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Legislative Document

No. 1062

H.P. 731

House of Representatives, March 24, 2015

An Act To Support Housing for Homeless Veterans

Reference to the Committee on Labor, Commerce, Research and Economic Development suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "R B. Hunt".

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative GOLDEN of Lewiston.
Cosponsored by Senator McCORMICK of Kennebec and
Representatives: BATES of Westbrook, BECK of Waterville, DOORE of Augusta, FECTEAU
of Biddeford, LUCHINI of Ellsworth, PARRY of Arundel, Senators: GERZOFSKY of
Cumberland, KATZ of Kennebec.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 30-A MRSA c. 201, sub-c. 3-C** is enacted to read:

3 **SUBCHAPTER 3-C**

4 **HOUSING FOR HOMELESS VETERANS**

5 **§4765. Homeless Veterans Housing Fund**

6 **1. Fund established.** The Homeless Veterans Housing Fund, referred to in this
7 section as "the fund," is established. The fund is administered by the Maine State
8 Housing Authority as an interest-bearing, nonlapsing fund. The fund may include
9 appropriations, allocations and credits for inclusion in the fund, grants and gifts from
10 outside sources and interest earned from investments from the fund. The purpose of the
11 fund is to provide housing for homeless veterans.

12 **2. Fiscal year 2015-16 credited funds from Treasurer of State.** The Maine State
13 Housing Authority shall disburse all funds received from outside sources for the fund and
14 \$1 of funds credited to the fund by the Treasurer of State in fiscal year 2015-16 for every
15 \$3 received from an outside source to a nonprofit volunteer organization planning to
16 construct housing for homeless veterans on the grounds of the United States Department
17 of Veterans Affairs medical center in the City of Augusta for the purpose of constructing
18 the housing. The nonprofit volunteer organization may request funds to be disbursed
19 from the fund for the construction of housing for homeless veterans under this subsection
20 on an as-needed basis. On June 30, 2017, the Maine State Housing Authority shall
21 transfer from the fund to the General Fund an amount equal to the amount credited to the
22 fund by the Treasurer of State in fiscal year 2015-16 that was not matched by funds
23 received from outside sources.

24 **Sec. 2. 36 MRSA §4641-B, sub-§4-B, ¶E,** as enacted by PL 2011, c. 453, §6, is
25 amended to read:

26 E. In fiscal year 2015-16 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Treasurer of State shall
27 credit the revenues derived from the tax imposed pursuant to section 4641-A,
28 subsection 1 in accordance with this paragraph.

29 (1) At the beginning of the fiscal year, the Maine State Housing Authority shall
30 certify to the Treasurer of State the amount that is necessary and sufficient to
31 meet the authority's obligations relating to bonds issued or planned to be issued
32 by the authority under Title 30-A, section 4864.

33 (2) On a monthly basis the Treasurer of State shall apply 50% of the revenues in
34 accordance with this subparagraph. The Treasurer of State shall first pay
35 revenues available under this subparagraph to the Maine State Housing
36 Authority, which shall deposit the funds in the Maine Energy, Housing and
37 Economic Recovery Fund established in Title 30-A, section 4863, until the
38 amount paid equals the amount certified by the Maine State Housing Authority
39 under subparagraph (1), after which, for fiscal year 2015-16, the Treasurer of

1 State shall credit \$1,000,000 to the Homeless Veterans Housing Fund under Title
2 30-A, section 4765 and credit any remaining revenues available under this
3 subparagraph to the General Fund and, for fiscal year 2016-17 and each fiscal
4 year thereafter, the Treasurer of State shall credit any remaining revenues
5 available under this subparagraph to the General Fund.

6 (3) On a monthly basis, the Treasurer of State shall credit 50% of the revenues to
7 the Maine State Housing Authority, which shall deposit the funds in the Housing
8 Opportunities for Maine Fund created in Title 30-A, section 4853.

9 **SUMMARY**

10 This bill establishes the Homeless Veterans Housing Fund within the Maine State
11 Housing Authority to provide housing for homeless veterans and, for fiscal year 2015-16,
12 directs the Treasurer of State to credit \$1,000,000 derived from the real estate transfer tax
13 to the Homeless Veterans Housing Fund to support, with a 3-to-1 match by outside
14 sources, the construction by the Volunteers of America of housing for homeless veterans
15 on the grounds of the United States Department of Veterans Affairs medical center in the
16 City of Augusta.