

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT

EIGHTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

S. P. 629

S. D. 293

In Senate, April 1, 1925.

Reported by Mr. Smith from Committee on Labor and laid on table to be printed under joint rules.

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT Providing for the Benefit and Assistance for Aged Persons Under Certain Conditions in the State of Maine and Prescribing Penalties for Violation of the Provisions Hereof and Making an Appropriation for Carrying Out of Its Purposes.

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

Section 1. The governor and council shall order paid, out of any funds appropriated for that purpose, such sums of money, toward the support of aged persons, who shall come under the provisions of the following sections, as may be required to carry out the provisions of this act.

Sect. 2. All persons over sixty-five years of age and who

2 come within the provisions of the following sections shall,
3 at the discretion of the governor and council, receive as a
4 benefit and assistance, a sum of money not to exceed three
5 hundred dollars a year, payable monthly, upon warrants
6 drawn on the treasurer of state.

Sect. 3. No person who has not been a citizen of the
2 United States for at least fifteen years and a resident of
3 the state of Maine and of the town where application is
4 made, continuously for five years immediately prior to the
5 filing of an application for assistance, or is at the date of
6 making application an inmate of any prison, jail, work-
7 shop, infirmary, insane asylum or other public reform or
8 correctional institution, or has deprived himself directly
9 or indirectly of any property or income for the purpose
10 of qualifying for old age relief, or has any child, relative
11 or other person responsible for his support under the laws
12 of the state of Maine, shall be entitled to the benefits of
13 this act.

Sect. 4. Any person claiming the benefits as provided
2 herein may go before the city, town or plantation clerk
3 where he resides and make affidavit to the facts which bring
4 him within the provisions of this act, said affidavit shall be
5 deemed an application for said benefit; the clerk shall trans-
6 mit the same, together with affidavit of two witnesses, resi-
7 dents of the same county, as to the truth of the facts al-
8 leged to the overseers of the poor, who shall promptly
9 forward it to the governor and council with their recom-

10 mendations. Should the application be denied the appli-
11 cant may demand a prompt hearing before the governor
12 and council to present evidence in support of his claim.

Sect. 5. The benefit shall commence on the date named
2 in the application and shall continue at the discretion of
3 the governor and council, who may make investigations of
4 conditions of the recipient when advisable and either in-
5 crease, diminish or suspend assistance as the investigation
6 warrants, but assistance shall cease when the applicant shall
7 move from the state of Maine.

Sect. 6. If at any time during the continuance of old age
2 assistance the recipient or the husband or wife of the re-
3 cipient becomes possessed of any property or income to
4 support said recipient, the governor and council may cancel
5 or vary the amount to be paid and it shall be the duty of
6 the recipient to immediately notify the governor and council
7 of the receipt or possession of such property or income.

Sect. 7. On the death of the recipient the installment
2 then accruing and such other reasonable funeral expenses
3 as are necessary for the burial of such person shall be paid
4 to such person as the governor and council direct, provided
5 that these expenses do not exceed one hundred dollars and
6 provided that the estate of the deceased is insufficient to
7 defray these expenses.

Sect. 8. During the continuance of the assistance no re-
2 cipient shall receive any other relief from the state or any
3 subdivision thereof except for medical or surgical assist-
4 ance.

Sect. 9. Municipalities shall be liable to the state of
2 Maine for one-half the amount expended in behalf of re-
3 cipients resident in said municipality at the time of the
4 application.

Sect. 10. Whoever makes a false affidavit in order to
2 secure or assist in securing the benefit herein provided for
3 shall upon conviction be deemed guilty of perjury and shall
4 be subject to the penalty provided by law therefor.

Sect. 11. There is hereby appropriated from the state
2 treasury the sum of twenty thousand dollars; five thousand
3 dollars for the year nineteen hundred twenty-three and
4 fifteen thousand dollars for the year nineteen hundred and
5 twenty-four.

Sect. 12. This act shall be submitted for approval or
2 rejection to the duly qualified voters of the state at an
3 election to be held the second Monday in September in the
4 year A. D. 1925. The aldermen of cities, the selectmen of
5 towns and the assessors of the several plantations in this
6 state, are hereby empowered and directed to notify the
7 inhabitants of their respective cities, towns and plantations
8 to meet in the manner prescribed by law for calling and
9 holding biennial meetings of said inhabitants for the elec-
10 tion of senators and representatives to give in their votes
11 upon this act and the question shall be: "Shall the act
12 providing for the benefit and assistance for aged persons
13 under certain conditions in the state of Maine and pre-
14 scribing penalties for violation of the provisions hereof and

15 making an appropriation for carrying out of its purposes
16 be accepted?"

And the inhabitants of said cities, towns and plantations
2 shall vote by ballot on said question, those in favor of the
3 same expressing it by making a cross within the square
4 opposite the word "yes" upon their ballots and those op-
5 posed to the question by making a cross within the square
6 opposite the word "no" upon their ballots, and the ballots
7 shall be received, sorted, counted, and declared in open
8 ward, town and plantation meetings, and returns made to
9 the office of secretary of state in the same manner as votes
10 for governor and members of the legislature, and the gov-
11 ernor and council shall count the same, and if it shall
12 appear that a majority of the inhabitants voting on the
13 question are in favor of the act, the governor shall make
14 known the fact by his proclamation and thereupon this act
15 shall become law. The secretary of state shall prepare and
16 furnish to the several cities, towns and plantations ballots
17 and blank returns in conformity with the foregoing, accom-
18 panied by a copy thereof.