



127th MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2015

Legislative Document

No. 694

H.P. 470

House of Representatives, March 3, 2015

An Act To Improve the Veterans' Services Laws

Submitted by the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management pursuant to Joint Rule 204.

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

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

ROBERT B. HUNT
Clerk

Presented by Representative LUCHINI of Ellsworth.
Cosponsored by Senator CYRWAY of Kennebec and
Representatives: DILLINGHAM of Oxford, HANINGTON of Lincoln, KINNEY of
Limington, LONGSTAFF of Waterville, MONAGHAN of Cape Elizabeth, SCHNECK of
Bangor.

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

2 **Sec. 1. 37-B MRSA §504, sub-§4, ¶H** is enacted to read:

3 H. A person is not eligible for interment under this chapter if the person has been
4 proven to have committed a serious crime, such as murder, a sexual offense or any
5 crime punishable by imprisonment for life. For the purposes of this section, "proven
6 to have committed a serious crime" means that the person was convicted by a court of
7 competent jurisdiction of a crime and received a sentence at least as severe as life
8 imprisonment or the person died in the act of committing a crime for which life
9 imprisonment was a possible sentence and the senior law enforcement official
10 investigating the crime certifies in writing that the person died in the act of
11 committing a serious crime for which life imprisonment was a possible sentence.

12 **Sec. 2. 37-B MRSA §509, sub-§2, ¶F**, as amended by PL 2005, c. 273, §3, is
13 further amended to read:

14 F. A civilian employee or military member of the department when in the conduct of
15 official duties; ~~or~~

16 **Sec. 3. 37-B MRSA §509, sub-§2, ¶G**, as enacted by PL 2005, c. 273, §4, is
17 amended to read:

18 G. The administrator of the Maine Veterans' Home when in the conduct of official
19 duties; or

20 **Sec. 4. 37-B MRSA §509, sub-§2, ¶H** is enacted to read:

21 H. An authorized representative of the Department of Labor when in the conduct of
22 official duties.

23 **SUMMARY**

24 This bill provides that a person is ineligible for interment in the Maine Veterans'
25 Memorial Cemetery System if that person has been proven to have committed a serious
26 crime, such as murder, a sexual offense or any crime punishable by imprisonment for life.
27 It also allows Department of Labor personnel to access veterans' military service records.