

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

Senate Document

No. 6

S. P. 7

In Senate, Jan. 15, 1929.

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

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Mitchell of Aroostook.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT Relating to Appropriations for Public and Private
Hospitals.

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

Section 1. That there be appropriated for the fiscal year
2 ending June thirtieth, nineteen hundred and thirty, the sum
3 of one hundred sixty thousand dollars, and for the fiscal
4 year ending June thirtieth, nineteen hundred and thirty-one,
5 the sum of one hundred sixty thousand dollars, for the
6 necessary care and medical and surgical treatment, at a
7 rate not to exceed two dollars and fifty cents per day per
8 patient, in or by public or private hospitals, of certain

9 classes of persons whose own resources, or the resources of
10 whose responsible relatives as defined by section eighteen of
11 chapter twenty-nine of the revised statutes, are insufficient
12 to pay for the same. All said moneys shall be expended
13 under the direction of the State Department of Public
14 Welfare, which shall be allowed a sum not to exceed three
15 per cent of the appropriation for purposes of administration.
16 Bills itemizing the expense of care, medical or surgical
17 treatment under the provisions of this chapter, when ap-
18 proved by the State Department of Public Welfare and
19 audited by the State Auditor, shall be paid by the Treasurer
20 of State.

Sect. 2. The State Department of Public Welfare shall
2 prescribe necessary forms for application, reports and other
3 proceedings required by this act, said Department shall keep
4 a record of all cases reported to it and action taken by it
5 in relation to the same. It shall embody a statement con-
6 cerning the work done hereunder in the biennial report of
7 the State Department of Public Welfare.

Sect. 3. No other appropriation or use of public money
2 or property shall be made or authorized for the purpose of
3 maintaining or aiding any hospital, not owned or controlled
4 by the state, excepting tubercular sanatoriums and child-
5 ren's hospitals.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

The present method of appropriating money for hospitals is complicated, uncertain, in some cases unjust, in all cases unsatisfactory. The appearance of the trustees of every hospital before the State Budget Committee at considerable expense, then their appearance before the State Appropriations Committee at Augusta at great expense, and the impossibility of the Appropriations Committee to fully appreciate the comparative worthiness of the demands made for increases every year, make it imperative that some different method of allocating these funds be devised. The above bill in our opinion would place hospital charity on a fair, equitable, and business basis.