

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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October 15, 1943

To William D. Hayes, State Auditor  
Re: Sale of Real Estate by Public Administrators

In cases where public administrators settle estates of deceased persons having owned real estate within the State of Maine, it would be well to have the legislature permit the State, that is, some official of the State, to sell this real estate after two or three years. Otherwise, the State must hold this real estate for a period of twenty years, during which time, in the event there are no heirs appearing, the property contributes nothing toward municipal expenditures, and in all probability it would seriously deteriorate.

What do you think about this?

Incidentally, under Chapter 85, section 1, paragraph 9 provides that public administrators, after three years from the granting of administration, may sell any or all of the real estate, when it appears that no heir or other person interested can be found in the United States. I have talked with one or two public administrators, however, and they state that it would be altogether too hazardous for them to allege any such thing, in every case. It would seem that the administrator would have to make this declaration in order to get a proper license and to convey a proper title.

John G. Marshall  
Deputy Attorney General

JGM:c

NOTE: See October 28, 1943, for a continuation of this subject.