

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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

Legislative Document

No. 547

H. P. 510

House of Representatives, February 8, 1955

Referred to the Committee on Welfare, sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Latno of Old Town.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-FIVE

AN ACT Relating to Medical Care for Public Assistance Recipients.

Emergency preamble. Whereas, acts and resolves passed by the Legislature do not become effective until 90 days after adjournment unless enacted as emergencies; and

Whereas, the said 90-day period will not terminate until after the beginning of the next fiscal year; and

Whereas, a larger amount of federal matching funds will be available and administration of the act will be facilitated if it becomes effective with the start of the fiscal year; and

Whereas, in the judgment of the Legislature these facts create an emergency within the meaning of the Constitution of Maine and require the following legislation as immediately necessary for the preservation of the public peace, health and safety; now therefore

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

R. S., c. 25, § 319-U, additional. Chapter 25 of the revised statutes is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section to be numbered 319-U, to read as follows:

‘Medical Care for Public Assistance.

Sec. 319-U. Medical care accumulation fund; rules and regulations; shall not lapse. The Department is authorized to establish a medical care accumulation fund to be used solely for the payment of medical, hospital or remedial care costs of recipients of public assistance under the provisions of this chapter. The fund shall be created by periodic payments into it based on a monthly amount per

case as determined by the Department, which monthly amount may be paid into the fund even though the monthly amount added to the assistance payment exceeds the maximum assistance payment in this particular category. Said payment shall be made from the respective appropriations for the four public assistance categories and from federal grants available under the provisions of the Social Security Act as heretofore and hereafter amended. The payments out of the fund of the costs of medical, hospital or remedial care shall be made to those persons furnishing such services.

The Department is authorized and empowered to make all necessary rules and regulations for the administration of and expenditures from said fund.

The medical care accumulation fund shall not lapse but shall be a continuing fund so long as federal grants are available to match the State's contribution. All payments into said fund shall cease whenever either federal grants or State appropriations are withdrawn. No payments shall be made out of said fund if federal grants or State appropriations are withdrawn, except that care contracted for before the date of such withdrawal shall be paid. Any money left in the fund in the event of withdrawal of federal grants or State appropriations shall be divided between the State and the Federal Government in proportion to the amount contributed by each.'

Emergency clause. In view of the emergency cited in the preamble, this act shall take effect July 1, 1955.