

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

AS PASSED BY THE

Eighty-eighth and Eighty-ninth
Legislatures

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

From April 24, 1937 to April 21, 1939

AND

MISCELLANEOUS STATE PAPERS

Published by the Secretary of State, in conjunction
with the Revisor of Statutes in accordance with the
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PUBLIC LAWS

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

As Passed by the Eighty-ninth Legislature

1939

Chapter 257

AN ACT to Amend the Law Relative to Commitment of the Insane.

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

Sec. 1. P. L., 1933, c. 1, § 406, amended. Section 406 of chapter 1 of the public laws of 1933, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 406. Municipal officers may commit to the hospitals. Insane persons, over 12 years of age, not thus sent to any hospital, may be admitted to state institutions for the insane but shall be subject to examination as hereinafter provided. The municipal officers of towns shall constitute a board of examiners, and on complaint in writing of any blood relative, husband or wife of said alleged insane person, or of any justice of the peace, they shall immediately inquire into the condition of any person in said town alleged to be insane; shall appoint a time and place for a hearing by them of the allegations of said complaint, and shall cause to be given in hand to the person so alleged to be insane, at least 24 hours prior to the time of said hearing, a true copy of said complaint, together with a notice of the time and place of said hearing and that he has the right and will be given opportunity then and there to be heard in the matter; shall call before them all testimony necessary for a full understanding of the case; and if they think such person insane and that his comfort and safety or that of others interested, will thereby be promoted, they shall forthwith send him to one of the state insane hospitals or to an institution established and maintained within this state by the United States government for the care and treatment of persons who have been in the military or naval service of the United States and are suffering from mental disease with a certificate stating the fact of his insanity, and the town in which he resided or was found at the time of his examination, together with a statement of facts under oath satisfactory to the department in regard to the financial ability of such patient, or of any of his relatives legally liable to pay for his support, and directing the superintendent to receive and detain him until he is restored or discharged by law, or by the superintendent or department.'

Sec. 2. P. L., 1933, c. 1, § 412, amended. Section 412 of chapter 1 of the public laws of 1933 is hereby amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 412. Proceedings at hearing. The judge of probate before whom the hearing is held shall have authority to summon such witnesses as shall be necessary for the full understanding of the case; and if he shall decide that such person is insane, and that his comfort and safety, or that of others interested will thereby be promoted, he shall forthwith send him to

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one of the state insane hospitals or to an institution established and maintained within this state by the United States government for the care and treatment of persons who have been in the military or naval service of the United States and are suffering from mental disease, with a certificate stating the fact of his insanity and the town in which he resided or was found at the time of the examination, and directing the superintendent to receive and detain him until he is restored or discharged by law or by the superintendent or department. The register shall keep a record of the doings in each case and furnish a copy to any interested person requesting and paying for it. Excepting sections 405 and 406, all other sections of this chapter, relating to the commitment, expense of supporting and discharge of the insane, shall also apply to commitments under this section.'

Approved April 19, 1939.

Chapter 258

AN ACT Relating to the Registration and Licensing of Dogs and to the Duties of the Sheep Specialist.

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

R. S., c. 5, § 158, amended. The last paragraph of section 158 of chapter 5 of the revised statutes, as amended, is hereby further amended by striking out said paragraph and substituting in place thereof the following:

'All license blanks and metal tags shall be furnished by the commissioner of agriculture. The representative of the department of agriculture in charge of sheep husbandry shall be known as the sheep specialist, and shall devote his time to the carrying out of the provisions of the dog licensing laws and the adjustment of claims for damages to sheep by dogs and wild animals, and to the promotion of the sheep industry within the state. His salary shall be fixed by the governor, by and with the advice and consent of the council. The expense of furnishing the above-mentioned blanks and tags, and the necessary clerk hire and travel, and the salary of the sheep specialist shall be paid from the funds received from the licensing of dogs; provided, however, that not more than \$7000 per year shall be expended under the provisions of this section, and provided, further, that out of the money received for dog licenses as much as is necessary, up to \$7000, is hereby allocated for the purposes of this section.'

Approved April 19, 1939.