

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 408

H. P. 931 House of Representatives, Feb. 6, 1931.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary and 500 copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Wright of Bath.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND THIRTY-ONE

AN ACT to Provide Provisions for Medical and Surgical
Treatment of Persons Whose Resources are Insufficient to
Pay for Same.

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

Section 1. Department of hospital aid created. A state department of hospital aid is hereby created to serve without compensation, and to consist of the commissioners of the department of public welfare ex-officio. The secretary of said department of public welfare shall be ex-officio secretary of the department of hospital aid, and serve without additional compensation as such.

Sect. 2. Rate of payment; persons eligible. This act shall provide for the necessary care and medical and surgical treatment, at a rate not to exceed \$3.50 per day per patient, in addition to any necessary emergency charges that may be approved by the hospital department, in or by public or private hospitals, of certain classes of persons whose resources, or the resources of whose responsible relatives as defined by section 18 of chapter 29 of the revised statutes, are insufficient to pay for same, except chronic cases, or persons who have resided in an almshouse previous to making the application. Bills itemizing the expense of care, medical, or surgical treatment under

the provisions of this chapter, when approved by the state department of hospital aid and audited by the state auditor, shall be paid by the treasurer of the state.

Sect. 3. Duties of state department. The state department of hospital aid shall have general supervision over the administration of the provisions of this act and shall prescribe necessary forms for application, reports and other proceedings required by this act. Said department shall keep a record of all cases reported to it and action taken by it in relation to the same. It shall embody a statement concerning the work done hereunder in the biennial report of the state department of public welfare.

Sect. 4. Towns to be assessed. The state department of hospital aid shall recover from the town in which the person so aided has legal settlement, one half the amount expended, which shall be credited to the regular legislative appropriation for hospital aid. Whenever it appears that the city or town is delinquent in making reimbursement to the state department, the amounts due shall be collected by the treasurer of the state in the same manner and subject to the same penalties as state taxes. Any balance due shall be assessed in the succeeding year in the same manner as other state taxes.

Sect. 5. Not to be deemed paupers. No pauper disabilities shall be created by reason of receiving the aid provided in this act.

Sect. 6. Money expended under this act shall be allocated to the several hospitals each year in accordance with the proportionate actual free work done the preceding year as appears from the records of the department of hospital aid.