

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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(NEW TITLE)
NEW DRAFT OF: H. P. 1093—L. D. 1276

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. 1535

H. P. 1243

House of Representatives, May 9, 1955

Reported by the Minority from the Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and printed under Joint Rules No. 10.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FIFTY-FIVE

**AN ACT Relieving the Burden of Indigent Costs Now Assessed to Paying
Hospital Patients.**

Preamble. Whereas, State aid to hospitals falls short by 60% of meeting the cost of medically indigent patients; and

Whereas, hospitals can only meet one-third of this loss through endowments, Community Chests, drives, etc.; and

Whereas, hospitals have no means of absorbing the remainder of this loss other than by over cost charges to paying patients; and

Whereas, the sick, as a class, are least of all able to carry this burden; now, therefore,

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

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 25, §§ 274-A - 274-B, additional. Chapter 25 of the revised statutes is hereby amended by adding thereto 2 new sections to be numbered 274-A to 274-B, to read as follows:

'Hospital Service.

Sec. 274-A. County tax. For the years 1956 and 1957, the county commissioners of each county are authorized and empowered and directed to levy a tax within their respective counties in the amounts appearing in the following schedule to carry out the purposes of sections 274-A and 274-B.

	1956	1957
Androscoggin	\$ 49,360.31	\$ 49,360.31
Aroostook	46,852.16	46,852.16

	1956	1957
Cumberland	122,087.63	122,087.63
Franklin	10,406.27	10,406.27
Hancock	\$23,331.21	\$23,331.21
Kennebec	46,919.83	46,919.83
Knox	15,468.75	15,468.75
Lincoln	13,644.53	13,644.53
Oxford	26,194.04	26,194.04
Penobscot	62,595.24	62,595.24
Piscataquis	12,067.64	12,067.64
Sagadahoc	11,188.17	11,188.17
Somerset	26,227.00	26,227.00
Waldo	9,194.97	9,194.97
Washington	14,719.86	14,719.86
York	59,742.39	59,742.39

The proceeds of this tax shall be paid by the county treasurers to the Treasurer of State on or before December 15th of the year when levied.

In the event any county shall fail or neglect to pay the sum of money which such county is required to pay, then the Treasurer of State is authorized and required to retain the sum necessary for such payment out of any State funds distributable to such defaulting county for any purpose. No statutory requirements that any distributable fund shall be used exclusively for a designated purpose shall be construed as preventing the Treasurer of State from taking out of such fund the amount which any county owes under the provisions of this section. It is the intent of this provision to authorize and require a set-off against any claim which any county may have upon the State Treasury of such amount as the county may owe to the appropriation for aid to public and private hospitals and to provide for the payment into such appropriation of such amount thus set off.

In addition to the provisions of the preceding paragraph, the Treasurer of State may give notice of such failure or neglect to the county commissioners of such delinquent county, and unless such tax shall be paid within 60 days, the Treasurer of State may issue his warrant to the sheriff of the county requiring him to levy, by distress and sale, upon the real and personal property of any of the inhabitants of such county, and the sheriff or his deputies shall execute such warrant, observing the regulations provided by satisfying warrants against delinquent collectors, as prescribed by chapter 92.

Sec. 274-B. Allocation and administration. The proceeds of the tax levied by the counties under the provisions of section 274-A shall be credited to the general fund of the State and added to the appropriation for public and private hospitals. There shall always be available for aid to public and private hospitals state moneys in an amount not less than the proceeds of the tax levied by the counties under the provisions of section 274-A.

Beginning January 1, 1957, such proceeds shall be administered by the Department of Health and Welfare under the same laws, rules and regulations as exist for the program for aid to public and private hospitals.'

Sec. 2. Resolves, 1955, c. 48, amended. Chapter 48 of the Resolves of 1955 is hereby amended to read as follows :

'County taxes apportioned. Resolved: That the sum appearing opposite to the names of the counties in the following schedule is hereby granted as a tax on each county respectively to be appropriated, assessed, collected and applied to the purpose of paying the debts and necessary expenses of the same and for other purposes of law, for the years 1955 and 1956.

	1955		1956
Androscoggin	\$241,534.89	\$228,151.04	\$277,511.35
Aroostook	157,332.86	157,332.86	204,185.02
Cumberland	514,020.00	468,602.50	590,690.13
Franklin	60,195.00	60,195.00	70,601.27
Hancock	100,000.00	100,000.00	123,331.21
Kennebec	120,635.00	120,635.00	167,554.83
Knox	89,896.00	89,896.00	105,364.75
Lincoln	101,981.00	101,981.00	115,625.53
Oxford	211,100.00	211,100.00	237,294.04
Penobscot	259,375.00	259,375.00	321,970.24
Piscataquis	60,700.00	60,700.00	72,767.64
Sagadahoc	70,450.00	70,450.00	81,638.17
Somerset	117,005.00	117,005.00	143,232.00
Waldo	92,587.00	92,587.00	101,781.97
Washington	110,654.00	110,654.00	125,373.86
York	160,085.00	160,085.00	219,827.39

and be it further

Resolved: That the county taxes of the several counties for the year Nineteen Hundred Fifty-five may be apportioned during the month of April of said year upon the last state valuation.'