

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(NEW DRAFT)

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EIGHTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

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House Document

No. 568

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H. P. 1253      House of Representatives, March 31, 1927.

Reported by Mr. Chamberlain from Committee on Public Health and laid on table to be printed under joint rules.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

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STATE OF MAINE

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

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

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

Section 1. *Missing records.* The state registrar of vital  
2 statistics shall, as soon as practicable after the passage of  
3 this act, ascertain from what cities, towns and plantations  
4 and from what years, prior to 1892, complete returns of  
5 births, marriages and deaths have not been made to the  
6 state, or are not to be found among the records of his office,  
7 and shall convey this information to the clerks of such  
8 cities, towns and plantations, together with suitable blanks  
9 upon which to make returns.

Sect. 2. *Transcripts of records.* Such clerks shall, under 2 the direction of the state registrar of vital statistics, cause 3 to be transcribed in full upon such blanks all records of 4 births, marriages and deaths prior to 1892 in the possession 5 of the city, town or plantation and of the churches situated 6 in the city, town or plantation, not already returned, and 7 shall transmit the same, properly certified, to the state reg- 8 istrar of vital statistics, within such reasonable time as he 9 may prescribe, and for such services said clerk shall receive 10 from the city, town or plantation the sum of five cents for 11 each record so transcribed, certified and transmitted.

Sect. 3. *Gravestone inscriptions.* If the death records of 2 the city, town or plantation prior to 1892 are incomplete, 3 the clerk of such city, town or plantation shall, within such 4 reasonable time as may be prescribed by the said state reg- 5 istrar of vital statistics, cause to be copied at the expense 6 of the city, town or plantation, under the direction of the 7 said state registrar of vital statistics, the inscriptions on all 8 gravestones in the city, town or plantation erected to the 9 memory of any person who died prior to 1892, so far as 10 the same relates to the name of the deceased, date of death, 11 age or date of birth, if given, and the name of the ceme- 12 tery, and shall cause such records to be recorded in the 13 books or archives of the city, town or plantation. The state 14 registrar of vital statistics shall furnish each of said clerks 15 with suitable blank forms for the return of such records, 16 which shall be copied, certified and returned to the said state

17 registrar of vital statistics within such reasonable time as  
18 he may prescribe as provided in section two hereof, and the  
19 clerk shall receive the same compensation for copying, cer-  
20 tifying and returning said records as for the records de-  
21 scribed in said section two.

Sect. 4. *Certifying copies of records.* When required for  
2 any lawful and proper purpose, certified copies of such rec-  
3 ords shall be furnished by the state registrar of vital statis-  
4 tics for a fee of fifty cents, to be paid by the applicant. For  
5 any search of the files and records, when no certified copy  
6 is made, the fee shall be fifty cents for each hour or frac-  
7 tional part of an hour of time of search, said fee to be paid  
8 by the applicant.

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