

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

EIGHTY - THIRD LEGISLATURE

Senate Document

No. 128

S. P. 124

In Senate, Feb. 23, 1924.

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

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Drake of Sagadahoc.

STATE OF MAINE

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

RESOLVE, to Reimburse the City of Bath for Support of
William A. Griffin, a Former Resident of Malaga Island.

Resolved: That there be, and hereby is, appropriated to
2 be paid to the city of Bath the sum of two hundred sixty-
3 six dollars and ninety-five cents (\$266.95) to reimburse
4 said city for money expended for support of said William
5 A. Griffin, a former resident of Malaga Island.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

For many years prior to 1912 the residents of Malaga Island were supported as state paupers whenever they were unable to provide for themselves. These squatters intermarried constantly and were becoming a menace to the state, for many of them were objects of charity.

In 1911 Governor Plaisted and his Council made a special trip to the island for investigation and saw the real condition of affairs, which were deplorable. Eight (8) of the colony were removed to the Pownal State School. At that time the state purchased the island and the buildings thereon from its rightful owners. The inhabitants were deported to the mainland, principally to the town of Phippsburg. The buildings were removed and the island swept clean of all squatters.

An agreement was entered into at that time between Dr. Kilgore, Messenger to the Governor and Council, and George C. Pease of the town of Phippsburg to the effect that these squatters should never become town charges in the town where they were located. This agreement was verbal, however, and the city of Bath gets its information from Mr. Pease who was an official of the town of Phippsburg at that time.

The object of the state authorities in purchasing the island and removing the inhabitants was to root out a pauper colony.

As a result of the action by the state authorities, the city of Bath claims that the state is morally responsible for any assistance necessarily furnished to said persons by the overseers of the poor of any city or town where they shall fall in distress.

One member of the Malaga colony, William Allen Griffin, after remaining in the town of Phippsburg some six to eight years (he cannot remember the exact time), came to Bath and in October 1921 fell in distress and was given assistance by the overseers of the poor through the winter including May 1922, to the amount of one hundred sixty-three dollars and thirty-three cents (\$166.33). Assistance was again given in the winter of 1925 and 1926 to the amount of one hundred three dollars and sixty-two cents (\$103.62).

No action was taken to recover for the above amounts expended by the board of overseers of Bath at the time assistance was rendered, but claims were made by the present board of overseers of the poor in April and July 1926, which claims were

not allowed by Mr. George W. Leadbetter, Messenger to the Governor and Council.

In view of the foregoing we respectfully seek reimbursement for assistance rendered in the amount of two hundred sixty-six dollars and ninety-five cents (\$266.95).

SIDNEY L. EATON,

ARTHUR B. STILPHEN,

HARRY A. THEBEAU,

Overseers of Poor, Bath, Maine.