initiative: Provides ongoing funding for reimbursements to human services-based
31 volunteer organizations that provide transitional housing to homeless veterans.

32	GENERAL FUND	2019-20	2020-21
33	All Other	\$600,000	\$600,000
34			
35	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$600,000</u>	<u>\$600,000</u>

36 **Veterans Services 0110**

37 Initiative: Establishes one Office Associate II position to provide auditing and accounting
38 services to the veterans' homelessness prevention coordination program.

1	GENERAL FUND	2019-20	2020-21
2	POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000
3	Personal Services	\$59,383	\$61,165
4	All Other	\$5,000	\$5,000
5			
6	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$64,383</u>	<u>\$66,165</u>

7 **Veterans Services 0110**

8 Initiative: Establishes one Public Service Coordinator I position to manage and
 9 administer the veterans' homelessness prevention partnership program.

10	GENERAL FUND	2019-20	2020-21
11	POSITIONS - LEGISLATIVE COUNT	1.000	1.000
12	Personal Services	\$102,046	\$105,107
13	All Other	\$5,000	\$5,000
14			
15	GENERAL FUND TOTAL	<u>\$107,046</u>	<u>\$110,107</u>

16 **Veterans Services 0110**

17 Initiative: Establishes the Veterans' Homelessness Prevention Partnership Fund with a
 18 base Other Special Revenue Funds allocation of \$500 beginning in fiscal year 2019-20.

19	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2019-20	2020-21
20	All Other	\$500	\$500
21			
22	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	<u>\$500</u>	<u>\$500</u>

23 **DEFENSE, VETERANS AND EMERGENCY**
 24 **MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF**
 25 **DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

26		2019-20	2020-21
27	GENERAL FUND	\$771,429	\$776,272
28	OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$500	\$500
29			
30	DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	<u>\$771,929</u>	<u>\$776,772</u>

31 **Emergency clause.** In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this
 32 legislation takes effect when approved.'

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

SUMMARY

This amendment strikes and replaces the bill. It:

1. Directs the Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services to establish a program of partnerships, through one or more collaborative agreements, with human services-based volunteer organizations to provide transitional housing to homeless veterans and coordinate efforts to remedy and prevent homelessness among veterans in this State;

2. Provides that one of the priorities of the partnerships is to provide reimbursement to human services-based volunteer organizations that provide transitional housing to homeless veterans pursuant to collaborative agreements;

3. Authorizes the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services to adopt rules necessary to implement this partnership program, including to define "veterans" for purposes of the program, to govern collaborative agreements with human services-based volunteer organizations and to govern the reimbursement of organizations that provide transitional housing to homeless veterans through disbursements from the Veterans' Homelessness Prevention Partnership Fund;

4. Establishes the Veterans' Homelessness Prevention Partnership Fund and provides that it is to be used to reimburse human services-based volunteer organizations that provide transitional housing to homeless veterans and to otherwise carry out the purposes of the partnership program;

5. Provides ongoing funding for reimbursement to human services-based volunteer organizations that provide transitional housing to homeless veterans;

6. Creates 2 new positions in the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services to help administer this partnership program; and

7. Includes an emergency preamble and clause.

FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED

(See attached)