

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 498

H. P. 977 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 to the Hospitals by Mu-
nicipal Officers.

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

Section seventeen of chapter one hundred fifty-five of the revised statutes of nineteen hundred and thirty is hereby amended by striking out all of said section following the word "examination" in the sixteenth line thereof and adding the following: 'together with a statement of facts under oath satisfactory to the trustees in regard to the financial ability of such patient, or any of his relatives legally liable to pay for his support, and directing the superintendent to receive and detain him until he is restored or discharged by law, or by the superintendent or trustees. Pending the issue of such certificate by the municipal officers such superintendent may receive into his hospital any person so alleged on complaint to be insane, provided such person be accompanied by a copy of the complaint and physicians' certificate, which certificate shall set forth that in the judgment of the physicians the condition of said person is such that immediate restraint or detention is necessary for his comfort and safety or the safety of others, and provided further that unless within ten days thereafter said superintendent shall be furnished with the certificate hereinbefore provided for the said city or town shall be liable to the hospital for the full support of such patient until

such certificate of commitment is furnished. Said municipal officers shall keep a record of their doings, and furnish a copy to any interested person requesting and paying for it,' so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

'Sec. 17 Municipal officers may commit to the hospital. R. S. c. 145, sec. 17. 1917, c. 120. R. S. 1930 c. 155, sec. 17. Insane persons, not thus sent to any hospital shall be subject to examination as hereinafter provided. The municipal officers of towns shall constitute a board of examiners, and on complaint in writing of any blood relative, husband, or wife of said alleged insane person, or of any justice of the peace, they shall immediately inquire into the condition of any person in said town alleged to be insane; shall appoint a time and place for hearing by them of the allegations of said complaint and shall cause to be given in hand to the person so alleged to be insane at least twenty-four hours prior to the time of said hearing, a true copy of said complaint, together with a notice of the time and place of said hearing and that he has the right and will be given the opportunity then and there to be heard in the matter; shall call before them all testimony necessary for a full understanding of the case; and if they think such person insane and that his comfort and safety or that of others interested, will be promoted, they shall forthwith send him to one of the insane hospitals with a certificate stating the fact of his insanity, and the town in which he resided or was found at the time of the examination, together with a statement of facts under oath satisfactory to the trustees in regard to the financial ability of such patient, or of any of his relatives legally liable to pay for his support, and directing the superintendent to receive and detain him until he is restored or discharged by law, or by the superintendent or trustees. Pending the issue of such certificate by the municipal officers such superintendent may receive into his hospital any person so alleged on complaint to be insane, provided such person be accompanied by a copy of the complaint and physicians' certificate, which certificate shall set forth that in the judgment of the physicians the condition of said person is such that immediate restraint or detention is necessary for his comfort and safety or the safety of others, and provided further that unless within ten days thereafter said superintendent shall be furnished with the certificate hereinbefore provided for, the

city or town shall be liable to the hospital for the full support of such patient until such certificate of commitment is furnished. Said municipal officers shall keep a record of their doings, and furnish a copy to any interested person requesting and paying therefor.'