

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the
LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

NINETY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 676

S. P. 243

In Senate, February 10, 1955

Referred to the Committee on Claims, sent down for concurrence and ordered printed.

CHESTER T. WINSLOW, Secretary

Presented by Senator Lord of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-FIVE

RESOLVE, to Reimburse the Maine General Hospital for Care and Hospitalization of Leland Curtis.

Maine General Hospital reimbursed. Resolved: That there be and hereby is appropriated to be paid to the Maine General Hospital the sum of \$4,787.31 from the general fund for money expended for the care and hospitalization of Leland Curtis.

STATEMENT OF FACTS

On February 27, 1950, the State Department of Health and Welfare, by and through its Crippled Children Services Division, arranged for the transfer of Leland Curtis, a minor, from the Eastern Maine General Hospital, in Bangor, to the Maine General Hospital located in Portland, Maine. Leland Curtis had been previously hospitalized at the Eastern Maine General Hospital following an automobile accident which resulted in a spinal cord injury and paralysis from the waist down, and it was felt by the Crippled Children Services that the Maine General Hospital in Portland had better facilities for the care of such an injured person than were available at the Eastern Maine General Hospital.

By reason of an emotional situation which made young Curtis very unhappy when he was away from home, he insisted upon leaving the hospital on June 30, 1950, against the better judgment of the attending physicians, and returned to his home at Harrington, Maine. During his brief stay at home, it became clear that he required hospital care and, therefore, on July 18, 1950, he was readmitted

to the Maine General Hospital by the Crippled Children Services. He remained in the Maine General Hospital from July 18, 1950, until June 24, 1952. From July 18, 1950 until May 25, 1951, when he became of age, the Crippled Children Services paid the hospital. On May 25, 1951, he became a State Aid patient until his discharge from the hospital on June 24, 1952, when he returned to his home in Harrington. Again, within a short time, his physical condition required his readmittance to the hospital on September 8, 1952, as a State Aid patient, because during his several months at home in the summer of 1952, he developed extensive ulcers on his back and buttocks. Since his readmission to the hospital on September 8, 1952, he has been under continuous treatment, including extensive skin grafting caused by the ulcers on his back and buttocks.

Because he is a paraplegic and will never be able to walk, it is the considered opinion of the hospital staff that Leland Curtis will require some form of hospital care for the rest of his life.

State Hospital Aid was withdrawn on August 14, 1953, upon the theory that the State Aid Assistance Program does not accept chronic or long-term patients. However, because of the seriousness of this particular case, State Hospital Aid was reinstated a year later on August 15, 1954, for a further period of six months, which will expire on February 15, 1955, and there is no indication that the State will accept responsibility beyond that date.

The original admission of Leland Curtis was occasioned by and effected through the Crippled Children Services of the State Department of Health and Welfare, and had it not been for this action, Curtis never would have been a patient at the Maine General Hospital in Portland.

Leland Curtis is the son of Calvin and Nina Curtis. His parents are divorced and his mother, now Mrs. George Bailly, resides out of state. His father, Calvin, is also remarried and lives somewhere in the Camden-Rockland area, but it is clear that neither the mother nor the father have the financial ability to pay the hospital charges.

Demand for payment was made by the hospital against the Town of Harrington, but the Town of Harrington has refused to pay the bill, claiming that it is not legally liable. According to the Maine Register, the 1950 population of the Town was 853, Polls were 231, and the Estates total \$261,420. It is apparent that even if there was legal liability by the Town, which the town expressly denies, the payment of the amount due for hospitalization would prove to be a great burden upon the limited assets of the town.

The unpaid amount due for the care of Leland Curtis as of January 31, 1955, totals the sum of \$4,787.31.