

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# ONE HUNDRED AND THIRD LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 621**

H. P. 446

House of Representatives, February 7, 1967

Referred to Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mrs. White of Guilford.

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## STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SIXTY-SEVEN

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### **AN ACT Relating to Compensation of Patients and Inmates at State Institutions.**

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

**R. S., T. 34, § 1, amended.** The 2nd paragraph of section 1 of Title 34 of the Revised Statutes is amended by inserting after the 6th sentence, the following:

**He may establish within the institutions under the department a system whereby patients and inmates may be compensated for work performed during hospitalization or confinement. Such payment of compensation shall not give rise to any contractual or employer-employee relationship between the department and the patients or inmates. In paying such compensation the department shall not be subject to Title 5, Part 2, or Title 39.**

### STATEMENT OF FACTS

A substantial number of patients carry important work responsibilities in the institutions of the department. Additionally, there is a need to establish a program of rewarding work effort as a means of rehabilitation.

In order to realize both objectives this statutory change is proposed. The statute would provide funds to the commissioner which he would then distribute to the institutions developing a suitable compensation program for working patients or inmates. This would be limited to provide not more than \$2.50 weekly and will probably provide less pay than this in most institutions. Such compensation to patients or inmates would provide them a means of purchasing per-

sonal necessities now provided by General Fund appropriation and would also offer the opportunity of accruing funds in anticipation of ultimate discharge with a delay in compensation from employment.

Two institutions have already developed very limited compensation programs which have been of substantial value. These programs are not funded from institutional appropriation.

This statutory revision would remove this type of employment from the Personnel System and would not give rise to such problems as Workmen's Compensation, etc.