

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Document

No. 875

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H. P. 699

House of Representatives, February 28, 1975

Referred to Committee on Local and County Government. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

EDWIN H. PERT, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Sprowl of Hope.

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STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
SEVENTY-FIVE

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AN ACT to Require Notification of Assistance to Indigent Persons.

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

22 MRSA § 4483 is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof:

§ 4483. Notification of services

Neither the State nor the municipality shall be liable for costs of services provided to indigent persons if such services are not approved by the municipality prior to delivery.

In the event of an emergency admittance of an indigent person to a hospital, written notification must be made within 3 business days to the municipality in which the person resides or if the person has no residence as defined in section 4497, to the municipality in which the hospital is located.

In the event of the death of an indigent person, notification must be made prior to burial to the municipality in which the person resided at the time of death, or if the person had no residence as defined in section 4497, to the municipality in which the person died.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Hospital and burial services have been provided to indigents prior to municipal authorization of such services. This has resulted in denials of payment by municipalities for services which may have been legitimate if they had been authorized by the municipality. For the purpose of preserving account-

ability, it is necessary to state the sole responsibility of the municipality to authorize municipal expenditures for the relief of indigent persons. Further, municipalities need to know as soon as possible of the admission of a person who may be dependent upon the municipality for support. By this process, early notice could be given to hospitals, if an admitted patient is not eligible for public assistance.