



130th MAINE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 379

S.P. 167

In Senate, February 10, 2021

An Act To Establish the Maine State Cemetery Commission

Received by the Secretary of the Senate on February 8, 2021. Referred to the Committee on State and Local Government pursuant to Joint Rule 308.2 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 MIRAMANT of Knox.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 5 MRSA §12004-I, sub-§2-H** is enacted to read:

3 **2-H.**

4 Cemeteries Maine State Cemetery Not authorized 13 MRSA §1374
5 Commission

6 **Sec. 2. 13 MRSA §1374** is enacted to read:

7 **§1374. Maine State Cemetery Commission**

8 The Maine State Cemetery Commission, referred to in this section as "the cemetery
9 commission," is established by Title 5, section 12004-I, subsection 2-H as provided in this
10 section.

11 **1. Permanent members.** The cemetery commission has the following 8 permanent
12 members:

13 A. Two members representing a statewide association dedicated to the preservation of
14 neglected cemeteries, appointed by its board of directors;

15 B. Two members representing a statewide association of cemetery directors and
16 supervisors, appointed by its board of directors;

17 C. One member representing a statewide association representing municipalities,
18 appointed by its board of directors;

19 D. One member representing a statewide association of town clerks, appointed by its
20 board of directors;

21 E. One member representing a statewide association of funeral directors, appointed by
22 its board of directors; and

23 F. The Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans' Services within the Department of
24 Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management.

25 **2. Optional members.** The permanent members of the cemetery commission may
26 invite, upon majority agreement, one member each from a state organization representing
27 female descendants of veterans of the American Revolution, a state organization
28 representing male descendants of veterans of the American Revolution and the American
29 Legion or similar military veterans' group.

30 **3. Duties.** The cemetery commission may:

31 A. Advise and educate municipalities and property owners about the existence of
32 burying grounds and cemeteries and the laws applicable to burying grounds and
33 cemeteries;

34 B. Advise and educate municipalities, property owners and owners of burying grounds
35 and cemeteries on the proper care and preservation of graves, gravestones, walls and
36 fences in and around burying grounds and cemeteries; and

37 C. Review statutes applicable to burying grounds and cemeteries and provide
38 information to the legislature on recommended changes.

SUMMARY

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This bill establishes the Maine State Cemetery Commission to facilitate the identification and preservation of burying grounds and cemeteries located throughout Maine.