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Date: (Filing No. H- )

**VETERANS AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.

**STATE OF MAINE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
128TH LEGISLATURE  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “ ” to H.P. 844, L.D. 1208, Bill, “An Act To Amend the Veterans Service Laws”

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,** under current law, veterans in the State experiencing crises are eligible to receive financial assistance, distributed by the Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services; and

**Whereas,** the Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services currently has no authority to administer emergency funds; and

**Whereas,** funds recently appropriated for the purpose of providing veterans with this financial assistance must be placed in a fund to be administered by the director; and

**Whereas,** veterans are experiencing crises now, for which financial assistance is immediately necessary; 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 all of section 4 and inserting the following:

**'Sec. 4. 37-B MRSA §505, sub-§1-B** is enacted to read:

**1-B. Veterans Temporary Emergency Assistance Fund.** The Veterans Temporary Emergency Assistance Fund, referred to in this section as "the fund," is established as a dedicated, nonlapsing Other Special Revenue Funds account in the bureau. The fund is administered and used by the director for the purposes of offering financial assistance to veterans as prescribed by subsection 1-A, paragraphs A and B. '

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENT**

1 Amend the bill by inserting after section 5 the following:

2 **'Sec. 6. Maine Revised Statutes amended; revision clause.** Wherever in the  
 3 Maine Revised Statutes the words "Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services" appear, they are  
 4 amended to read "Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services" and the Revisor of Statutes shall  
 5 implement this revision when updating, publishing or republishing the statutes.

6 **Sec. 7. Transfer from General Fund unappropriated surplus;**  
 7 **Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Veterans**  
 8 **Temporary Emergency Assistance Fund.** Notwithstanding any other provision of  
 9 law, the State Controller shall transfer \$375,000 from the General Fund unappropriated  
 10 surplus to the Veterans Temporary Emergency Assistance Fund, Other Special Revenue  
 11 Funds account within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management  
 12 no later than June 30, 2017.

13 **Sec. 8. Appropriations and allocations.** The following appropriations and  
 14 allocations are made.

15 **DEFENSE, VETERANS AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT**  
 16 **OF**

17 **Veterans Services 0110**

18 Initiative: Reduces funding previously appropriated in Public Law 2017, chapter 2, Part  
 19 A.

20	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>
21	All Other	(\$375,000)	\$0	\$0
22				
23	<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>(\$375,000)</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

24 **Veterans Services 0110**

25 Initiative: Establishes the Veterans Temporary Emergency Assistance Fund and provides  
 26 an allocation to provide financial assistance to veterans.

27	<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>
28	<b>FUNDS</b>			
29	All Other	\$375,000	\$500	\$500
30				
31	<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE</b>	<u>\$375,000</u>	<u>\$500</u>	<u>\$500</u>
32	<b>FUNDS TOTAL</b>			

1	<b>DEFENSE, VETERANS AND</b>			
2	<b>EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT,</b>			
3	<b>DEPARTMENT OF</b>			
4	<b>DEPARTMENT TOTALS</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>
5				
6	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>(\$375,000)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
7	<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$375,000</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$500</b>
8	<b>FUNDS</b>			
9				
10	<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$500</b>	<b>\$500</b>
11	<b>FUNDS</b>			

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

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

16 **SUMMARY**

17 This amendment adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause to the bill. The  
 18 bill repeals current law governing how the Department of Defense, Veterans and  
 19 Emergency Management, Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services issues temporary financial  
 20 assistance to veterans in financial crises and in its place authorizes the bureau to provide  
 21 grants to private organizations for the purpose of providing financial assistance to  
 22 veterans. The amendment strikes that provision and establishes an account within the  
 23 bureau for the purpose of issuing temporary emergency financial assistance to veterans  
 24 and provides for a transfer of \$375,000 from the administrative account of the bureau to  
 25 the Other Special Revenue Funds account established by the amendment. The  
 26 amendment adds a revision clause to change the name of the Bureau of Maine Veterans'  
 27 Services to the Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services throughout the Maine Revised  
 28 Statutes.

29 **FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

30 **(See attached)**