

Brooks woman sues trooper, claims excessive force used

BY JUDY HARRISON
BDN STAFF

BANGOR — A Brooks woman has sued a Maine state trooper in U.S. District Court, alleging he kicked in her door and used excessive force without probable cause to arrest her earlier this year.

Rebecca C. Abeyta, 37, is seeking unspecified compensatory and punitive damages and attorney's fees over an incident on May 16, when Trooper Thomas N. Bureau II arrested her after he responded to a noise complaint at her home.

Also named in the complaint were Col. Robert A. Williams, chief of the Maine State Police, and Bureau's supervisor, whose name was not known, alleging they did not properly supervise Bureau.

The lawsuit was filed Wednesday by Abeyta's attorney, Michael Waxman of Portland.

Timothy Feeley, spokesman for the Maine attorney general's office, which is tasked with defending troopers, declined to comment Wednesday on the lawsuit.

"We have only just received this [lawsuit] and have not reviewed the al-

legations," he said in an email.

Bureau responded about 12:55 a.m. May 16 to a noise complaint, the lawsuit said. When no one answered the trooper's knock on the front door, he shined his flashlight in a window on the left side of the house. Bureau identified himself as a state trooper when he heard movement inside the room.

Abeyta, who had turned down the music, stuck her head out the front door but refused to come out of her house or give the trooper her name and date of birth, the complaint alleged. After she told the trooper he would need to get a warrant to obtain the information, Abeyta tried to close the door.

"Bureau then 'kicked the door a total of three times, the door opened and [he] grabbed [Mrs. Abeyta] by her arm and told her she was under arrest,'" the complaint said. The trooper was able to pull her out of the house and onto the porch.

"Bureau then engaged in a physical struggle with Ms. Abeyta, in which she fell backwards onto the porch, got up on her hands and knees, and then she rolled down the front steps of the house after Bureau

pulled her right arm out from under her," the lawsuit alleged.

Abeyta was treated at Waldo County General Hospital in Belfast for a sprained shoulder and foot injury because of glass shards in her foot. She was charged with assault, refusing to submit to arrest, criminal mischief and disorderly conduct, the complaint said. The assault and criminal mischief charge were dismissed.

The lawsuit alleged Bureau deprived Abeyta of her constitutional rights to be secure in her home against unreasonable searches and seizures, bodily integrity, be free of the use of unreasonable force, substantive and procedural due process and be free from arrest except upon a finding of probable cause she had committed a crime.

The complaint also alleged Bureau "has been disciplined or should have been disciplined numerous times for violations of citizens' Fourth Amendment right of privacy, excessive use of force and/or inappropriate and unlawful or unconstitutional conduct."

The Maine attorney general's office has 21 days to answer the complaint.



MIDCOAST REGIONAL REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

A 2012 aerial photo of the former site of the Brunswick Naval Air Station.

Vetoed defense bill had provisions to help Maine

BY DARREN FISHELL
BDN STAFF

PORTLAND — Expansion of a federal business incentive program for former military bases and a spending plan for destroyers built at Bath Iron Works are on hold after President Barack Obama vetoed a massive \$612 billion military spending bill Thursday.

Obama issued the fifth veto of his presidency to reject the spending bill, called the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act.

Reuters reported Obama said he objected to the way the bill uses money meant for war spending to avoid automatic budget cuts to military programs. The president also objected to provisions that would limit his ability to close the military prison at Guantanamo Bay naval base in Cuba.

That veto holds up a provision long-sought by Maine's congressional delegation and the leader of the redevelopment effort at Brunswick Landing, the former Brunswick Naval Air Station.

The defense bill included an expansion of the business incentive program HUB-

Zone, or historically underutilized business zone. The law gives qualifying businesses a leg up in acquiring federal contracts.

To qualify, a business must have at least 35 percent of its employees living on the former military base. Steve Levesque, executive director of the Midcoast Regional Redevelopment Authority, has said in previous interviews that the current requirement makes it nearly impossible for a business on a former military base to qualify and "makes it kind of a hollow promise."

The provision in the bill vetoed Thursday would have allowed employees to live within a certain radius — for Brunswick Landing, about 10 miles — as defined by boundaries outlined by the U.S. Census Bureau.

U.S. Rep. Bruce Poliquin, who got a provision to expand the program into the House version of the bill, called the veto "unfortunate."

"By adjusting the HUB-Zone requirements, this amendment would have helped the former Brunswick Naval Air Station recruit businesses to come on to the base and qualify for

the HUBZone program," Poliquin said.

He said he would continue to push for expansion of the program, which was not a point of contention in the president's veto.

U.S. Sen. Angus King, who secured expansion of the program in the Senate version of the bill, said Thursday that he was disappointed by the veto. The bill also included increased funding for orders of Arleigh Burke-class destroyers, such as those built at Bath Iron Works, he said.

"I'm disappointed, but not disheartened, because I believe we can work together to resolve our disagreements, and I am determined to work with my colleagues and the administration to find a way for this bill to become law," King said in prepared statement.

Republican leaders in Congress vowed Thursday to override the president's veto, which would require a number of Democrats to switch their initial votes to reach the required two-thirds majority in both the House and Senate.

Reuters reported the House will get the first crack at an override on Nov. 5.

Bangor loses bid to host Can-Am Police, Fire Games

BY NICK MCCREA
BDN STAFF

BANGOR — Bangor lost out on its bid to host the 2020 Can-Am Police and Fire Games to a Missouri lake resort known for its tourism.

Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri, and the towns around it, will host the games, organizers announced Wednesday.

The Lake of the Ozarks group also won the right to host the 2018 games, making it the first location to ever host back-to-back games.

Bangor was named in September one of four finalists vying to host the games. Lubbock, Texas, and Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, were the other two.

The Can-Am games are held on even years, essentially serving as the Olympic Games for first responders from the United States and Canada.

Officials from the games spent four days touring the area and visiting potential sites last month.

Thunder Bay, Ontario, will host the games next summer from July 16 through 24.

18th ANNUAL FALL CAREER FAIR

2015
employME
Career Fair

Tuesday
October 27th, 2015
Cross Insurance Center
515 Main St. Bangor, ME
12:30pm-4:30pm



The First Hour from 12:30pm to 1:30pm dedicated to Veterans Only

CareerCenter
The Maine Employment Resource

BDN

TRI COUNTY
WORKFORCE
INVESTMENT BOARD

MAINE
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LABOR

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EASTERN MAINE
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CORPORATION

CROSS
INSURANCE
CENTER

The Maine Department of Labor provides Equal Opportunity in employment and programs. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Please contact our office 7 days prior to the event if requesting auxiliary aids or services. For assistance, call the Bangor CareerCenter at (207) 561-4050. TTY users dial Maine Relay 711