

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# Acts and Resolves

As Passed by the

## Seventy-Eighth Legislature

OF THE

# STATE OF MAINE

1917

Including Acts and Resolves of the Special Session of the  
Seventy-Seventh Legislature held in 1916.

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**PUBLIC LAWS**  
OF THE  
**STATE OF MAINE**

As Passed by the Seventy-Eighth Legislature

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or more clerks, as the business of the office may require, one of whom may be designated as deputy bank commissioner, and two of said clerks may be designated as examiners. The deputy bank commissioner shall perform the duties of the bank commissioner whenever the latter shall be absent from the state or when directed by the bank commissioner. The deputy bank commissioner shall receive an annual salary of twenty-two hundred dollars; one examiner shall receive an annual salary of eighteen hundred dollars, and one examiner shall receive an annual salary of fifteen hundred dollars. The deputy bank commissioner and the two examiners shall receive their actual traveling expenses incurred in the performance of their official duties, the payment of which shall be subject to the approval of the governor and council.

Approved April 7, 1917.

## Chapter 221.

An Act to Amend Section Sixty-five of Chapter One Hundred Twenty-six of the Revised Statutes, Relating to the Appointment of Cruelty Officers.

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

**R. S., c. 126, § 65, relating to appointment of officers to prevent cruelty to animals, amended.** Section sixty-five of chapter one hundred twenty-six of the revised statutes is hereby amended by adding after the word "town" in the second line thereof, the words 'the county commissioners of any county', so that said section as amended shall read as follows:

'**Sec. 65. Application for appointment of officer may be made by county commissioners.** Upon application by the mayor and aldermen of any city, the selectmen of any town, the county commissioners of any county, or the president and three directors of any society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, the governor and council shall issue a badge and commission to any person designated, to arrest any person charged with violating any of the preceding twenty-one sections, the same as any sheriff, deputy sheriff or constable can do, and whose jurisdiction shall extend throughout the state.'

Approved April 7, 1917.

## Chapter 222.

An Act to Provide for Mothers with Dependent Children.

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

**Sec. 1. Cities and towns to render aid to mothers with dependent children.** Every city and town shall, subject to the provisions hereinafter contained, render suitable and needful aid to any mother residing therein, with a dependent child or children under the age of fourteen years, who needs and desires such aid to enable her to maintain herself and children in her home

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and who is fit and capable, mentally, morally and physically to bring up her children.

**Sec. 2. Settlement in state not necessary; not to be deemed paupers.** This act shall apply to all mothers and their dependent children, whether or not they or any of them may have a settlement in this state, who shall have resided in the state for not less than five consecutive years next prior to making application for aid. No mother, nor any of her children shall acquire a settlement or be in process of acquiring a settlement while receiving aid nor be deemed a pauper by reason of receiving such aid.

**Sec. 3. Aid may be in money or supplies; amount.** Such aid shall not exceed the value of ten dollars a month to a mother having but one child under the age of fourteen years, with a further allowance not exceeding four dollars a month in value for each additional child; the aid to be furnished hereunder may be furnished either in money or supplies or both.

**Sec. 4. State board created.** A state board of mother's aid hereinafter referred to as the "state board" is hereby created to serve without compensation, and to consist of the members of the state board of charities and corrections, ex officio. The secretary of said state board of charities and corrections shall be ex officio secretary of the state board of mother's aid, and serve without additional compensation as such.

**Municipal board.** In each city, town and plantation there shall be, and hereby is, created a municipal board of mother's aid, hereinafter referred to as the "municipal board" to consist of the overseers or board of overseers of the poor ex officio, unless the city by ordinance or the town or plantation by vote upon warrant shall provide for a special board of not fewer than three persons, one of whom at least shall be a woman, appointed or elected for three year terms, one term expiring each year, to serve as such "municipal board." The members of such municipal board shall serve without compensation as such.

**Duties of municipal board.** The municipal board shall keep a record of all applicants investigated, visit regularly or cause to be visited by some agent in their behalf the home of each mother aided hereunder; see that her children are actually living with her in her home, observe the conditions of the home and of the family and make and keep a record of such visits and any fact observed which bears upon the necessity or advisability of continuance of aid under this act and report the same to the state board.

**Sec. 5. Mother to make application to municipal board; form of blank. Penalty for false statement.** Any mother entitled thereto needing and desiring aid herein provided for may apply therefor personally or by letter to said municipal board. The board shall thereupon cause the applicant to fill out and sign an application blank or shall fill out the same from information furnished by the applicant who shall sign it, in which shall be stated: first, name of the applicant and that of her husband, the time and place of her marriage, and whether her husband is living or deceased; second, the names and ages of her children, whether those under compulsory school attendance are attending and what school, and if not, the reason of such non attendance; third, her present residence and address, the length of time she has been a

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resident of this state and where she has resided therein; fourth, the nature and amount of any property possessed by herself or her husband, if living, and her children, and the extent and source of their income and hers; fifth, the name and addresses of her near relatives and those of her husband, and of one or more persons to whom reference may be made for information; sixth, a statement that the applicant will agree to employ all aid received by her under this act solely for the support of herself and her children under the age of fourteen years, and for their proper upbringing in her home. The board may, if it deems proper, require any such application and the statements made therein to be substantiated by the oath or affirmation of the applicant.

Any person who shall knowingly, wilfully and with intent to deceive make any false statement in said application blank shall be punished by a fine of not more than five hundred dollars or by imprisonment not exceeding one year, or both.

**Sec. 6. Investigation of applications to be made by municipal board.** When such application has been made to the municipal board, it shall forthwith make careful investigation by personally interviewing the mother in her home, looking up her references, and pursuing such other sources of information as are available, for the purpose of determining, first, the truth of the statements contained in her application; second, whether she is a fit and capable person to bring up her children, and whether the inmates and surroundings of her household are such as to render it suitable for her children to reside at home; third, whether the child or children of the applicant are attending school, and if not why; fourth, whether under all the circumstances, considering her own resources and the ability of any member of her family to contribute to her support, the possibility of receiving aid from other relatives, individuals, agencies, or child welfare organizations, and the possibility of compelling contributions by any person under legal obligation so to do, such mother is in need of aid under the provisions of this act, and if so, in what amount.

**Sec. 7. State board to make final decision.** The municipal board shall thereupon file with the state board a copy of said application and a written report embodying the results of their investigation and their recommendations thereon, and the state board shall determine all matters in question, and communicate in writing its decision to the municipal board. If the applicant is held entitled to aid, the state board shall determine its character and amount, which may be less than, but shall not exceed, the amount recommended by the municipal board. The town shall thereupon, pursuant to such decision, pay the same in money or its value to the applicant, or to some person designated by the state board upon the recommendation of the municipal board, who shall expend it for the purposes and in the manner set forth in the decision. The state board may revise its decision whenever it deems it necessary or equitable so to do, but shall not increase the amount of aid previously awarded except with the consent of the municipal board, nor decrease it without giving said board opportunity to be heard.

**Sec. 8. State board to investigate upon failure of municipal board. Expenses charged to town.** If the said municipal board shall fail for thirty

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days to act upon and report upon said application, the said mother may make application for aid to the state board who shall communicate with the municipal board, and if the municipal board shall thereafter neglect or fail to act for a period of ten additional days the state board itself shall proceed to investigate the merits of said application and to determine what, if any, aid shall be awarded the applicant, and the decision of said state board shall be of the same effect and validity as if the municipal board had in the first instance proceeded according to sections five, six and seven of this act. The expenses incurred by the state board by reason of the default of the municipal board shall be audited by the state auditor and paid by the state treasurer, who shall collect said amount of the town in which the municipal board so failing to act as aforesaid is located, by an action at law in the name of the state.

**Sec. 9. Proceedings when mother seeking aid has husband living.** In any case when application for aid hereunder is made by a mother who has a husband living, who is able by means of his property or labor to contribute to her support and that of her children, but who wilfully neglects or refuses so to do, or who has deserted her or her children, it shall be the duty of the municipal board of the town where the applicant resides to advise the mother in making complaint to compel such husband to contribute to the support of his said wife and children, under the provisions of sections thirty-eight to forty-one inclusive of chapter one hundred twenty of the revised statutes, or in filing a petition under the provisions of section nine of chapter sixty-six of the revised statutes; and until such proceedings have been begun, and are being prosecuted in good faith to the satisfaction of the municipal and state boards, and until, in cases of desertion, at least one year has elapsed from date of commencement of such desertion, no aid shall be given under the provisions of this act.

**Sec. 10. State board to have general supervision; shall make annual report.** The state board shall have general supervision over the administration of the provisions of this act, and shall prescribe appropriate forms for application, reports and other proceedings required by the act; said board shall keep a record of all cases reported to it hereunder and action taken by it in relation to the same; and shall keep on file all reports made to it by municipal boards; it shall see that families aided hereunder are visited as herein required and shall have access to any records of the municipal boards or of the overseers of the poor relating to any proceedings hereunder. In order to aid the state board in determining any questions presented to it for decision by any municipal boards under the provisions of this act, it may, in addition to their reports, make further investigation in such manner as it may deem best. It shall embody a statement concerning the work done hereunder in the annual report of the state board of charities and corrections.

**Sec. 11. Towns to be reimbursed.** Any city, town or plantation rendering aid under the provisions of this act, shall be reimbursed by the state for one-half of the amount expended after approval by the state board and state auditor of its bills. If the mother so aided has no settlement the city or town shall be reimbursed for the total amount of the aid given

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after approval of the bill as aforesaid, but one-half of such reimbursement shall be made from the appropriation for support of state paupers. If the mother so aided has a lawful settlement in another city or town, the amount of such aid rendered may be recovered by the city or town giving it in an action against the city or town liable therefor, provided the city or town so liable was notified in accordance with the requirements of section thirty-three of chapter twenty-nine of the revised statutes, or against the kindred of the mother and children so aided in the manner provided by section thirty-three.

**Sec. 12. Appropriation.** For the purpose of reimbursing the cities or towns as provided in this act there is hereby appropriated from the state treasury, the sum of thirty-five thousand dollars, ten thousand dollars for nineteen hundred and seventeen and twenty-five thousand dollars for nineteen hundred and eighteen, provided that any unexpended balances of the amount appropriated for nineteen hundred seventeen may be expended for the purposes of this act in nineteen hundred and eighteen.

**Sec. 13. Inconsistent statutes repealed.** All acts and parts of acts inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

Approved April 7, 1917.

## Chapter 223.

An Act to Amend Section Forty-five of Chapter One Hundred and Seventeen of the Revised Statutes, Increasing the Amounts to be Paid for Clerk Hire in the County Offices of Sagadahoc County.

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

**R. S., c. 117, § 45, relating to clerk hire in county offices, amended.** Section forty-five of chapter one hundred and seventeen of the revised statutes, is hereby amended by striking out in the thirteenth paragraph of said section the words, "Sagadahoc county; for clerks in the office of register of deeds, three hundred twenty-five dollars; for clerks in the office of register of probate, three hundred twenty-five dollars; for clerks in the office of clerk of courts, four hundred dollars," and inserting in place thereof the following: 'Sagadahoc county; for clerks in the office of register of deeds, four hundred dollars; for clerks in the office of register of probate, four hundred dollars; for clerks in the office of clerk of courts, four hundred dollars,' so that said section, as amended, shall read as follows:

**'Sec. 45. Clerk hire in office of Androscoggin register of deeds, Aroostook clerk of courts, recorder of Portland municipal court, and Sagadahoc register of deeds and register of probate increased.** The several county treasurers shall pay weekly to the clerks employed by the several officials in their respective counties, the wages to which they may be entitled and shall take individual receipts therefor. County officials for whom provision for clerk hire may be made, shall certify to the county treasurer the names of