

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY - FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 497

H. P. 976 House of Representatives, Feb. 11, 1931.

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

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Miss Martin of Bangor.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT Relating to Commitment of Patients to State Hos-
pitals for Temporary Observation.

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

Section Fifty-five of Chapter 155 of the Revised Statutes of 1930, is hereby amended by striking out the sentence beginning with the words "Such superintendent" in the sixteenth line thereof and substituting in place thereof the following:

'In case such patient shall not sign a request to remain as a voluntary patient, or to be removed therefrom before the expiration of such period of fifteen days, such superintendent shall notify the municipal officers of the city or town where such patient was found or resided when the original request, as provided herein, was made, and said municipal officers shall immediately proceed to commit said patient according to the provisions of section seventeen of chapter one hundred fifty-five of the revised statutes. In all such cases the superintendent of the state hospital in which said patient is confined may make the complaint in writing, upon which said patient shall be committed, and a certified copy of the original request, together with a certificate of the said Superintendent, shall be prima facie evidence that such patient is insane and in need of further care and treatment', so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

'Sec. 55. Proceedings as to commitment of patients for temporary observation; removal of patients when treatment unnecessary and formal commitment when necessary; expenses, how met. 1919, c. 32, par. 3. R. S. 1930 c. 156, sec. 55. The superintendent of either of the state hospitals, to which an insane person may be legally committed, may, when requested by a physician, a member of the board of health, a health officer, a police officer of the city or town, receive and care for as a patient in such institution for a period not exceeding fifteen days, any person who needs care and treatment because of his mental condition. Such request for admission of a patient shall be in writing and filed at the institution at the time of the reception of the patient, together with a statement in a form prescribed or approved by the trustees, together with a statement giving such information as said trustees may deem appropriate. Such a patient who is deemed by the superintendent not suitable for such care, shall upon the request of the superintendent be removed forthwith from the institution by the person requesting his reception, and if he is not so removed such person shall be liable for all reasonable expenses incurred under the provisions of this section on account of the patient, which may be recovered by the institution in an action of contract. In case such patient shall not sign a request to remain as a voluntary patient, or to be removed therefrom before the expiration of such period of fifteen days, such superintendent shall notify the municipal officers of the city or town where such patient was found or resided when the original request, as provided herein, was made, and said municipal officers shall immediately proceed to commit said patient according to the provisions of section seventeen of chapter one hundred and fifty-five of the revised statutes. In all such cases the superintendent of the state hospital in which said patient is confined may make the complaint in writing upon which said patient shall be committed, and a certified copy of the original request together with a certificate of said superintendent shall be prima facie evidence that such patient is insane and in need of further care and treatment. All reasonable expenses incurred for the examination of the patient, for his transportation to the institution and for his support therein, shall be allowed, and paid according to the laws providing for similar expenses in the commitment and support of the insane.'