

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NO. 286

In Senate, March 6, 1917.

Referred to Committee on Pensions and one thousand copies ordered printed. Sent down for concurrence.

W. E. LAWRY, Secretary.

Presented by Mr. Holt of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to amend certain sections of Chapter 148, Revised
Statutes, relating to pensions for the blind.

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

Section 1. Section 11 of Chapter 148, Revised Statutes, is
2 hereby amended to read as follows:

'Sect. 11. The pensions for the blind which are authorized
2 under the provisions of the last ten sections of this chapter
3 shall be paid quarterly to the persons entitled thereto by the
4 treasurers of the several cities, towns and plantations liable
5 for the support of said persons under the provisions of

6 Chapter 29, Revised Statutes, and said cities and towns shall
7 be entitled to reimbursement from the state for one-half, or
8 whenever said persons have no right of support from any
9 city, town or plantation within the state then the full amount
10 so paid, in the manner hereinafter provided.'

Sect. 2. Section 12 of said Chapter 148 is hereby amended
2 to read as follows:

'Sect. 12. All needy persons over the age of twenty-one
2 years who are declared to be blind in the manner hereinafter
3 set forth and who come within the provisions of the follow-
4 ing sections shall receive, to be used for their exclusive
5 benefit, and support, an annual pension of such amount, not
6 exceeding two hundred dollars a year, as the Governor and
7 Council in their discretion upon recommendation of a ma-
8 jority of the municipal officers of the city or town liable for
9 the support of said persons, may deem necessary. In those
10 cases where no city, town or plantation is so liable the said
11 recommendation shall be made by the municipal officers of
12 the city, town or plantation where the applicant resides.'

Sect. 3. Section 13 of said Chapter 148 is hereby amended
2 to read as follows:

'Sect. 13. No person or persons who are charges of any
2 charitable or penal institution of this state or of any charit-
3 able or penal institution of any county, city or town thereof;
4 no person or persons who are able to earn or obtain an in-
5 come sufficient for their support, and no person who has not
6 resided within the state of Maine continuously for ten con-

7 secutive years immediately before applying for said pension
8 shall be entitled to benefits under the provisions of the fol-
9 lowing sections; provided, however, that this section shall
10 not be so construed as to exclude persons receiving pauper
11 supplies or persons who may wish to leave any charitable in-
12 stitution in order to avail themselves of the provisions of this
13 chapter.'

Sect. 4. Section 14 of said Chapter 148 is hereby amended
2 to read as follows:

'Sect. 14. Any person claiming the benefits provided here-
2 in may go before the city, town or plantation clerk where he
3 resides and make affidavit to the facts which bring him with-
4 in the provisions of Sections 11 to 19, both inclusive, of this
5 chapter; said affidavit shall be deemed an application for said
6 benefit; the clerk shall transmit the same, together with the
7 affidavit of two witnesses having knowledge of the facts as to
8 the places and periods of residence of said applicant, to the
9 municipal officers of the city, town or plantation in which
10 said blind person resides.'

Sect. 5. Section 15 of said Chapter 148 is hereby amended
2 to read as follows:

'Sect. 15. The municipal officers of cities, towns and plan-
2 tations shall appoint a regular practicing physician whose
3 official title shall be examiner of the blind, and said municipal
4 officers shall promptly forward to said examiner all applica-
5 tions received from the clerk of the city, town or plantation
6 where the applicant resides.'

Sect. 6. Section 16 of said Chapter 148 is hereby amended
2 to read as follows :

‘Sect. 16. The examiner of the blind shall with reasonable
2 promptness examine all applicants for said benefits referred
3 to him by the municipal officers, and shall indorse on the ap-
4 plications certificates showing whether or not the applicant is
5 blind, the word ‘blind’ within the meaning of this act being
6 construed as having less than one-tenth vision. He shall keep
7 a register in which he shall enter all the facts contained in
8 each certificate and shall forthwith return said application
9 with his certificate thereon to the municipal officers from
10 whom they were received. He shall be paid from the
11 municipal treasury two dollars for each examination.’

Sect. 7. Section 17 of said Chapter 148 is hereby amended
2 to read as follows :

‘Sect. 17. The municipal officers shall register the name,
2 address, number, and the date of examination of each appli-
3 cant, shall promptly make or cause to be made careful inves-
4 tigation by personally interviewing the applicant in his home,
5 looking up his references, and pursuing such other sources of
6 information as are available for the purpose of determining,
7 first, the truth of the statements contained in the application ;
8 second, whether under all the circumstances, considering his
9 own resources, and the ability of any member of his family
10 to contribute to his support, the possibility of receiving aid
11 from other relatives, the possibility of compelling contribu-
12 tions from any person under obligation to do so, under the

13 provisions of Chapter 29, Revised Statutes, and the possi-
14 bility of the applicant receiving such education or instruction
15 as will enable him to become at least partially self support-
16 ing, the applicant is in need of a pension under the pro-
17 visions of this act, and if so, to what amount, and shall for-
18 ward the same to the Governor and Council with their rec-
19 ommendations endorsed thereon. When another city, town
20 or plantation than that in which the applicant resides is liable
21 for his support, the application shall be forwarded to the
22 Governor and Council through the municipal officers of the
23 city, town or plantation so liable, who shall endorse thereon
24 their approval, or their disapproval with the reasons there-
25 for, of the action of the municipal officers of the town where
26 the applicant resides.'

Sect. 8. Section 18 of said Chapter 148 is hereby amended
2 to read as follows:

'Sect. 18. The Governor and Council shall prescribe such
2 blank forms, and make such rules and regulations, not incon-
3 sistent with law, as they deem proper for carrying out the
4 provisions of this act, shall review the evidence submitted to
5 them under the provisions of the preceding sections, and
6 shall determine what applicants are entitled to pension, and
7 the amount thereof; they shall notify the municipal officers
8 of the city, town or plantation liable for the payment of the
9 pension of their decision and the amount to which the pen-
10 sioner is entitled, and the pension shall begin on the first day
11 of the month next succeeding the date on which the decision

12 was made; they shall so far as funds are made available
13 therefor by the Legislature cause warrants to be drawn upon
14 treasurer of state for the payment to cities, towns and
15 plantations of the amount due them for pensions paid under
16 the provisions of this Chapter, after properly itemized bills
17 therefor shall have been audited by the State Auditor in the
18 manner prescribed by law.'

Sect. 9. An additional section is hereby added to said
2 Chapter 148 to be numbered 20, and to read as follows:

'Sect. 20. Cities, towns and plantations may raise money
2 for the carrying out of the provisions of this act, or may
3 defray the expenses thereof from any money raised for the
4 support of the poor, but no person shall be deemed a pauper
5 by reason of receiving the benefits of this act, and no person
6 shall acquire a settlement or be in process of acquiring set-
7 tlement while receiving the benefit of the provisions of the
8 last ten sections of this chapter.'