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Date: (Filing No. H-)

VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

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**STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
130TH LEGISLATURE
FIRST SPECIAL SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 505, L.D. 693, “An Act To Make the Pilot Program Providing Mental Health Case Management Services to Veterans a Permanent Program”

Amend the bill by striking out all of section 1 and inserting the following:

'Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §1833 is enacted to read:

§1833. Referral of veterans

1. Screening. A hospital licensed under this chapter shall screen all patients presenting for emergency care at the hospital's emergency department regarding whether or not the patient has prior service in the military. This information must be added to the hospital's patient data management system.

2. Referral. If a patient presenting for emergency care at the emergency department of a hospital licensed under this chapter identifies as having prior service in the military under subsection 1, the hospital shall, at a minimum, provide the patient with the following information and document the provision of this information in the hospital's patient data management system:

A. Contact information for the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services. The hospital shall inform the patient that the bureau may be able to assist the patient with accessing state and federal veterans benefits; and

B. A copy of a benefits and resource guide for veterans seeking emergency care made available on the publicly accessible website of the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services.'

Amend the bill in section 2 in sub-c. 7 in §3911 in subsection 2 in the last line (page 2, line 32 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "required." the following: 'Contracted providers shall, at a minimum, connect each individual referred to the provider for case management services with a veteran service officer at the bureau, who shall assist the

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

1 individual in accessing the state and federal veterans benefits to which the individual may
2 be entitled.'

3 Amend the bill in section 2 in sub-c. 7 in §3911 in subsection 3 in the 2nd line (page
4 2, line 34 in L.D.) by inserting after the following: "or" the following: 'who has served or'

5 Amend the bill in section 2 in sub-c. 7 in §3912 in the first indented paragraph in the
6 3rd, 4th and 5th lines (page 3, lines 23 to 25 in L.D.) by striking out the following: "for the
7 purposes of reimbursing hospitals for the costs of screening and data collection conducted
8 pursuant to Title 22, section 1833, subsection 6 and"

9 Amend the bill by inserting after section 2 the following:

10 '**Sec. 3. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and
11 allocations are made.

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

13 **Veterans Mental Health Case Management and Services Fund Z261**

14 Initiative: Appropriates funds for provider contracts to provide case management services.

15 GENERAL FUND	2021-22	2022-23
16 All Other	\$366,430	\$366,430
17		
18 GENERAL FUND TOTAL	\$366,430	\$366,430

19 '

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

22 **SUMMARY**

23 This amendment strikes and replaces the bill's hospital data collection and reporting
24 requirements with requirements that, at a minimum, hospitals provide each emergency
25 room patient whom the hospital identifies as having prior service in the military with
26 contact information for the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management,
27 Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services and a copy of a benefits and resource guide produced
28 by the bureau for veterans seeking emergency care. Hospitals must inform each such
29 patient that the bureau may be able to assist the patient with accessing state and federal
30 veterans benefits. The amendment also clarifies that an individual who served in the Maine
31 Army National Guard or Air National Guard, but who was not called to active military
32 service, is eligible for the mental health case management services program established in
33 the bill.

34 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

35 (See attached)