

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NO. 1

In Senate, Jan. 14, 1915.

Ordered, that five hundred copies be printed and that the same be referred to the Committee on Pensions.

Committee of Reference.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT For the Relief of the Blind Residents of Maine.

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

Section 1. It shall be lawful for the Governor and Council to appropriate such sum or sums of money from any of the general or incidental funds of the State towards the support of any blind person or persons who may come under the provisions of this act.

Sect. 2. All persons over the age of 21 years, who are declared to be blind, in the manner hereinafter set forth and who come within the provisions of this act, shall at the discretion of the Governor and Council, receive as a benefit two hundred (\$200) per annum, payable quarterly, upon warrants properly drawn upon the State Treasurer.

Sect. 3. No person or persons who are charges of any
2 charitable institution of this state or any county or city
3 thereof, or persons having an income of more than three
4 hundred dollars (\$300) per annum, or persons who have
5 not resided within the State of Maine continuously for ten
6 (10) consecutive years, and in their respective counties for
7 one (1) year immediately before applying for said benefit,
8 shall be entitled to benefits under the provisions of this act.

Sect. 4. Persons claiming the benefits provided herein
2 may go before the town or city clerk of the town or city
3 where they reside, and if in a plantation, then before the
4 clerk of the next adjoining town, and make affidavit to the
5 facts which bring within the provisions of this act, and said
6 affidavit shall be deemed an application for said benefit;
7 and said town or city clerk shall transmit the same, together
8 with the affidavit of two citizens, residents of the same
9 county, as to the places, and time of residence of said ap-
10 plicant, to the Board of County Commissioners in that
11 county.

Sect. 5. It is hereby made the duty of the Board of Coun-
2 ty Commissioners in each county in this state to appoint a
3 regular practicing physician, whose official title shall be
4 examiner of the blind, who shall have an office in some
5 convenient place during the first week of each year for the
6 examining of applicants for said benefit, and forward to
7 said examiner all applications received from the town and
8 city clerks of his county.

Sect. 6. It is hereby made the duty of the examiner of
2 the blind, during the first week of each year, to examine
3 all applicants for said benefits, referred to him by the Board
4 of County Commissioners, and to indorse on the application
5 a certificate showing whether or not the applicant is blind.
6 Said examiner shall keep a register in which he shall enter
7 the facts contained in each certificate. He shall be paid
8 from the county treasury the sum of two dollars (\$2) for
9 each examination and shall forthwith return said applica-
10 tion with his certificate thereon to the County Commis-
11 sioners.

Sect. 7. The County Commissioners shall register the
2 name, address and number of each applicant and date of
3 examination of such applicants entitled to benefits, and each
4 year, on or before the 15th day of January, they shall cer-
5 tify to the Governor and Council the name and residence of
6 each applicant entitled as aforesaid.

Sect. 8. It is hereby made the duty of the Governor and
2 Council to provide from funds aforesaid in any of the ap-
3 propriations for annual use, for the payment to persons en-
4 titled under the provisions of this act, who have complied
5 with all the conditions of this act, and to cause warrants of
6 fifty dollars (\$50) each to be drawn on the State Treasurer,
7 and properly endorsed, payable to each of said blind per-
8 sons or legal representatives, quarterly in each year there-
9 after, during the life of said persons, while they are resi-

10 dents of the county named in application, or until said dis-
11 ability is removed.

Sect. 9. Any person who shall make a false affidavit in or-
2 der to secure the benefit herein provided, shall, upon convic-
3 tion, be deemed guilty of perjury and shall be subject to
4 the penalty provided by law therefor.