

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NO. 130

In Senate, February 27, 1919.

Referred to Committee on Insane Hospital and 500 ordered printed. Sent down for concurrence.

P. F. CRANE, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Gordon of York.

STATE OF MAINE

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

OBSERVATION AND CARE ACT

AN ACT Additional to Chapter One Hundred Forty-five of the Revised Statutes, Relating to the Observation and Care of Persons to the State Hospitals.

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

R. S., c. 145. **Observation and Care of Insane Persons**

If a person is found by two physicians qualified as examiners in insanity, to be in such mental condition that his commitment to an institution for the insane is necessary for his proper care or observation, he may be committed by any judge or any other officer authorized to commit insane persons to either of the state hospitals for the insane, under such limita-

tions as the judge may direct, pending a determination of his insanity.

VOLUNTARY COMMITMENT ACT

AN ACT Additional to Chapter One Hundred Forty-five of the Revised Statutes, Relating to Voluntary Commitment of Persons to State Hospitals.

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

R. S., c. 145. **Voluntary Commitment of Insane Persons.**

The superintendent in charge of either of the state hospitals to which an insane person may be committed, may receive and detain therein, as a boarder and patient, any person who is desirous of submitting himself to treatment and who makes written application therefor, and whose mental condition in the opinion of the superintendent or physician in charge is such as to render him competent to make the application.

Such superintendent shall give immediate notice of the reception of such voluntary patient to the board of state hospital trustees.

Such patient shall not be detained for more than ten days after having given notice in writing of his intention or desire of leaving the institution.

The charges for support of such a voluntary patient shall be governed by the laws or rules applicable to the support of an insane person in such institution.

TEMPORARY CARE ACT

AN ACT Additional to Chapter One Hundred Forty-five of the Revised Statutes, Relating to Temporary Care of Persons to the State Hospitals.

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

R. S., c. 145. **Temporary Care of Insane Persons.**

The superintendent of either of the state hospitals to which an insane person may be legally committed, may, when requested by a physician, a member of the board of health, a health officer, a police officer of a city or town, receive and care for as a patient in such institution for a period not exceeding fifteen days, any person who needs care and treatment because of his mental condition.

Such request for admission of a patient shall be in writing and filed at the institution at the time of the reception of the patient, together with a statement in a form prescribed or approved by the Board of State Hospital Trustees, together with a statement giving such information as said board may deem appropriate.

Such a patient who is deemed by the superintendent not suitable for such care, shall upon the request of the superintendent be removed forthwith from the institution by the person requesting his reception, and if he is not so removed, such person shall be liable for all reasonable expenses incurred under the provisions of this act, on account of the patient, which may be recovered by the institution in an action of contract.

Such superintendent shall cause every patient to be duly committed according to law, provided he shall not sign a request to remain as a voluntary patient or to be removed therefrom before the expiration of such period of fifteen days.

All reasonable expenses incurred for the examination of the patient, for his transportation to the institution and for his support therein, shall be allowed, certified and paid according to the laws providing for similar expenses in the commitment and support of the insane.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

AN ACT Additional to Chapter One Hundred Forty-five of the Revised Statutes, Relating to Community Service of the State Hospitals.

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

R. S., c. 145. **Community Service**

Every state institution, to which an insane, feeble-minded or epileptic person may be committed, shall appoint a physician experienced in the care and treatment of such persons, also the necessary assistants to such physician and shall organize and administer under his direction a department for community service in the district served by the institution. The duties of said department shall be:

First: The supervision of patients who have left the institution with a view to their safe care at home, suitable employment and self support under good working and living conditions, and prevention of their relapse and return to public dependency.

Second: Provision for informing and advising any indigent person, his relatives or friends and the representatives of any charitable agency as to the mental condition of any indigent person, as to the prevention and treatment of such condition, as to the available institutions or other means of caring for the person so afflicted, and as to any other matter relating to the welfare of such person.

Third: Whenever it is deemed advisable the superintendent of the institution may cooperate with other state departments such as Health, Education, Charities, Penal, Probation, etc., to examine upon request and recommend suitable treatment and supervision for

A. Persons thought to be afflicted with mental or nervous disorder.

B. School children who are nervous, psychopathic, retarded, defective or incorrigible.

C. Children referred to the Department of Juvenile Courts.

Fourth: The acquisition and dissemination of knowledge of mental disease, feeble-mindedness, epilepsy and allied conditions, with a view to promoting a better understanding and the most enlightened public sentiment and policy in such matters. In this work the department may cooperate with local authorities, schools and social agencies.

The necessary expenses of said department shall be paid from the general maintenance of the institution, subject to the approval of the Board of State Hospital Trustees.