

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 1391

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H. P. 1012

House of Representatives, March 9, 1971

Referred to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

BERTHA W. JOHNSON, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Wight of Presque Isle.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-ONE

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AN ACT Relating to Funeral Expenses of Recipients of Public Assistance.

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

**Sec. 1. R. S., T. 22, § 3409, amended.** Section 3409 of Title 22 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

**§ 3409. Funeral expenses**

On the death of an active recipient of aid to the aged, blind or disabled, reasonable funeral expenses ~~not exceeding \$150~~, in an amount to be determined by the commissioner, but not less than \$150, shall be paid by the State if the estate of the deceased is insufficient to pay the same.

**Sec. 2. Appropriation.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Welfare the sum of \$60,000 to carry out the purposes of this Act. The breakdown shall be as follows:

	1971-72	1972-73
HEALTH AND WELFARE, DEPARTMENT OF		
All Other	\$30,000	\$30,000

STATEMENT OF FACT

The present statute permits no negotiation between the Commissioner of Health and Welfare and the funeral directors of this State in regard to the amount reimbursed for the funeral expenses of an active recipient of aid to the aged, blind or disabled.

The present amount of \$150 has not been adjusted since the middle of the 1950's.

This bill would permit the commissioner to negotiate with the funeral directors of this State at any time when the costs of burials indicated a need for negotiation of the amount the department pays for funeral expenses of the above recipients.