

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 381

H. P. 275

House of Representatives, January 24, 1973

Referred to the Committee on Judiciary. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

E. LOUISE LINCOLN, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Smith of Dover-Foxcroft .

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-THREE

AN ACT Revising the Pauper Laws.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 22, §§ 4497 - 4500, additional. Title 22 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding 4 new sections, 4497 to 4500, to read as follows :

§ 4497. Municipalities shall relieve persons present therein, when on account of poverty, they need relief

Overseers of poor or some person or persons designated by them to act in their behalf shall have the care of all persons dependent upon the municipality for their support present in their municipality and shall cause them to be relieved at the expense of the municipality. Overseers of the poor and other officers having charge of the administration of welfare funds, shall keep full and accurate records of the names of indigent persons so relieved or supported, together with the amounts paid by them for such support and relief, and shall make annual returns of the number of such persons supported and relieved, with the costs, to the Department of Health and Welfare.

§ 4498. — unincorporated places

Persons present in unincorporated places or deorganized townships and needing relief are under the care of the overseers of the oldest incorporated adjoining municipality or the nearest incorporated municipality where there is none adjoining, who shall furnish relief to such persons as if they were present in such municipalities.

§ 4499. Costs; limit

When a municipality incurs net costs for furnishing such general relief in any municipal fiscal year in excess of 1% of all moneys raised by it for all purposes by taxation, the Department of Health and Welfare shall reimburse the municipality for the amount in excess of such expenditures which it considers to be reasonable and appropriate. The overseers of the poor and the treasurer of the municipality shall make and deliver to the Department of Health and Welfare a monthly return under oath on forms provided by the department stating the amount of moneys raised for all purposes of taxation and the amount of net costs for furnishing general relief beginning at the end of the month in which the municipality's general relief expenditures exceed 1% of all moneys raised by it for all purposes by taxation. For the purposes of this section, moneys raised for all purposes by taxation shall include all moneys raised for the operation of the town or school district whether or not such moneys are raised for the operation of such town or school district as separate entities.

§ 4500. Recovery of expense

A municipality or the State which has incurred expense for the support of an indigent person may recover the full amount expended for such support either from the person so relieved or from any person liable for his support, their executors or administrators, in a civil action.

Sec. 2. R. S., T. 22, §§ 4451-4460, 4462, 4464, 4468-4473, 4475-4482, 4484-4487, 4490, 4493-4495, repealed. Sections 4451 to 4460, 4462, 4464, 4468 to 4473, 4475 to 4482, 4484 to 4487, 4490 and 4493 to 4495, as amended, are repealed.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this bill is reflected in the title.