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Date: (Filing No. H- )

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

HOUSE AMENDMENT “ ” to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT “A” to H.P. 853,  
L.D. 1231, Bill, “An Act Regarding Mental Health Care for Maine Veterans”

Amend the amendment by inserting after the first indented paragraph after the  
substitute title 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,** this legislation establishes a pilot program to provide case management  
services to provide mental health treatment to veterans; and

**Whereas,** this legislation transfers for use by the pilot program funds recently  
appropriated for the purpose of providing aid to veterans; and

**Whereas,** those funds may lapse before the end of the 90-day period; 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'

Amend the amendment by striking out all of Part B and inserting the following:

**'PART B**

**Sec. B-1. Commissioner of Health and Human Services to establish pilot  
program to provide mental health case management services to veterans.  
Resolved:** That, beginning January 1, 2018, the Commissioner of Health and Human  
Services, referred to in this Part as "the commissioner," shall establish a pilot program to  
provide contracted case management services to provide necessary mental health  
treatment to veterans who are residents of the State. Case management services must  
include assisting veterans in gaining a range of mental and behavioral health services,  
which must include inpatient mental health care services. In establishing the pilot  
program, the commissioner shall consult with the Director of the Bureau of Maine  
Veterans' Services within the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency  
Management, referred to in this Part as "the director," to identify regions where case

1 management services are most needed and to identify veterans seeking case management  
2 services who are enrolled with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and  
3 those who would likely be eligible to be enrolled. The pilot program described in this  
4 section must continue until January 1, 2020 or until the funds provided in Part C are  
5 exhausted.

6 1. The commissioner, with the assistance of the director, shall seek to coordinate  
7 services with the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and state agencies that  
8 offer mental health care services or provide assistance to veterans.

9 2. The commissioner may enter into regional contracts for the purpose of ensuring a  
10 statewide network of case management that provides coordinated mental health care  
11 services for Maine veterans, including, but not limited to, inpatient treatment as clinically  
12 required.

13 3. The commissioner, with the assistance of the director, shall establish criteria to  
14 determine eligibility for case management services to be provided in accordance with this  
15 section. A veteran who has received a mental health diagnosis or mental health disability  
16 rating from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs must be considered eligible  
17 for case management services. A veteran who is not enrolled with the United States  
18 Department of Veterans Affairs who is determined to require mental health care services  
19 by a licensed mental health professional may be considered eligible for case management  
20 and other behavioral health services based on the individual needs of the veteran.

21 4. The director shall work to assist veterans receiving case management services  
22 under the pilot program who are not enrolled with the United States Department of  
23 Veterans Affairs to determine eligibility and to assist with those veterans' enrollment and  
24 with filing claims to the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

25 5. Case management and mental health professionals selected to participate in the  
26 pilot program must demonstrate military and veteran cultural competency.

27 6. An individual who served in the United States Armed Forces and meets the  
28 federal definition of veteran or is currently serving in the Maine Army National Guard or  
29 Air National Guard or the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces is eligible.  
30 Character of discharge is not a disqualifying eligibility criterion.

31 7. All veterans participating in the pilot program must be accounted for in the  
32 Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management, Bureau of Maine  
33 Veterans' Services and the Department of Health and Human Services data collections.

34 8. Upon conclusion of the pilot program, the commissioner, in consultation with the  
35 director, shall prepare a written report of the services provided and make  
36 recommendations to the joint standing committee of the Legislature having jurisdiction  
37 over veterans affairs if appropriate; and be it further

38 **Sec. B-2. Veterans Mental Health Case Management and Services Fund.**

39 **Resolved:** That the Veterans Mental Health Case Management and Services Fund,  
40 referred to in this section as "the fund," is established as a dedicated, nonlapsing Other  
41 Special Revenue Funds account in the Department of Health and Human Services. The  
42 fund is administered by the commissioner for the purposes of reimbursing hospitals for

1 the costs of screening and data collection conducted by hospitals under Part A, section 6  
 2 and to support a pilot program established pursuant to this Part; and be it further

3 **Sec. B-3. Transfer from General Fund unappropriated surplus;**  
 4 **Department of Health and Human Services, Veterans Mental Health Case**  
 5 **Management and Services Fund. Resolved:** That, notwithstanding any other  
 6 provision of law, the State Controller shall transfer \$875,000 from the General Fund  
 7 unappropriated surplus to the Veterans Mental Health Case Management and Services  
 8 Fund, Other Special Revenue Funds account established under section 2 within the  
 9 Department of Health and Human Services no later than June 30, 2017.'

10 Amend the amendment in Part C by striking out all of section 1 and inserting the  
 11 following:

12 **'Sec. C-1. Appropriations and allocations. Resolved:** That the following  
 13 appropriations and allocations are made.

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

16 **Veterans Services 0110**

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

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

23	<b>DEFENSE, VETERANS AND</b>			
24	<b>EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT,</b>			
25	<b>DEPARTMENT OF</b>			
26	<b>DEPARTMENT TOTALS</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>
27				
28	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>(\$375,000)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
29				
30	<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL</b>	<u><b>(\$375,000)</b></u>	<u><b>\$0</b></u>	<u><b>\$0</b></u>
31	<b>FUNDS</b>			

32 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF (FORMERLY BDS)**

33 **Mental Health Services - Community 0121**

34 Initiative: Deappropriates \$500,000 from the Mental Health Services - Community  
 35 account to transfer funds to the Veterans Mental Health Case Management and Services  
 36 Fund, Other Special Revenue Fund account.

1	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>
2	All Other	(\$500,000)	\$0	\$0
3				
4	<b>GENERAL FUND TOTAL</b>	<u>(\$500,000)</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>

5	<b>HEALTH AND HUMAN</b>			
6	<b>SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF</b>			
7	<b>(FORMERLY BDS)</b>			
8	<b>DEPARTMENT TOTALS</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>
9				
10	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	(\$500,000)	\$0	\$0
11				
12	<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL</b>	<u>(\$500,000)</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>
13	<b>FUNDS</b>			

14 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF (FORMERLY DHS)**

15 **Veterans Mental Health Case Management and Services Fund N269**

16 Initiative: Provides an allocation to reimburse hospitals for the costs of screening and data  
 17 collection and to support a pilot program providing mental health case management and  
 18 services to veterans.

19	<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>
20	<b>FUNDS</b>			
21	All Other	\$0	\$875,000	\$0
22				
23	<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$875,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>
24	<b>FUNDS TOTAL</b>			

25	<b>HEALTH AND HUMAN</b>			
26	<b>SERVICES, DEPARTMENT OF</b>			
27	<b>(FORMERLY DHS)</b>			
28	<b>DEPARTMENT TOTALS</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>
29				
30	<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE</b>	\$0	\$875,000	\$0
31	<b>FUNDS</b>			
32				
33	<b>DEPARTMENT TOTAL - ALL</b>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$875,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>
34	<b>FUNDS</b>			

	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2018-19</b>
<b>SECTION TOTALS</b>			
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>(\$875,000)</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>OTHER SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$875,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>SECTION TOTAL - ALL FUNDS</b>	<b>(\$875,000)</b>	<b>\$875,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>

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

**SUMMARY**

This amendment expands the provisions in Committee Amendment "A" that establish a pilot program to provide mental health case management services to veterans. It also establishes the Veterans Mental Health Case Management and Services Fund and changes the source of funding. The amendment also adds an emergency preamble and emergency clause and an appropriations and allocations section.

**FISCAL NOTE REQUIRED**

**(See attached)**

SPONSORED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

(Representative GOLDEN)

TOWN: Lewiston