

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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See Misc. File - Van Buren



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
AUGUSTA

May 20, 1937

Mr. Carl A. Richards
Van Buren, Maine

Dear Mr. Richards:

Governor Barrows has handed to me your letter of May 5, and asked me to reply to it. Since, has given it to me I have had some conference with the State officials who know most about the situation in your town, and who have been active in the framing of the Municipal Emergency Finance Act recently passed by the Legislature.

This law did not carry any emergency clause and does not become effective until July 24 of this year and, of course, no steps can be taken under it until that time.

None of the officials charged with the enforcement of this Act have any desire to operate under it in any town unless it is necessary, and if they do decide to so operate in any town it will be with the idea of endeavoring to assist the town in working out its difficulties.

In regard to the situation in your town, it was generally understood while the Legislature was in session and the passage of the Act was being considered, that Van Buren was one of the towns that needed some such assistance. It was also understood that there were certain people in Van Buren who felt that the people of Van Buren would welcome the type of help that could be given under that Act. If you have a movement started that can solve the financial problems of your town, I am sure that the Board, when constituted, would not take any steps under the Act to interfere with your proposed method of settlement; and I believe that you would find that the Board would cooperate in every possible way to help you if you need any assistance.

I think it would be very helpful if, sometime in the near future, you and some of the other influential people interested with you in this movement would come to Augusta and discuss the entire situation with Mr. Holley, the State Tax Assessor, and Mr. Hayford, the State Auditor. They are two gentlemen who know most about the situation and who will be the two officials having most to do with the operation of the Emergency Finance Law when it becomes effective.

Very truly yours,

Frans U. Burkett
Attorney General

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