

# **MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE**

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**SEVENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE**

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**SENATE**

**NO. 72**

In Senate, February 12, 1919.

Reported by Mr. Parent from Committee on Legal Affairs  
and laid on table to be printed under joint rules.

P. F. CRANE, Secretary.

Introduced by Senator Gannett of Augusta.

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**STATE OF MAINE**

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND  
NINE HUNDRED AND NINETEEN

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AN ACT to amend sections 2, 3, 5 and 11 of chapter 222, Public  
Laws of 1917, entitled "An Act to Provide for Mothers with  
Dependent Children."

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

Section 1. Section 1 of chapter 222 of the Public Laws  
2 of 1917 is hereby amended by striking out the word "four-  
3 teen" and inserting in lieu thereof the word 'sixteen,' so  
4 that said section as amended shall read as follows:

'Section 1. Every city and town shall, subject to the pro-  
2 visions hereinafter contained, render suitable and needful  
3 aid to any mother residing therein with a dependent child  
4 or children under the age of sixteen years, who needs and

5 desires such aid to enable her to maintain herself and chil-  
6 dren in her home and who is fit and capable, mentally, mor-  
7 ally and physically to bring up her children.'

Sect. 2. Section 2 of chapter 222 is hereby amended by  
2 striking out in the first and second lines the words "whether  
3 or not they or any of them" and inserting in lieu thereof  
4 the word 'who,' and by inserting after the word "state" in  
5 the second line the word 'or,' so that said section as amended  
6 shall read as follows:

'Sect. 2. This act shall apply to all mothers and their de-  
2 pendent children who may have a settlement in this state,  
3 or who shall have resided in the state for not less than five  
4 consecutive years next prior to making application for aid.  
5 No mother, nor any of her children, shall acquire a settle-  
6 ment or be in process of acquiring a settlement while re-  
7 ceiving aid nor be deemed a pauper by reason of receiving  
8 such aid.'

Sect. 3. Section 3 of said chapter 222 is hereby amended  
2 by striking out the words "Such aid shall not exceed the  
3 value of ten dollars a month to a mother having but one  
4 child under the age of fourteen years, with a further allow-  
5 ance not exceeding four dollars a month in value for each  
6 additional child," so that said section as amended shall read  
7 as follows:

'Sect. 3. The aid to be furnished hereunder may be fur-  
2 nished either in money or supplies or both.'

Sect. 4. Section 5 of said chapter 222 is hereby amended

2 by striking out in the eighteenth line thereof the word "four-  
3 teen" and inserting in lieu thereof the word 'sixteen,' so that  
4 said section as amended shall read as follows:

'Sect. 5. Any mother entitled thereto needing and desir-  
2 ing aid herein provided for may apply therefor personally  
3 or by letter to said municipal board. The board shall there-  
4 upon cause the applicant to fill out and sign an application  
5 blank or shall fill out the same from information furnished  
6 by the applicant, who shall sign it, in which shall be stated:  
7 first, name of the applicant and that of her husband, the  
8 time and place of her marriage, and whether her husband is  
9 living or deceased; second, the names and ages of her chil-  
10 dren, whether those under compulsory school attendance are  
11 attending and what school, and if not, the reason of such  
12 non attendance; third, her present residence and address,  
13 the length of time she has been a resident of this state and  
14 where she has resided therein; fourth, the nature and amount  
15 of any property possessed by herself or her husband, if liv-  
16 ing, and her children, and the extent and source of their  
17 income and hers; fifth, the name and addresses of her near  
18 relatives and those of her husband, and of one or more per-  
19 sons to whom reference may be made for information; sixth,  
20 a statement that the applicant will agree to employ all aid  
21 received by her under this act solely for the support of her-  
22 self and her children under the age of sixteen years, and  
23 for their proper upbringing in her home. The board may,  
24 if it deems proper, require any such application and the

25 statements made therein to be substantiated by the oath or  
26 affirmation of the applicant.

Any person who shall knowingly, wilfully and with intent  
2 to deceive make any false statement in said application blank  
3 shall be punished by a fine of not more than five hundred  
4 dollars or by imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both.'

Sect. 5. Section 11 of said chapter 222 is hereby amended  
2 by striking out in the sixth, seventh and eighth lines there-  
3 of the words "but one-half of such reimbursement shall be  
4 made from the appropriation for state paupers," so that said  
5 section as amended shall read as follows:

'Sect. 11. Any city, town or plantation rendering aid un-  
2 der the provisions of this act, shall be reimbursed by the  
3 state for one-half of the amount expended after approval by  
4 the state board and state auditor of its bills. If the mother  
5 so aided has no settlement the city or town shall be reim-  
6 bursed for the total amount of the aid given after approval  
7 of the bill as aforesaid. If the mother so aided has a law-  
8 ful settlement in another city or town, the amount of such  
9 aid rendered may be recovered by the city or town giving  
10 it in an action against the city or town liable therefor, pro-  
11 vided the city or town so liable was notified in accordance  
12 with the requirements of section thirty-three of chapter  
13 twenty-nine of the Revised Statutes, or against the kindred  
14 of the mother and children so aided in the manner provided  
15 by section thirty-three.