

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1293

S. P. 395

In Senate, March 25, 1975

Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Cyr of Aroostook.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-FIVE

**AN ACT to Provide for Reimbursement of General Assistance Costs for
Nonresidents of Municipalities.**

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Sec. 1. 22 MRSA § 4497, as enacted by PL 1973, c. 470, § 1, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof: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 the poor of a municipality shall also have the care of eligible persons present in the municipality who are not residents of the municipality and shall 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 100% for expenses incurred for the assistance of nonresidents. For the purposes of this section, a "resident" of a municipality is a person who has lived in the municipality for a period of 60 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 officials 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 § 4499, as last amended by PL 1973, c. 681, § 7, is further amended to read:

§ 4499. Costs; limit

When a municipality incurs net costs for furnishing such general relief for residents of the municipality, as defined in section 4497, in any fiscal year in excess of .0006 of that municipality's state valuation as determined by the State ~~Tax Assessor~~ Director of Property Taxation in the statement filed by him as provided in Title 36, section 381, the Department of Health and Welfare shall reimburse the municipality for 90% of the amount in excess of such expenditures which the department considers to be reasonable and appropriate. For the purposes of this section, the municipal officers shall submit to the Department of Health and Welfare a monthly return on forms provided by the department stating 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 the ceiling formula stated in this section.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This bill will ensure that any municipality will receive 100% of state reimbursement for general assistance payments to nonresidents. "Resident" is defined as a person who has lived in the municipality for a period of 60 consecutive days prior to the date of the person's application for assistance, the date of the person's admission as a patient to a hospital or the date of the person's death.