

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FOURTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 555

H. P. 431

House of Representatives, February 4, 1969

Referred to Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Sent up for concurrence and 1,000 ordered printed.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Soulas of Bangor.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-NINE

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

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, as amended by section 9 of chapter 490 of the public laws of 1967, is further amended by adding after the 6th sentence, 3 new sentences, as follows:

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 and inmates 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. Such compensation to patients or inmates would provide them a means of purchasing personal 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.