



126th MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 169

S.P. 58

In Senate, January 31, 2013

**An Act To Provide Revenue to Veterans' Organizations and the
Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System Care Fund from Table
Game Revenue**

(EMERGENCY)

Reference to the Committee on Veterans and Legal Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D M Grant'.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator PATRICK of Oxford.
Cosponsored by Representative LONGSTAFF of Waterville and
Senators: JACKSON of Aroostook, TUTTLE of York, Representatives: BEAULIEU of
Auburn, BRIGGS of Mexico, FOWLE of Vassalboro, KINNEY of Limington, SAUCIER of
Presque Isle, SCHNECK of Bangor.

1 **Emergency preamble.** Whereas, acts and resolves of the Legislature do not
2 become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

3 **Whereas,** veterans of this State are experiencing difficult times and services to
4 which they are entitled should be provided without delay; and

5 **Whereas,** enactment of legislation establishing the Coordinated Veterans Assistance
6 Grant Fund, which will aid veterans in need, must take place before July 1, 2013; and

7 **Whereas,** in the judgment of the Legislature, these facts create an emergency within
8 the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as
9 immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now,
10 therefore,

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

12 **Sec. 1. 8 MRSA §1036, sub-§2-C, ¶D,** as enacted by PL 2011, c. 417, §10, is
13 amended to read:

14 D. Two percent of net table game income must be deposited into ~~an account held by~~
15 ~~the board for distribution to charitable nonprofit organizations that were eligible to~~
16 ~~conduct beano games and games of chance in accordance with Title 17, chapters~~
17 ~~13-A and 62. The account is nonlapsing and no distributions may be made from the~~
18 ~~account before July 1, 2013~~ the Coordinated Veterans Assistance Grant Fund
19 established in Title 37-B, section 514.

20 **Sec. 2. 37-B MRSA §512, sub-§1,** as enacted by PL 2009, c. 471, §1, is amended
21 to read:

22 **1. Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System Care Fund establishment;**
23 **purpose.** The Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System Care Fund, known in this
24 section as "the fund," is established for the purpose of ensuring ongoing care and
25 maintenance of veterans' graves within the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery System
26 after plot interment allowances for burials within the system are no longer received from
27 the United States Department of Veterans Affairs. The fund is established from deposits
28 of 1/3 of the funds received from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs for
29 plot interment allowances and from annual deposits from the Coordinated Veterans
30 Assistance Grant Fund established by section 514. The fund may also accept private and
31 public donations. The fund is separate from other perpetual care or cemetery
32 maintenance funds that support veterans' cemeteries and were established prior to the
33 effective date of this section.

34 **Sec. 3. 37-B MRSA §514** is enacted to read:

35 **§514. Coordinated Veterans Assistance Grant Fund; establishment; purpose**

36 The Coordinated Veterans Assistance Grant Fund, referred to in this section as "the
37 fund," is established to provide grants to veterans' service organizations. The grants must
38 be used to provide a veterans' service officer at a veterans' hospital, to assist organizations

1 that provide transportation to veterans receiving medical services at a veterans' hospital
2 and to provide funding to organizations that assist veterans who are homeless. The fund
3 must also be used to make an annual deposit to the Maine Veterans' Memorial Cemetery
4 System Care Fund described in section 512. The deposit made to the Maine Veterans'
5 Memorial Cemetery System Care Fund from the fund may not exceed 25% of the annual
6 revenue received by the fund from table game wagers at a commercial track in
7 accordance with Title 8, section 1036, subsection 2-C, paragraph D. The bureau shall
8 adopt rules to implement the issuance of grants to veterans' service organizations for the
9 purposes described in this section. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine
10 technical rules as defined in Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

11 **Sec. 4. Gambling Control Board to transfer funds.** Within 30 days after the
12 effective date of this Act, all funds that are held by the Gambling Control Board within
13 the Department of Public Safety for distribution to charitable nonprofit organizations
14 pursuant to the Maine Revised Statutes, Title 8, section 1036, subsection 2-C, paragraph
15 D must be transferred to the Coordinated Veterans Assistance Grant Fund established in
16 Title 37-B, section 514.

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

19 **SUMMARY**

20 Current law requires 2% of the net table game income generated at a casino with a
21 commercial track to be held by the Department of Public Safety, Gambling Control Board
22 for distribution to charitable nonprofits eligible to conduct beano or games of chance.
23 This bill changes that distribution, instead directing the income to the Coordinated
24 Veterans Assistance Grant Fund, which is established in the bill to give grants to assist
25 veterans' service organizations and to make an annual deposit to the Maine Veterans'
26 Memorial Cemetery System Care Fund.