

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-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 278

S. P. 175

In Senate, Jan. 28, 1931.

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

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Weymouth of Penobscot.

STATE OF MAINE

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

RESOLVE, Appropriating Money to Pay the Claim of Leon
A. Higgins Against the State of Maine.

Resolved: That there shall be paid to Leon A. Higgins of Carmel, Maine, the sum of two thousand nine hundred eight dollars (\$2,908) in reimbursement to him for damages sustained by him through the destruction of his buildings and contents by fire set by Maurice Wilcox, a State ward, on the second day of September, 1929.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Maurice Wilcox is the son of Clyde M. and Hattie Wilcox, both of whom are now deceased. He was born on March 13, 1916. From the fourteenth day of April, 1924, to the second day of September, 1929, he was placed or boarded by the State Department of Public Welfare in nine different homes or boarding places. On the fourth day of April, 1929, said Department arranged for his boarding with Mrs. Hannah Carter. Prior to this time the boy had been unruly and had shown substantial signs of mental weakness and criminal tendencies. The agents and representatives of said Department were aware of the character, disposition and criminal tendencies of this boy, or in any event there was available to them full information in connection therewith. When the said Mrs. Hannah Carter accepted this boy through the solicitation of the representatives of said Department, she was wholly unaware as to his character and his past experience with other people and relied upon the recommendation of the said agents that he was a boy of normal character, habits and mentality.

This boy, just prior to September 2, 1929, became affronted with Mrs. Hannah Carter and while she and other members of the family were absent, set fire to Mrs. Carter's barn. This was communicated to the other buildings and these buildings and all the contents were destroyed. This fire was communicated to other buildings in the neighborhood which were likewise destroyed.

The claimant sustained a loss of two thousand nine hundred eight dollars (\$2,908).