

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1232**

S. P. 513

In Senate, March 21, 1951.

Referred to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs. Sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Palmer of Lincoln.

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FIFTY-ONE

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**RESOLVE, Providing for Indexing and Filing Old Probate Records.**

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**Old probate records; indexing and filing. Resolved:** That there be, and hereby is, appropriated from the general fund the sum of \$1,500 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1952 and \$1,500 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1953, to reimburse the county of Lincoln for  $\frac{1}{2}$  the cost of refiling, docketing and indexing probate records prior to 1860. Any unexpended balances shall not lapse but shall remain a continuing carrying account; and be it further

**Resolved:** That such sums shall be paid on approval of the governor and council on vouchers of the county commissioners of Lincoln county.

## STATEMENT OF FACTS

Lincoln County was incorporated in 1760, the same year as Cumberland County was incorporated. Probate records for the period up to 1860 on file in the Lincoln County Registry of Probate contain records of estates from all the other counties of the State except Cumberland and York. Until 1949, these records were in storage. The County of Lincoln in 1949 provided modern filing facilities for its probate records. The Registry of Probate contains no indexes prior to 1860.

Invaluable records on file in the period of 1760 to 1860 are inaccessible on account of faulty filing and lack of indexes. They are often in demand in court cases in twelve (12) other counties of the State. On account of the value of the records filed prior to 1860 to so large a section of the State, the State should bear a part of the expenses of re-filing, docketing, and indexing these records. These records comprise approximately one hundred and fifty (150) document files.