

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTIETH LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NO. 103

In Senate, March 7, 1921.

Referred to Committee on Judiciary and 300 copies ordered printed. Sent down for concurrence.

L. ERNEST THORNTON, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Baxter of Sagadahoc.

STATE OF MAINE

**IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND
NINE HUNDRED AND TWENTY-ONE**

AN ACT to Amend Section Fifty-three of Chapter Sixty-four of the Revised Statutes as Amended by Section Five of Chapter Two Hundred and Ninety-seven of the Public Laws of Nineteen Hundred and Seventeen and as Further Amended by Section One of Chapter One Hundred and Seventy-one of the Public Laws of Nineteen Hundred and Nineteen, Relating to the Protection of Children.

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

Section fifty-three of chapter sixty-four of the revised
2 statutes as amended by section five of chapter two hundred
3 and ninety-seven of the public laws of nineteen hundred
4 and seventeen and as further amended by section one of

5 chapter one hundred and seventy-one of the public laws of
6 nineteen hundred and nineteen, is hereby amended by in-
7 serting after the word "care" and before the word "shall"
8 in the thirty-fourth line of said section, the following:
9 'and the expense of the support of any child heretofore
10 committed into the custody of any institution or agent in
11 accordance with the provisions of section fifty-three of chap-
12 ter sixty-four of the revised statutes as amended by section
13 five of chapter two hundred and ninety-seven of the public
14 laws of nineteen hundred and seventeen', so that said sec-
15 tion as amended shall read as follows:

'Sect. 53. Warrants to be issued on complaint of cases
2 of neglect to children; child may be given into custody of
3 individual or child welfare institution; court may direct
4 municipal board to care for child pending hearing. When
5 complaint in writing signed by any agent of the state board,
6 sheriff, deputy sheriff, county probation officer or associate
7 probation officer, police officer, constable, member or agent
8 of a municipal board, or any officer or agent of any society
9 for the protection of children or prevention of cruelty to
10 children or by three or more citizens of any town or city
11 is made under oath to the probate court of the county or
12 the municipal or police court having jurisdiction in the said
13 city or town, alleging that such child in such city or town
14 is cruelly treated or wilfully neglected by its parents or
15 parent or by the wilful failure of such parent or parents,
16 is not provided with suitable food, clothing or privileges

17 of education, or is kept at or allowed to frequent any dis-
18 orderly house, house of ill fame, gambling place, or other
19 place where intoxicating liquors or sold or other places
20 injurious to the health and morals, or that such child is
21 an orphan without means of support or kindred of suffi-
22 cient ability who will furnish such support, and praying
23 that suitable and proper provision be made for the care,
24 custody, support and education of the child named in such
25 complaint, the court to whom such complaint is made shall
26 issue a warrant causing the parents or other persons hav-
27 ing custody or control of such child, if any, and the child
28 if necessary to be brought before it, or shall cause notice
29 to be given to said parents or said other persons in such
30 manner or in such length of time as the court deems proper.
31 The court shall cause notice in writing to be given to the
32 municipal board of the town where the child is residing at
33 least ten days before the date set for the hearing, provided,
34 however, that the municipal board may waive such notice.
35 If upon hearing it shall appear that any material allegations
36 of said complaint are true, the court may order said child
37 into the custody of any suitable person or any duly incor-
38 porated children's institution or child welfare organization
39 consenting to receive same, whose standards of care and
40 maintenance are approved by the state board or into the
41 custody of the state board itself. The court shall cause a
42 copy of the order of commitment and of any subsequent
43 modifications thereof to be sent forthwith to the state board.

44 The court may direct the municipal board where the child
45 is residing to make such provision for its care as may be
46 necessary pending hearing and the expense, if any, of such
47 care, and the expense of the support of any child hereto-
48 fore committed into the custody of any institution or agent
49 in accordance with the provisions of section fifty-three of
50 chapter sixty-four of the revised statutes as amended by
51 section five of chapter two hundred and ninety-seven of the
52 public laws of nineteen hundred and seventeen, shall be paid
53 in the same manner as provided in section fifty-five of this
54 act for the care of children committed to children's institu-
55 tions or child welfare organizations or the state board.'