

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

House Document

No. 112

H. P. 387.

House of Representatives, Jan. 31, 1929.

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

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Jones of Corinna.

STATE OF MAINE

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

RESOLVE, to Reimburse the Town of Newport for Support
of the Family of William J. McAfee, Having no Known
Settlement in the State.

Resolved: That there be, and hereby is, appropriated to be
2 paid to the town of Newport, the sum of nine hundred
3 eighty-four dollars and eighty-nine cents, to reimburse said
4 town for money expended for support of the family of
5 William J. McAfee, having no known settlement in the
6 state.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

William J. McAfee died in the town of Newport on December 10, 1926, leaving a wife and several children in destitute circumstances. The affidavits filed in the case indicated that Mr. McAfee was without pauper settlement in the state, but that his wife had a pauper settlement in the town of Houlton at the time of their marriage, which would make that town liable for support of Mrs. McAfee and the children.

The matter was taken up with the selectmen of Houlton by Mr. W. E. Rackliffe, the chairman of the selectmen of Newport at that time. Mr. Rackliffe understood that the selectmen of Houlton acknowledged the liability of that town and, in view of that, he simply asked the state to reimburse the town of Newport for the expenses of Mr. McAfee only, including his burial expenses. The state did this, supposing the town of Houlton would pay the balance without question.

Several months later, the selectmen of Houlton denied that they had ever acknowledged liability for support of Mr. McAfee's family, and claimed that Mr. Rackliffe must have misunderstood them. They also produced affidavits showing that Mr. McAfee had acquired a pauper settlement in the town of Monticello. The selectmen of Monticello strenuously denied the correctness of these affidavits, and there is considerable question as to the competency of the persons who made these affidavits. An examination of the assessors' books of Monticello failed to show that Mr. McAfee was a resident of that town for five years. Residents of that section of the town, where Mr. McAfee and his family lived while in Monticello, claimed to be of the opinion that Mr. McAfee was living in New Brunswick during the time that these affidavits showed that he lived in Monticello. They claimed that he really never lived there, but came there occasionally on visits.

The selectmen of the town of Newport do not feel that there is evidence enough to justify them in bringing suit **against either town.** It is admitted by all parties interested that Mr. McAfee never acquired a settlement in the town of Newport and the officials of that town feel that they are justified in asking reimbursement from the state on the ground that it is impossible to determine whether or not any other town is liable.