

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 374

S. P. 365

In Senate, Feb. 6, 1931.

Tabled by Senator Spear of Cumberland pending reference and 500 copies ordered printed.

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Weeks of Somerset.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT Relating to the Support of Dependents of Deceased
and Disabled Ex-service Men of the World War, in Necessi-
tous Circumstances.

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

Section 1. Department of Public Welfare to pass on application for relief. The department of public welfare shall consider and pass on all applications for relief, and shall administer and supervise the relief, under the provisions of this chapter. For such purposes, the department shall establish a division, to be known as the World War Relief Division, which shall designate the form of application blank, shall pass upon the applications, shall make from time to time such rules and regulations as it shall deem necessary for the proper administration and supervision of the relief, shall make use of the agents and field workers within the department for visitatorial and investigational duties, and, out of the fund herein provided for administrative purposes, shall engage the necessary clerical staff and additional field workers.

Sect. 2. Persons eligible for relief. The wife and children under the age of sixteen years, incapable of self maintenance, of any honorable discharged ex-service man who entered the service of the Armed Forces of the United States as a soldier, sailor, or marine prior to November eleven, nineteen hundred

and eighteen, and served sixty days or more during the World War, who was killed in battle, or who is dead, or who is suffering from a disability not the result of his own wilful misconduct, which was not acquired in service during the World War, and who is in necessitous circumstances, shall be eligible for relief to such amount as hereinafter provided. Foster children and adopted children are not eligible for relief herein.

Sect. 3. Settlement or resident in state necessary. This chapter shall apply only to such ex-service men or their wives or children who may have a settlement in this state or who shall have resided in the state for not less than five consecutive years next prior to making application for aid.

Sect. 4. Amounts to be allotted. Such relief shall be granted in sums not exceeding seven dollars a week, to relieve necessitous circumstances, if such exists, of the wife of such ex-service man, and in sums not exceeding three dollars a week to relieve necessitous circumstances of each such child under the age of sixteen years, incapable of self maintenance. In no event, however, shall the total amount of such relief exceed the sum of sixty dollars a month; and all sums received by such ex-service man, wife, or children, from the Federal Government or from any other source, except the city or town in which the ex-service man, wife, or children live, shall be deducted from such maximum sum of sixty dollars a month.

Sect. 5. Payment of relief granted. Relief granted under the provisions of this chapter shall be paid monthly by the treasurer of state upon warrants drawn by the governor and council.

Sect. 6. Relief to other persons for benefit of dependents. Such relief may, in the discretion of the department, be paid to any other persons whom it may designate for the benefit of such dependents.

Sect. 7. No pauper disabilities. No pauper disabilities shall be created by reason of receiving the relief provided in this chapter, or by reason of receiving additional aid from the city or town wherein such ex-service man, wife, or children live. The listing of the names, of such ex-service man, wife, or children in the publications of reports of such cities or towns is hereby forbidden.

Sect. 8. Appropriation. For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act, there is hereby appropriated the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars annually, for each of the fiscal years, nineteen hundred and thirty-one and thirty-two, and nineteen hundred and thirty-two and thirty-three. Out of said appropriation there shall be set aside for administrative purposes, such amount as the Department shall find necessary for the purpose of properly carrying out the provisions of this chapter.

Sect. 9. Penalty for false statements or fraudulent claims. Whoever knowingly makes a false statement, oral or written, relating to a material fact in support of claim to war allowance or state aid under the provisions of this chapter, shall be punished by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment for not more than eleven months. Whoever, being entitled to the benefits of this chapter, fraudulently claims or receives pay for a period of time following a termination of his right to receive the same, shall be punished by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment for not more than eleven months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Sect. 10. Purpose of this act. The purpose of this act is to provide emergency relief, and not to create a pension system.

Sect. 11. Repeal of chapter 159. Chapter one hundred and fifty-nine of the revised statutes is hereby repealed.