

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sixty-Ninth Legislature.

SENATE.

No. 123

STATE OF MAINE.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT
HUNDRED AND NINETY-NINE.

AN ACT to amend Section twenty-nine of Chapter twenty-four of the Revised Statutes, as amended by Chapter thirty-one of the Public Laws of 1887, and as further amended by Chapter three hundred and three of the Public Laws of 1897, relating to the Support of Paupers in Unincorporated Places.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows:

Section 1. Section twenty-nine of chapter twenty-four of
2 the Revised Statutes, as amended by chapter thirty-one of the
3 Public Laws of 1887, and as further amended by chapter three
4 hundred and three of the Public Laws of 1897, is hereby further
5 amended so as to read as follows: 'Sect. 29. Persons found in
6 places not incorporated and needing relief shall be under the
7 care of the county commissioners of the county in which they
8 are found, who shall furnish relief at the expense of the county,
9 as overseers of towns furnish relief to such persons in their
10 towns, to be provided by said commissioners themselves or

11 through their agents, and they shall have the same control over
12 the said paupers and the right to remove, or set to work or to
13 bind to service as are given to the overseers of the poor of towns
14 relating to paupers residing in their several towns, by the pro-
15 visions of section twenty-one and twenty-eight of chapter
16 twenty-four of the Revised Statutes, and the provisions thereof
17 shall apply to such paupers and the care and control of the same
18 by the county commissioners so far as applicable when relief
19 is so provided; but the county so furnishing it shall have the
20 same remedy against towns and their settlements as towns
21 have by virtue of section thirty-five of this chapter; and when
22 such paupers have no legal settlement in the State the State
23 shall reimburse such county for the relief so furnished to such
24 amount as the governor and council adjudge to have been
25 necessarily expended therefor.'

Sect. 2. Section thirty of chapter twenty-four of the
2 Revised Statutes, as amended by chapter thirty-one of the
3 Public Laws of 1887, is hereby further amended so as to read
4 as follows:

'Sect. 30. When persons residing in unincorporated places
6 and having no settlement in the State remove from such place
7 to any town, and their need relief, the same shall be fur-
8 nished to them by the county commissioners and reimbursed
9 by the State in the same manner as provided in section
10 twenty-nine of this chapter.'

Sect. 3. Chapter three hundred and seventy-four of the
2 Public Laws of 1885, is hereby further amended so as to read
3 as follows:

'Whenever a person having a pauper settlement in a town
5 loses such settlement by virtue of the provisions of section
6 three of chapter twenty-four of the Revised Statutes, relief
7 shall be furnished and the same reimbursed by the State as
8 provided in section one of this act, in case of paupers having

9 no legal settlement in the State, and not having lived five years
10 in the town furnishing such relief.'

Sect. 4. The overseers of the poor in towns and cities, and
2 the assessors of plantations shall act as the agents of the
3 county commissioners in the performance of their duties
4 under section twenty-nine of chapter twenty-four of the
5 Revised Statutes, and where there are no such officers or
6 should any of them refuse to act, said commissioners may
7 appoint special agents to aid them and notice of such paupers
8 being in distress may be given to such agents and they shall
9 provide relief in accordance with the general law of the State,
10 relating to paupers so far as applicable; but due care shall
11 be taken that the expenses so incurred shall be reasonable and
12 proper. The commissioners shall, so far as practicable, in
13 order to save expense, delegate their powers to such agents,
14 whose reasonable expenses shall be included in the amount
15 to be repaid by the State. In case the said agents furnish
16 supplies to persons so applying, they shall immediately notify
17 the county commissioners of such fact and said commissioners
18 shall allow no expenses incurred for the relief of such paupers,
19 for more than two weeks prior to their receiving notice that
20 any such person has fallen in distress.

Sect. 5. In case any question arise as to whether the per-
2 son seeking relief from such commissioners is a State pauper
3 or not, said commissioners may, as soon as that fact shall have
4 come to their knowledge, communicate all the facts relating
5 to the matter, so far as they may be able to obtain them, to
6 the attorney general who shall make such investigation as he
7 deems necessary and shall then advise said commissioners
8 relative to the same. If expenses are incurred, by his direc-
9 tion, the same shall be reimbursed by the State. In all such
10 cases the State shall repay to the county such sums as may
11 have been paid in good faith pending investigation and are
12 not otherwise recovered.

Sect. 6. Section thirty-one of chapter twenty-four of the
2 Revised Statutes, is hereby repealed.

Sect. 7. This act shall take effect June first, eighteen hun-
2 dred and ninety-nine.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, March 10, 1899.

Reported by Mr. WEEKS from Committee on Legal Affairs, and
laid on table to be printed under joint rules.

KENDALL M. DUNBAR, *Secretary*.