

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

SEVENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NO. 61

In Senate, Feb. 10, 1915.

*Reported by Sen. Leary from Committee on Pensions, and
ordered printed under joint rules.*

W. E. LAWRY, Secretary.

Presented by Mr. Flaherty of Cumberland.

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
2 to appropriate such sum or sums of money from any of the
3 general or incidental funds of the state towards the support
4 of any needy blind person or persons who may come under
5 the provisions of this act.

Sect. 2. All persons over the age of twenty-one years,
2 who are declared to be blind, in the manner hereinafter set
3 forth and who come within the provisions of this act, shall
4 at the discretion of the governor and council, receive as a
5 benefit two hundred (\$200) per annum, payable quarterly,
6 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 able to earn the same,
5 or persons who have not resided within the state of Maine
6 continuously for ten (10) consecutive years, and in their
7 respective counties for one (1) year immediately before
8 applying for said benefit, shall be entitled to benefits under
9 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 him within the provisions of this act, and
6 said 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 coun-
9 ty, as to the places, and time of residence of said applicants,
10 to the municipal officers of cities and selectmen of towns
11 and plantations in the city or town in which said blind per-
12 son is a resident, and if a resident of a plantation, then to
13 the selectmen of the next adjoining town.

Sect. 5. It is hereby made the duty of the municipal offi-
2 cers of cities and the selectmen of towns in each city and
3 town of this state to appoint a regular practicing physician
4 whose official title shall be examiner of the blind, who shall
5 have an office in some convenient place during the first week
6 of June and December of each year for the examining of

7 applicants for said benefit, and forward to said examiner
8 all applications received from the clerks of cities, towns and
9 plantations.

Sect. 6. It is hereby made the duty of the examiner of the
2 blind, during the first week of June and December of each
3 year, to examine all applicants for said benefit referred to
4 him by the municipal officers and selectmen and to endorse
5 on the application a certificate showing whether or not the
6 applicant is blind and needy. Said examiner shall keep a
7 register in which he shall enter all the facts contained in
8 each certificate. He shall be paid from the county treasury
9 the sum of two dollars (\$2.00) for each examination and
10 shall forthwith return said application with his certificate
11 thereon to the board of municipal officers and selectmen
12 from which they came.

Sect. 7. The municipal officers of cities and selectmen of
2 towns shall register the name, address and number of each
3 applicant and date of examination of such applicants entitled
4 to benefits, and each year, on or before the twentieth day
5 of June and December they shall certify to the governor
6 and council the name and residence of each applicant en-
7 titled 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 appro-
3 priations for annual use, for the payment to persons entitled
4 under the provisions of this act, who have complied with
5 all the conditions of this act, and to cause warrants of fifty

6 dollars (\$50.00) each to be drawn on the state treasurer,
7 and properly endorsed, payable to each of said blind persons
8 or legal representatives, quarterly in each year thereafter,
9 during the life of said persons, while they are residents of
10 this state, or until said disability is removed.

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

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