

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
107TH LEGISLATURE

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

Indigent Persons."

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'Sec. 1. 22 MRSA §4483 is repealed and the following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

1. Municipal liability. 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
herein.

2. Emergencies and death. In the event of an emergency
admission of an indigent person to a hospital, written
notification must be made within 3 business days to the liable
municipality.

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is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof: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

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 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 any municipality of the State,
and shall cause them to be relieved at the expense of the
municipality in which they are located. 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.'

Statement of Fact

The purpose of this amendment is to fix financial responsibility for indigent persons with their municipality of residence and to thus relieve municipalities that have special service facilities, such as hospitals, from an undue burden. The costs for transients, those who have not resided in a municipality for 30 days, are to be borne by the municipality in which they are located. This amendment also requires notification and approval by the liable municipality prior to rendering services; except in emergency cases where notification may occur after delivery of emergency services.

Reported by the Committee on Local and County Government.

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