

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# SEVENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

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SENATE.

No. 115

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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

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AN ACT additional to Chapter one hundred and forty-four  
of the Revised Statutes, providing for the recovery of money  
improperly paid by the State for the support of insane paupers.

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

Section 1. The trustees of the hospitals for the insane  
2 within two days after receiving a certificate under the pro-  
3 visions of section eighteen of chapter one hundred and  
4 forty-four of the Revised Statutes to the effect that any  
5 insane person committed to either of said hospitals is un-  
6 able to pay for his support or has no relatives liable and  
7 of sufficient ability to pay therefor, shall notify the State  
8 Board of such facts and also state whether such person is  
9 known to have any legal settlement in the State, and it

10 shall thereupon be the duty of the Board, through its au-  
11 thorized agents, to investigate the ability of such person,  
12 so committed and certified, to pay for his support and to  
13 ascertain whether or not he has relatives liable and of suffi-  
14 cient ability to pay for the same and in the case of persons  
15 reported as having no known place of legal settlement in  
16 the State, to investigate and determine the legal settlement  
17 of such person if any, and if any person, so committed and  
18 certified, shall be found able to pay for his support or to  
19 have relatives liable and of sufficient ability to pay therefor,  
20 the Board shall collect from said person or such relatives  
21 all sums theretofore charged to the State and paid by it  
22 for the support of said person under the provisions of  
23 section eighteen and no sums shall thereafter be charged to  
24 the State for the board of such person under the provisions  
25 of said section, unless it be afterwards proved to the satis-  
26 faction of the Board that such person is no longer able to  
27 pay for his support and no longer has relatives liable and  
28 of sufficient ability to pay therefor; and the Board shall  
29 notify the town from which said person was committed and  
30 which was made chargeable and paid for his commitment  
31 in the first instance, of the facts so ascertained; and if the  
32 Board shall ascertain that any person reported as having no  
33 known legal settlement in the State, has such legal settle-  
34 ment, the Board shall be entitled to collect from the town  
35 of such settlement any sums previously repaid by the State  
36 under the provisions of section twenty-four of said chapter

37 one hundred and forty-four, to the town made chargeable  
38 in the first instance, and shall notify the town so made  
39 chargeable in the first instance and the town of such legal  
40 settlement of the facts so ascertained; and said Board may  
41 enforce the collection of any of said sums which it is en-  
42 titled to collect under the provisions of this section by an  
43 action of debt in the name of the State against the party,  
44 city or town liable therefor. All moneys collected under  
45 the provisions of this section shall be forthwith turned over  
46 to the State Treasurer, who shall receipt for the same and  
47 the expenses of the collection thereof, including the reason-  
48 able compensation, to be fixed by the Board, of any agents  
49 employed by the Board for the purpose shall be charged  
50 against and paid out of the sums so collected and turned  
51 over, and all bills for such expenses shall be audited by  
52 the State Auditor and paid out of the State Treasury upon  
53 the certificate of the State Auditor issued therefor as pro-  
54 vided by law.

STATE OF MAINE.

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IN SENATE,

February 3, 1909.

Reported by Mr. BAXTER from Committee on Judiciary  
and laid on table to be printed under joint rules.

F. G. FARRINGTON, *Secretary*.