

Date:

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VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
132ND LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 430, L.D. 662, “An Act to Fund Military Sexual Trauma Liaisons”

Amend the bill by striking out the title and substituting the following:

'An Act to Support Survivors of Military Sexual Trauma and Active Duty Military Members Transitioning to Civilian Life'

Amend the bill by inserting after the title and before the enacting clause 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, veterans have made significant sacrifices to protect our country and ensure our freedom, and many of those veterans in Maine may face challenges transitioning back to civilian life; and

Whereas, the Legislature remains committed to supporting efforts that assist military service members and their families as they separate from military service and transition back to civilian life by helping them find stable employment, access health care and housing and find their place in society; and

Whereas, it is particularly important to support those veterans who have sacrificed more than others because they have experienced military sexual trauma while serving their country in the military; and

Whereas, this legislation needs to take effect before the expiration of the 90-day period to provide desperately needed funding to organizations that support veterans and their families; 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,'

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

'Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §13056-K is enacted to read:

§13056-K. Active Duty Military Transition to Civilian Life Fund and Program

1. Fund established; purpose. The Active Duty Military Transition to Civilian Life Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established within the department as an Other Special Revenue Funds account for the purpose of receiving funds for the program.

2. Program established; purpose. The Active Duty Military Transition to Civilian Life Program, referred to in this section as "the program," is established within the department to support organizations in the State conducting outreach and providing support services to active duty military members and their families who are transitioning to civilian life.

3. Fund sources; administration. The fund consists of money appropriated or allocated to the fund or received from public or private sources. Through agreements or cooperative arrangements, the department may receive, administer and disburse any funds or contributions from a state or federal agency, person, firm or corporation, either independently or in conjunction with state funds appropriated or allocated to the fund for the purposes of this section.

4. Funds held separate; interest credited; nonlapsing. The funds in the fund must be held separate and apart from all other money, funds and accounts. Interest earned by the fund must be credited to the fund. Any unexpended balances remaining in the fund at the end of any fiscal year do not lapse and must be carried forward to the next fiscal year.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §2430, sub-§3, as amended by PL 2021, c. 181, Pt. A, §2, is repealed.

Sec. 3. 22 MRSA §2430, sub-§3-A is enacted to read:

3-A. Uses of fund. As allocated by the Legislature, the fund may be used for:

A. Expenses of the department to administer this chapter;

B. Grants for research regarding cannabis for medical use in accordance with subsection 5;

C. Grants to organizations in the State conducting outreach and providing support services to active duty military members and their families who are transitioning to civilian life. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before September 30, 2025, and by every September 30th thereafter, the State Controller shall transfer \$200,000 from the fund to the Active Duty Military Transition to Civilian Life Fund established within the Department of Economic and Community Development under Title 5, section 13056-K to administer grants issued pursuant to this paragraph; and

D. Grants to organizations in the State providing housing and support services for unhoused veterans and their children and for survivors of military sexual trauma. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, on or before September 30, 2025, and by every September 30th thereafter, the State Controller shall transfer \$285,000

from the fund to the Survivors of Military Sexual Trauma Fund under section 3971 to administer grants issued pursuant to this paragraph.

Sec. 4. 22 MRSA c. 1069 is enacted to read:

CHAPTER 1069

SURVIVORS OF MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA FUND AND PROGRAM

§3971. Survivors of Military Sexual Trauma Fund and Program

1. Fund established; purpose. The Survivors of Military Sexual Trauma Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established within the department. The fund may receive money from any available state, federal or private source. The fund may not lapse but must be carried forward to carry out the purposes of this section.

2. Program established; purpose. The Survivors of Military Sexual Trauma Program, referred to in this section as "the program," is established within the department to assist organizations in the State that provide housing and support services for unhoused veterans and their children and for survivors of military sexual trauma.

3. Uses of fund. The fund may be used to support the program.

Sec. 5. Appropriations and allocations. The following appropriations and allocations are made.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF

Active Duty Military Transition to Civilian Life Fund N525

Initiative: Provides ongoing allocations to support organizations in the State conducting outreach and providing support services to active duty military members and their families who are transitioning to civilian life.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$200,000	\$200,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$200,000	\$200,000

**ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT OF
DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$200,000	\$200,000
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$200,000	\$200,000

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF

Survivors of Military Sexual Trauma Fund N535

Initiative: Provides ongoing allocations to support organizations in the State providing housing and support services for unhoused veterans and their children and for survivors of military sexual trauma.

OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	2025-26	2026-27
All Other	\$285,000	\$285,000
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS TOTAL	\$285,000	\$285,000

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
DEPARTMENT OF
DEPARTMENT TOTALS**

	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$285,000	\$285,000
DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$285,000	\$285,000

SECTION TOTALS

	2025-26	2026-27
OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	\$485,000	\$485,000
SECTION TOTAL - ALL FUNDS	\$485,000	\$485,000

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

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

SUMMARY

This amendment replaces the bill and changes the title. The amendment:

1. Provides an ongoing annual transfer of \$200,000 from the Medical Use of Cannabis Fund to the Active Duty Military Transition to Civilian Life Fund established within the Department of Economic and Community Development to support organizations in the State that conduct outreach and provide support services to active duty military members and their families who are transitioning to civilian life;
2. Creates the Survivors of Military Sexual Trauma Program within the Department of Health and Human Services to assist organizations in the State that provide housing and support services for unhoused veterans and their children and for survivors of military sexual trauma;
3. Provides an ongoing annual transfer of \$285,000 from the Medical Use of Cannabis Fund to the Survivors of Military Sexual Trauma Fund established within the Department of Health and Human Services to support organizations in the State that provide housing and support services for unhoused veterans and their children and for survivors of military sexual trauma;

1 4. Modifies the provision of law governing the Medical Use of Cannabis Fund to allow
2 the fund to be used for these purposes; and

3 5. Adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause.

4 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

5 **(See attached)**