

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

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SEVENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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SENATE

NO. 437

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*In Senate, April 5, 1917.*

*Reported by Senator Walker from Committee on Pensions  
and ordered printed under joint rules.*

*W. E. LAWRY, Secretary.*

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STATE OF MAINE

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

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

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

Section 1. Section 12 of Chapter 148, Revised Statutes, is  
2 hereby amended to read as follows:

'Sect. 12. 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 the following  
4 sections shall, at the discretion of the Governor and Council,  
5 receive as a benefit not exceeding two hundred dollars a

6 year, for their exclusive benefit and support, payable at the  
7 close of each regular quarter, upon warrants drawn on the  
8 treasurer of state.'

Sect. 2. Section 13 of said Chapter 148 is hereby  
2 amended 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 charita-  
3 ble 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 benefit  
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  
13 this chapter.'

Sect. 3. Section 14 of said Chapter 148 is hereby  
2 amended 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  
4 within the provisions of sections 11 to 19, both inclusive, of  
5 said Chapter; said affidavit shall be deemed an application  
6 for said benefit; the clerk shall transmit the same, together  
7 with the affidavit of two witnesses having knowledge of the

8 facts as to the places and periods of residence of said ap-  
9 plicant, to the municipal officers of the city, town, or planta-  
10 tion in which said blind person resides.'

'Sect. 4. Section 15 of said Chapter 148 is hereby  
2 amended to read as follows:

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

Sect. 5. Section 16 of said Chapter 148 is hereby  
2 amended 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 endorse on the  
4 applications certificates showing whether or not the applicant  
5 is blind, the word "blind" within the meaning of this act  
6 being construed as having less than one-tenth vision. He  
7 shall also state, as fully as his knowledge will permit, the  
8 cause of the blindness, or partial blindness, of the applicant,  
9 and the percentage of vision, if any, actually retained. He  
10 shall keep a register in which he shall enter all the facts con-  
11 tained in each certificate and shall forthwith return said ap-  
12 plication with his certificate thereon to the municipal officers  
13 from whom it was received. He shall be paid from the mu-  
14 nicipal treasury two dollars for each examination.'

Sect. 6. Section 17 of said Chapter 148 is hereby  
2 amended 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 in-  
4 vestigation by personally interviewing the applicant in his  
5 home, looking up his references, and pursuing such other  
6 sources of information as are available for the purpose of  
7 determining the truth of the statements contained in the  
8 application; and whether, under all the circumstances, con-  
9 sidering his own resources, and the ability of any member  
10 of his family to contribute to his support, the possibility of  
11 receiving aid from other relatives, the possibility of com-  
12 pelling contributions from any person under obligation to  
13 do so, under the provisions of Chapter 29, Revised Statutes,  
14 and the possibility of the applicant receiving such education  
15 or instruction as will enable him to become at least partially  
16 self-supporting, the applicant is in need of a benefit under  
17 the provisions of this act, and if so, to what amount, and  
18 shall forward the application to the Governor and Council  
19 with their recommendations endorsed thereon.’

Sect. 7. Section 18 of said Chapter 148 is hereby  
2 amended to read as follows:

‘Sect. 18. The Governor and Council shall prescribe such  
2 blank forms, and make such rules and regulations, not in-  
3 consistent with law, as they deem proper for carrying out  
4 the provisions of this act, shall review the evidence submitted

5 to them under the provisions of the preceding sections, and  
6 shall determine what applicants are entitled to benefits, and  
7 the amount thereof, and the benefit shall begin on the first  
8 day of the month next succeeding the date on which the de-  
9 cision was made; they may at any time require a re-exami-  
10 nation of any applicant or applicants; they shall cause war-  
11 rants to be drawn upon the treasurer of state, payable to  
12 said blind persons or their legal representatives at the close  
13 of each regular quarter thereafter, during the life of said  
14 persons while they are residents of this state or until said  
15 disability is removed.'