

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

Senate Document

No. 216

S. P. 543

In Senate, February 21, 1929.

Reported by Senator Martin of Kennebec from Committee on Judiciary and laid on table to be printed under joint rules.

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-
5 one, the sum of one hundred sixty thousand dollars, for the
6 necessary care and medical and surgical treatment, at a rate
7 not to exceed two dollars and fifty cents per day per patient,
8 in addition to any necessary emergency charges that may
9 be approved by the state department of public welfare, in

10 or by public or private hospitals, of certain classes of per-
11 sons whose resources, or the resources of whose responsible
12 relatives as defined by section eighteen of chapter twenty-
13 nine of the revised statutes, are insufficient to pay for same.
14 All said moneys shall be expended under the direction of
15 the state department of public welfare, which shall be al-
16 lowed a sum not to exceed three per cent of the appropria-
17 tion for purposes of administration. Bills itemizing the
18 expense of care, medical or surgical treatment under the
19 provisions of this chapter, when approved by the state de-
20 partment of public welfare and audited by the state audi-
21 tor, shall be paid by the treasurer of the 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
4 keep a record of all cases reported to it and action taken
5 by it in relation to the same. It shall embody a statement
6 concerning the work done hereunder in the biennial report
7 of 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.

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.