

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
107TH LEGISLATURE

(Filing No. H-776)

HOUSE AMENDMENT "A " to COMMITTEE AMENDMENT "A" to
H.P. 699, L.D. 875, Bill, "AN ACT to Require Notification of
Assistance to Indigent Persons."

Amend said Amendment by striking out everything after the
Title and inserting in place thereof the following:

'Amend said Bill by striking out everything after the
enacting clause and inserting in place thereof the following:

Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4483 is repealed and the following
enacted in place thereof:

§4483. Reimbursement to individuals relieving indigents; prior
approval; emergencies

Municipalities, as provided in section 4497, shall pay expenses
necessarily incurred for services provided to indigent persons
anywhere in the State by any person not liable for their support,
provided the municipality so liable shall be notified and shall
approve such expenses and services prior to their delivery,
except as provided in this section. In the event of an emergency
admission of an indigent person to a hospital, notification shall
be made within 3 business days to the liable municipality.
Notification of such emergency admission shall mean the receipt
by municipal overseers of the poor of either a direct notice
by telephone confirmed by a ^{certified} letter deposited in the United States
mail or a written notice. In the event of the death of an
indigent person, written notification must be made prior to burial to the
liable municipality.

Sec. 2. 22 MRSA §4497, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 470,
§1, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

§4497. Municipal relief of the poor; resident defined

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 the municipality and shall cause them to be relieved at the expense of that municipality, except as provided in section 4499. For the purposes of this section, a "resident" is defined as a person who has lived in a municipality for a period of at least 30 consecutive days immediately prior to the date of the person's application for assistance, the date of the person's receipt of out-patient treatment at or admission to a hospital or the date of the person's death.

of the poor

Overseers of a municipality shall also have the care of eligible persons who are not residents of the municipality or of any other municipality and shall cause them to be relieved at the expense of that 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.

Sec. 3. 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. 4. 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 ~~to~~ 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 primary purpose of this amendment is to combine the language
of L.D. 745 with that of the Committee Amendment to L.D. 875.
This amendment merely makes slight organizational and grammatical
changes to section 2 of the Committee Amendment with the exception

that it increases the number of non-resident indigent persons for whom a municipality is responsible from just out-of-state transients to all transients. Additionally, the amendment adds (two) new sections 3 and 4 consisting of the language in L.D 745, which assures the confidentiality of proceedings and records, unless otherwise permitted by applicants or recipients of general assistance.

Further, this amendment makes slight alterations in section 1 of the Committee Amendment. Section 1 requires that before any person who is not liable for the support of the poor and who incurs expenses for services to the poor is reimbursed, such person must notify and secure approval of the liable municipality before incurring such expenses. However, in emergency cases notification may occur after delivery of emergency services. This amendment adds a definition of "notification" in the case of emergency admissions to hospitals.

Filed by Mr. Dam of Skowhegan.

Reproduced and distributed under the direction of the Clerk of the House.
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