

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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E I G H T Y - S I X T H L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 540

S. P. 334

In Senate, Feb. 8, 1933.

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

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Weeks of Somerset.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED THIRTY-
THREE

AN ACT Relating to Autopsies on Unclaimed Bodies.

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

R. S. c. 21, § 3, amended. Section 3 of chapter 21 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows :

‘Sec. 3. Board to be notified of deaths in almshouses, prisons; etc.; notice not given if body is claimed by family; superintendents and staff of insane hospitals authorized to hold autopsies. All public officers, agents, and servants of any and every county, city, town, and other municipality, and of any and every almshouse, prison, morgue, hospital, or any other public institution having charge or control over dead human bodies required to be buried at the public expense are hereby required to notify immediately the said board of distribution, or such person or persons as may from time to time be designated by said board, or its duly authorized officer or agent, whenever any such body or bodies come into his or their possession, charge, or control, and shall, without fee or reward, deliver such body or bodies to said board, or its duly authorized officer or agent, and permit and suffer the said board or its agents, or the physicians and surgeons from time to time designated by it or them, who comply with the provisions of this chapter, to take and remove any and all such bodies to be used within the state for the advancement of medical education; but no such notice need be given and no such body shall be delivered if any per-

son, satisfying the authorities in charge of said body that he or she is a member of the family or next of kin to the deceased shall claim the body for burial, but it shall be surrendered to him or her for interment, and no notice shall be given and no body delivered to said board or its agents if such deceased person was a traveler and not a vagabond, who died suddenly, in which case the said body shall be buried; provided, however, that the superintendents and medical staffs of the Augusta State Hospital, ~~and the superintendent and medical staff of the Bangor State Hospital,~~ **and Pownal State School**, having charge or control over dead human bodies required to be buried at public expense, when no person satisfies the superintendent of either insane hospital and the hospital trustees that he or she is a member of the family of, or some family connection or next of kin to the deceased, and wishes to claim the body for burial, may for the advancement of science hold an autopsy and examine the body of such person, notwithstanding any provisions of this chapter.'