

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 127

House of Representatives, Feb. 6, 1917.

Referred to Committee on Legal Affairs and five hundred copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.

W. R. ROIX, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Bussabarger of Lubec.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to amend Section Three of Chapter Eighteen of the Revised Statutes of Nineteen Hundred and Sixteen, relating to Board of Distribution being notified of dead human bodies.

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

Section Three of Chapter Eighteen of the Revised Statutes of Nineteen Hundred and Sixteen, is hereby amended by inserting after the word "traveler" in the twentieth line thereof, the following words: 'or an unfortunate deserving at least Christian burial at the hands of Maine citizens' so that said section shall read as follows:

“All public officers, agents and servants of any and every
2 county, city, town, or other municipality, and of any and
3 every almshouse, prison, morgue, hospital, or any other public
4 institution having charge or control over dead human
5 bodies required to be buried at public expense, are hereby
6 required to notify immediately the said board of distribu-
7 tion, or such person or persons as may from time to time
8 be designated by said board, or its duly authorized officer
9 or agent, whenever any such body or bodies come into his
10 or their possession, charge or control, and shall, without
11 fee or reward, deliver such body or bodies to said board,
12 or its duly authorized officer or agent, and permit and suffer
13 the said board or its agents, or the physicians and surgeons
14 from time to time designated by it or them, who comply
15 with the provisions of this Chapter to take and remove any
16 and all such bodies to be used within the State for the ad-
17 vancement of medical education; but no such notice need
18 be given and no such body shall be delivered, if any person,
19 satisfying the authorities in charge of said body, that he or
20 she is a member of the family or next of kin to the deceased,
21 shall claim the body for burial, but it shall be surrendered
22 to him or her for interment, and no notice shall be given and
23 no body delivered to said board or its agents, if such de-
24 ceased person was a traveler, or an unfortunate, deserving
25 at least Christian burial at the hands of Maine citizens, and
26 not a vagabond, who died suddenly, in which case the said
27 body shall be buried, provided, however, that the superin-

28 tendent and medical staff of the Augusta State Hospital,
29 and the superintendent and medical staff of the Bangor
30 State Hospital, having charge or control over dead human
31 bodies required to be buried at public expense, when no
32 person satisfies the superintendent of either insane hospital
33 and the hospital trustees that he or she is a member of the
3b4 family of, or some family connection or next of kin to
37 the deceased, and wishes to claim the body for burial, may
38 for the advancement of science hold an autopsy and
39 examine the body of such person, notwithstanding any pro-
40 visions of this chapter.'