

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

House Document

No. 122

H. P. 478

House of Representatives, Feb. 10, 1927.

Referred to Committee on Public Health and 500 copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Kinsman of Augusta.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Provide for the Completion of the Vital Records
of the State.

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

Section 1. *Missing records.* The director of the Division
2 of Vital Statistics of the State Department of Health shall,
3 as soon as practicable after the passage of this act, ascertain
4 from what cities, towns and plantations and for what years
5 complete returns of births, marriages and deaths have not
6 been made to the state or are not to be found among the
7 records of his office and shall convey this information to
8 the clerks of such cities, towns and plantations, together
9 with suitable blanks upon which to make returns.

Sect. 2. *Transcripts of records.* Such clerks shall, under

2 the direction of the director of the Division of Vital Sta-
3 tistics of the State Department of Health, cause to be tran-
4 scribed in full upon such blanks all records of births, mar-
5 riages and deaths in the possession of the city, town or
6 plantation and of the churches situated in the city, town or
7 plantation, not already returned, and shall transmit the same,
8 properly certified, to the director of the Division of Vital
9 Statistics of the State Department of Health, within such
10 reasonable time as he may prescribe, and for such services
11 said clerk shall receive from the city, town or plantation
12 the sum of five cents for each record so transcribed, certified
13 and transmitted.

Sect. 3. *Gravestone inscriptions.* If the death records of
2 the city, town or plantation prior to 1892 are incomplete,
3 the director of the Division of Vital Statistics of the State
4 Department of Health shall notify the mayor, selectmen or
5 other executive officer or officers of the city, town or plan-
6 tation to that effect, and such executive officer or officers
7 shall, within such reasonable time as may be prescribed by
8 the said director of the Division of Vital Statistics, cause
9 to be copied at the expense of the city, town or plantation,
10 under the direction of said director of the Division of Vital
11 Statistics, the inscriptions on all gravestones in the city,
12 town or plantation erected to the memory of any person
13 who died prior to 1892, so far as the same relates to the
14 name of the deceased, date of death, age or date of birth,
15 if given, and the name of the cemetery, and shall cause such

16 records to be recorded in the books or archives of the city,
17 town or plantation. The director of the Division of Vital
18 Statistics shall furnish each of said clerks with suitable
19 blank forms for the return of such records, which shall be
20 copied, certified and returned to said director of the Divi-
21 sion of Vital Statistics within such reasonable time as he
22 may prescribe as provided in section two hereof, and the
23 clerk shall receive the same compensation for copying, cer-
24 tifying and returning said records as for the records de-
25 scribed in said section two.

Sect. 4. *Filing and indexing.* All records returned in ac-
2 cordance with this act and all records now on file in the
3 office of the director of the Division of Vital Statistics of
4 the State Department of Health shall be so filed and in-
5 dexed as to be readily available for reference. In case the
6 proper officials of any city, town or plantation shall fail to
7 obtain and record, file or return such records, as provided
8 in this act, in accordance with the direction of the director
9 of the Division of Vital Statistics, or if any records of a
10 city, town or plantation shall remain incomplete after no-
11 tice and demand upon the proper officials as herein pro-
12 vided, or shall in the opinion of said director when returned
13 be inaccurate or otherwise unsatisfactory, then the director
14 of the Division of Vital Statistics may proceed to procure
15 such records in such manner as he may in his discretion see
16 fit, and the expense thereof shall be paid by the respective

17 cities, towns and plantations, upon presentation of proper
18 accounts.

Sect. 5. *Certifying copies of records.* When required for
2 any lawful and proper purpose, certified copies of such
3 records shall be furnished by the director of the Division of
4 Vital Statistics, free of all expense.

Sect. 6. Provided, however, that the vital statistics of the
2 cities of Hallowell and Augusta, and of the town of Tops-
3 ham, already begun, shall be completed in accordance with
4 the provisions of section ten, chapter two hundred ten, of
5 the public laws of nineteen hundred twenty-one.