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**Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management
33 State House Station
Augusta, Maine 04333-0033**

**Testimony of Brigadier General Diane L. Dunn, Adjutant General &
Commissioner,
Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management**

**BEFORE THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS AND
FINANCIAL AFFAIRS WITH THE JOINT STANDING COMMITTEE ON VETERANS
AND LEGAL AFFAIRS**

**LD 2214, "An Act to Make Supplemental Appropriations and Allocations for the
Expenditures of State Government, General Fund and Other Funds and to Change
Certain Provisions of the Law Necessary to the Proper Operations of State
Government for the Fiscal Years Ending June 30, 2024 and June 30, 2025"**

February 23, 2024

Good afternoon, Senator Rotundo, Representative Sachs and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, also, Senator Hickman, Representative Supica and honorable members of the Joint Standing Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs. I am Diane Dunn, Commissioner for the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management. I am here today to testify in support of the supplemental budget bill, LD 2214.

The Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management (DVEM) coordinates and administers the discharge of Maine State Government's responsibility for all military, veterans and emergency management activities through the authorization, planning, provision of resources, administration, operation, and audit of each. In addition to our Federal mission, the National Guard is immediately available to respond to the Governor and citizens of Maine in times of crisis. The Maine Bureau of Veterans' Services provides extensive support services to Maine's 108,000 veterans and manages Maine's four Veterans' Memorial Cemeteries across the State. Although not included in my testimony today, the Maine Emergency Management Agency is charged with all disaster mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery and Homeland Security operations within the State of Maine.

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GENERAL FUND SUPPLEMENTAL PART A

I will address our budget initiatives in the order listed in the Public Hearing Testimony agenda. I will begin with DVEM initiatives on page A-30 of the proposed General Fund Part-A supplemental budget.

Administration 0109 (Pg. A-30)

The one initiative in Administration 0109 provides for one-time funding in the amount of \$460,000 in an Other Special Revenue Fund for the environmental closure activity at the former Maine Military Authority (MMA) site in Limestone, Maine. Please note this is a transfer from the General Fund unappropriated surplus as outlined in Part S, Section S-2 on page 41 of the General Fund Bill Language document. Based on our consultant's projection, the closure is estimated to be \$700,000. We are also asking for current year funds to be carried forward to FY 25. Please see Part R on page 40 of the General Fund Bill Language document. This additional funding coupled with current funding is necessary to complete the final phase to close our hazardous waste generator license in accordance with State of Maine DEP Hazardous Waste Rules adopted under 38 MRSA §§ 1301 and federal laws contained in 40 CFR.

This final phase of work is quite extensive. Due to MMA's sprawling operation, there are currently 10 facilities that require some form of closure activity. The scope includes removing waste residue from 3,380 linear feet of floor drains, pump out and clean 6 oil-water separators, clean and decontaminate 10 paint/blast booths and associated ducts/grit collection systems, and clean and decontaminate the building interior (184,000 sf floor space) of residual lead, cadmium, and chromium dust to include ceiling, wall, and floor surfaces. The interiors of these facilities are high-bay and include exposed structural and utility components. The amount of surface to be cleaned is staggering. Cleaning will be followed by testing the surfaces to ensure hazardous waste residue is removed to a very strict and stringent standard. Once cleaning standards are met, our consultant will certify such which will complete our closure activity.

Military Training and Operations 0108 (Pg. A-31)

The first initiative on page A-31 establishes a non-lapsing account and transfers \$180,000 from the Military Training and Operations General Fund to this account. Public Law 2023, Chap 474 provided one-time funding of \$180,000 in FY 25 to support placing

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a victim or responding party on paid leave pending completion of an investigation of sexual harassment or sexual assault. Transferring the \$180,000 appropriated funding to a non-lapsing account would ensure it remains available if and when it is needed.

The next three initiatives on page A-31 provide funding for the approved reclassification of 2 positions and approved reorganization of 1 position in the Military Bureau. In addition, initiative # 4 on this page proposes to transfer the position from the General Fund to the Federal Expenditures Fund within the same program.

The second and third initiatives will increase the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$21,215 in FY 24 and \$23,382 in FY 25. The fourth initiative will increase the General Fund by \$1,251 and the Federal Expenditures Fund by \$3,378 in FY 25.

These positions support activities under the Master Cooperative Agreement between the State of Maine and the National Guard Bureau. Initiatives # 2 & 3 on this page are to strengthen the Maine Army National Guard environmental program in management of PFAS, Climate Resilience, expansion of Military Training sites, Tribal coordination, and federal reporting requirements. Initiative # 4 is intended to expand the duties to cover much needed coordination and supervision of complex Military Bureau building sustainment and repair projects.

Veterans Services 0110 (Pg. A-32)

The initiative on this page is to adjust revenues contained in the December 2023 forecast of the Revenue Forecasting Committee. The Other Special Revenue Funds will increase \$11,907 in FY 24 and \$12,979 in FY 25.

GENERAL FUND SUPPLEMENTAL LANGUAGE

Next, I will address DVEM's initiatives in the General Fund Bill Language document. I will begin with Part R on page 40.

Part R

As previously mentioned, Part R, Section R-1 supports our effort to close our hazardous waste generator license for MMA activities at Limestone, Maine. This part carries forward our existing funding from FY 24 to FY 25.

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Part S

Part S on page 41 also supports our effort to close our hazardous waste generator license for MMA. Section S-1 transfers \$75,000 from the General Fund unappropriated surplus to the Maine Military Reserve Fund. This money is necessary to pay for Personal Services and All Other costs associated with the one employee working at Limestone until we receive the certificate of closure. This person oversees the current consultant contract as well as coordinates with the current facility owners relative to closure activities.

Section S-2 transfers \$460,000 from the General Fund unappropriated surplus to DVEM's Administration program to fund the actual closure activities which I previously spoke about relative to the General Fund Supplemental Part A initiative on page A-30. The provisions outlined in Parts R and S are necessary for us to comply with State of Maine DEP Hazardous Waste Rules adopted under 38 MRSA §§ 1301 and federal laws contained in 40 CFR for closure of the Maine Military Authority hazardous generator license.

This concludes my testimony. Thank you and I would be happy to address any questions you may have.