

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY - SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 622

S. P. 399

In Senate, February 12, 1935.

Communication from Secretary of State transmitting report of recess committee re: pauper laws. In Senate chamber read and accepted and placed on file and 500 copies ordered printed.

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
THIRTY-FIVE

Report of a majority of the Recess Committee on Paupers Laws.

To the Honorable Members of the Eighty-seventh Legislature:

The majority of the committee appointed by the eighty-sixth legislature to study the laws of the state relating to support of paupers and the practical working of such laws, and to consider the desirability of amending the same, beg to report as follows:

That after careful consideration, it is believed that the time has arrived when the state should assume the expense of support of all paupers, for the following reasons:

1. The laws have been amended by the last two legislatures in such a way that the liability now rests upon the state in many cases where it formerly rested upon cities and towns.

2. Owing to the increasing number of cases where towns are obliged to give aid to persons who appear to have settlement in other towns, the matter of determining settlements has become burdensome, and local boards of overseers in many instances are unable to protect their towns by collecting for the support of paupers belonging in other places.

3. Owing to present industrial conditions, it is now necessary for the state to help many towns toward the support of their paupers, and an emergency appropriation of \$50,000 has already been made for that purpose, and the indications are that this will have to be followed by other

such appropriations from time to time, the aggregate of which it is impossible to estimate.

4. Cities and towns which are now able to take care of their own paupers are obliged to contribute through taxation for support of the paupers in those towns which are now being assisted through the emergency relief funds already mentioned. It seems fair and logical that the entire burden should be taken over by the state in order that the entire pauper bill of the state will be taken care of on the basis of taxable property in the state.

5. A change of this kind will result in uniform care and treatment of dependent persons in the state, and no doubt will result in considerable saving of money.

HAROLD E. WEEKS
EUNICE C. HOLMAN
EDWARD R. JONES
GEO. W. LEADBETTER