

Annual List of Rulemaking Activity
Rules Adopted January 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019
Prepared by the Secretary of State pursuant to 5 MRS §8053-A sub-§5

Agency name: Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management,
Military Bureau

Umbrella-Unit: **15-213**

Statutory authority: 37-B MRS §§ 352, 352-A, 353-B, 367

Chapter number/title: **Ch. 2 (New)**, Registration of Private Educational Institutions to Participate in the Maine National Guard Education Assistance Program

Filing number: **2019-075**

Effective date: 5/13/2019

Type of rule: Routine Technical

Emergency rule: No

Principal reason or purpose for rule:

This rule would establish the process to govern the approval by the Military Bureau of private, non-profit postsecondary education institutions to participate in the tuition benefit program for eligible members of the Maine National Guard as established and recently amended pursuant to Title 37-B M.R.S. §§ 352, 352-A, 353-B and 357. The program was previously only available at public state post-secondary institutions.

Basis statement:

This rule establishes the process to govern the registration by the Military Bureau of private, non-profit, post-secondary education institutions to participate in the tuition benefit program for eligible members of the Maine National Guard, as established and recently amended pursuant to Title 37-B M.R.S. §§ 352, 352-A, 353-B and 357. The program was previously available only for attendance at public post-secondary institutions in Maine.

The rule will enhance access for eligible members of the Maine National Guard to higher education as a benefit of their service. The rule will help ensure that students attending both public and private schools in Maine receive the same tuition benefits as intended by law. Clarification of the use of the Post 9/11 GI Bill is included in the rule to minimize the possibility of overpayment by either state or federal sources such as the Post 9/11 GI Bill.

Fiscal impact of rule:

The rule will have no financial impact on the Military Bureau of the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management. Funds for this program have been allocated through the regular budget and appropriation process of state government and pursuant to 37-B M.R.S. §353-A.

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Agency name: Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management,
Bureau of Maine's Veterans Services

Umbrella-Unit: **15-215**

Statutory authority: 37-B MRS §505

Chapter number/title: **Ch. 2 (New)**, Administration of the Veteran's Emergency
Financial Assistance Program

Filing number: **2019-165**

Effective date: 9/16/2019

Type of rule: Routine Technical

Emergency rule: No

Principal reason or purpose for rule:
(See Basis Statement)

Basis statement:

This rule establishes the process to govern the administration of the Veterans Emergency Financial Assistance Program pursuant to Title 37-B M.R.S. §505. The program will assist veterans in need and provide a resource that may have not otherwise been available. The fixed program cost set by the Legislature is currently \$250,000 per year. The Bureau or its contracted provider(s) may provide a grant of temporary assistance not to exceed \$2,000 annually to a veteran currently a resident of this State who has filed a valid claim for a veteran's pension, pending notification of the award of such a pension, as well as to veterans with emergency needs for assistance as defined in the statute. The rule will help ensure that the State of Maine is assisting the veterans in the appropriate manner and within the guidelines and intent of the law. Conditions which would make a Veteran eligible for a grant under this fund for emergency assistance would include but are not limited to:

- a. Damage to that veteran's place of primary residence due to any fire, flood, hurricane or other natural disaster, or technological or human caused incident that is not fully compensable by the veteran's insurance coverage;
- b. A sudden or sustained illness of the veteran or of the veteran's immediate family member that is causing financial hardship; or
- c. Any financial hardship that in the absence of assistance would result in the veteran becoming homeless.

The Director of the Bureau of Maine Veterans Services may also determine eligibility for temporary financial assistance on a case-by-case basis.

The rule also outlines the application procedure for the grant, reporting requirements and procedures to remedy any misuse of the funds.

Fiscal impact of rule:

The rule governs the disbursement of funds that have been allocated through the regular budget and appropriation process of the Maine Legislature and pursuant to 37-B MRS §505.