

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 745

H. P. 602

House of Representatives, February 21, 1975

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

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Silverman of Calais.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

AN ACT to Clarify the General Assistance Laws.

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

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA § 4497, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 470, § 1, is amended to read:

§ 4497. Municipal relief of the poor

Overseers of the poor of a municipality or some person or persons designated by them to act in their behalf shall have the care of all eligible persons who are residents of that municipality ~~dependent upon the municipality for their support present in their municipality~~ and shall cause them to be relieved at the expense of the municipality **except as provided in section 4499.** Overseers of a municipality shall also have the care of eligible persons who are not residents of the municipality and cause them to be relieved at the expense of the municipality. The municipality shall be reimbursed by the State through the Department of Health and Welfare for net expenses incurred for the assistance of nonresidents. For the purpose of this section, a "resident" of a municipality is a person who has lived in the municipality for a period of 30 consecutive days immediately prior to the date of the person's application for assistance; the date of the person's admission as a patient in a hospital; or the date of the person's death. 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.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA § 4505, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 788, § 94, is amended by adding at the end a new sentence to read:

All proceedings relating to the grant, denial, reduction, suspension or termination of relief provided under this chapter are not public proceedings under Title 1, chapter 13, unless otherwise requested by the applicant or recipient.

Sec. 3. 22 MRSA § 4508 is enacted to read:

§ 4508. Confidentiality of information

Records, papers, files and communications relating to an applicant or recipient made or received by persons charged with responsibility of administering the provisions of this chapter are confidential and no information relating to a person who is an applicant or recipient may be disclosed to the general public, unless expressly permitted by that person.

STATEMENT OF FACT

The purpose of this Act is to fix financial responsibility for assisting indigent persons with the State. It is proposed that welfare costs of transients for up to 30 days be borne by the State.

It is also the purpose of this Act to assure the confidentiality of proceedings and records, unless otherwise permitted by the applicant or recipient.