

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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**Legislative Document**

**No. 1118**

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S. P. 401

In Senate, February 25, 1953.

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

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Weeks of Cumberland.

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**STATE OF MAINE**

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED  
FIFTY-THREE

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**AN ACT Requiring Children to Care for Parents According to Ability.**

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

**R. S., c. 153, § 22, amended.** Section 22 of chapter 153 of the revised statutes is hereby amended by adding at the end thereof the following paragraphs:

**‘When less than all children, residing within the state, shall comply with the obligation imposed upon them by the preceding paragraph, one or more may complain to the superior court in the county where such parent or parents reside; and the court may cause any defaulting child or children so alleged, to be summoned, and upon hearing or default may assess and apportion a reasonable sum upon all children residing within the state as are found to be of sufficient ability for the support of such parent or parents to the time of assessment; and may enforce payment thereof by warrant of distress.**

Such assessment shall not be made to pay any expense of support afforded more than 6 months before the complaint was filed.

Such complaint may be filed with the clerk of court who shall issue a summons thereon, returnable and to be served as writs of summons are;

and under such complaint, the court may assess and apportion for the future support of such parent or parents, a sufficient sum, to be paid quarterly or as the court may otherwise order and until further order of court; and may direct with whom of such children consenting thereto and for what time he or they may dwell, having regard to him and their comfort and their convenience.

On application of any person to whom payment was ordered, the clerk may issue or renew a warrant of distress returnable to the next term of court to collect what may be due for any preceding quarter, or for such period as the court may have made a prior order which has not been complied with in accordance with the terms thereof.

The court may, from time to time, make any further order on complaint of a party interested, and after notice given, alter or amend any assessment or apportionment.

On failure to sustain a complaint the respondents recover costs.'