

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIRST SPECIAL SESSION

ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 2068

S. P. 653

In Senate, January 23, 1976

Referred to Committee on Judiciary. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARRY N. STARBRANCH, Secretary

Presented by Senator Conley of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SEVENTY-SIX

AN ACT to Define Resident of a Municipality for the Purposes of
Hospitalization or Burial.

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

22 MRSA § 4497, as last amended by PL 1975, c. 293, § 4, is repealed and the following enacted in place thereof: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 present in the municipality without regard to their residence, except as provided herein, 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, with respect to assistance provided in the form of admission to a hospital or burial, and for no other purpose, 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 admission to a hospital or the date of the person's death.

Whenever a person is admitted to a hospital or buried at the expense of the overseers of the poor of a municipality and that person is not a resident, as defined in the above paragraph, of that municipality, the overseers of the municipality in Maine where the person resided, as defined in the above paragraph, prior to admission to a hospital or burial, shall bear the expense of that admission to a hospital or burial. If that person had no Maine residence immediately prior to admission to a hospital or burial, then the municipality where the admission to a hospital or burial took place shall bear the expense.

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 Human Services.

STATEMENT OF FACT

This Act redefines residence for the purposes of hospitalization or burial so as to avoid possible problems of impairment of the right to travel. There is no cost to the State.