

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

1917

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Chapter 300.

An Act to Amend Certain Sections of Chapter One Hundred Forty-eight, of the Revised Statutes, Relating to Pensions for the Blind.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 148, § 1, relating to pensions for the blind; persons entitled to aid, amended. Section twelve of chapter one hundred and forty-eight, revised statutes, is hereby amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 12. Aid not to exceed \$200 annually; may be less. Money to be used for exclusive benefit and support. All persons over the age of twenty-one years, who are declared to be blind, in the manner hereinafter set forth, and who come within the provisions of the following sections shall, at the discretion of the governor and council, receive as a benefit not exceeding two hundred dollars a year, for their exclusive benefit and support, payable at the close of each regular quarter, upon warrants drawn on the treasurer of state.'

Sec. 2. R. S., c. 148, § 13, relating to persons excluded from aid, amended. Section thirteen of said chapter one hundred forty-eight is hereby amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 13. Persons able to earn income sufficient for support not entitled to aid; persons receiving pauper supplies and persons desiring to leave institutions, not excluded from aid. No person or persons who are charges of any charitable or penal institution of this state or of any charitable or penal institution of any county, city or town thereof, no person or persons who are able to earn or obtain an income sufficient for their support, and no person who has not resided within the State of Maine continuously for ten consecutive years immediately before applying for said benefit shall be entitled to benefits under the provisions of the following sections; provided, however, that this section shall not be so construed as to exclude persons receiving pauper supplies or persons who may wish to leave any charitable institution in order to avail themselves of the provisions of this chapter.'

Sec. 3. R. S., c. 148, § 14, relating to procedure for receiving aid, amended. Section fourteen of said chapter one hundred forty-eight is hereby amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 14. Witnesses to affidavit need not be residents of same county as applicant. Any person claiming the benefits provided herein may go before the city, town, or plantation clerk where he resides and make affidavit to the facts which bring him within the provisions of sections eleven to nineteen, both inclusive, of said chapter; said affidavit shall be deemed an application for said benefit; the clerk shall transmit the same, together with the affidavit of two witnesses having knowledge of the facts as to the places and periods of residence of said applicant, to the municipal officers of the city, town, or plantation in which said blind person resides.'

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Sec. 4. R. S., c. 148, § 15, relating to appointment of examiner of the blind, amended. Section fifteen of said chapter one hundred forty-eight is hereby amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 15. No specified time for examination of applicants. The municipal officers of cities, towns, and plantations shall appoint a regular practicing physician whose official title shall be examiner of the blind, and said municipal officers shall promptly forward to said examiner all applications received from the clerk of the city, town, or plantation where the applicant resides.'

Sec. 5. R. S., c. 148, § 16, relating to duties of examiner of blind and compensation, amended. Section sixteen of said chapter one hundred forty-eight is hereby amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 16. Examination shall be made with reasonable promptness; definition of term "blind"; cause of blindness and other facts to be stated when known. The examiner of the blind shall with reasonable promptness examine all applicants for said benefits referred to him by the municipal officers, and shall endorse on the applications certificates showing whether or not the applicant is blind, the word "blind" within the meaning of this act being construed as having less than one-tenth vision. He shall also state, as fully as his knowledge will permit, the cause of the blindness, or partial blindness, of the applicant, and the percentage of vision, if any, actually retained. He shall keep a register in which he shall enter all the facts contained in each certificate and shall forthwith return said application with his certificate thereon to the municipal officers from whom it was received. He shall be paid from the municipal treasury two dollars for each examination.'

Sec. 6. R. S., c. 148, § 17, relating to duties of municipal officers, amended. Section seventeen of said chapter one hundred and forty-eight is hereby amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 17. Investigation to be made promptly; full information as to amount of aid necessary to be procured. The municipal officers shall register the name, address, number, and the date of examination of each applicant, shall promptly make or cause to be made careful investigation by personally interviewing the applicant in his home, looking up his references, and pursuing such other sources of information as are available for the purpose of determining the truth of the statements contained in the application; and whether, under all the circumstances, considering his own resources, and the ability of any member of his family to contribute to his support, the possibility of receiving aid from other relatives, the possibility of compelling contributions from any person under obligation to do so, under the provisions of chapter twenty-nine, revised statutes, and the possibility of the applicant receiving such education or instruction as will enable him to become at least partially self-supporting, the applicant is in need of a benefit under the provisions of this act, and if so, to what amount, and shall forward the application to the governor and council with their recommendations endorsed thereon.'

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Sec. 7. R. S., c. 148, § 18, relating to the payment of benefits, amended. Section eighteen of said chapter one hundred forty-eight is hereby amended to read as follows :

'Sec. 18. Governor and council to prescribe regulations; shall determine amount of aid; may cause re-examination. The governor and council shall prescribe such blank forms, and make such rules and regulations, not inconsistent with law, as they deem proper for carrying out the provisions of this act, shall review the evidence submitted to them under the provisions of the preceding sections, and shall determine what applicants are entitled to benefits, and the amount thereof, and the benefit shall begin on the first day of the month next succeeding the date on which the decision is made; they may at any time require a re-examination of any applicant or applicants; they shall cause warrants to be drawn upon the treasurer of state, payable to said blind persons or their legal representatives at the close of each regular quarter thereafter, during the life of said persons while they are residents of this state or until said disability is removed.'

Approved April 7, 1917.

Chapter 301.

An Act Additional to Chapter Nineteen of the Revised Statutes, Relating to Care and Treatment of Certain Infectious Diseases.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 19, relating to public health and prevention of contagious diseases, amended. Chapter nineteen of the revised statutes, is hereby amended by adding at the end of said chapter the following sections, namely :

'Sec. 125. Venereal diseases; cases found in charitable or correctional institutions to be reported. It shall be the duty of every superintendent, manager or physician in charge of any state, county or municipal charitable or correctional institution immediately to report to the state board of health every case of venereal disease among the inmates of said institution of which he has knowledge. It shall be the duty of every superintendent, manager or physician in charge of any state-aided, county-aided, or municipally-aided charitable institution to make a similar report to the state board of health in relation to inmates of such institution, the cost of whose care and treatment is being paid in whole or in part by the state, or by any county or municipality in the state. Said report shall be made in the form which may be required by the rules and regulations of the said state board, provided that such rules and regulations shall not require said reports to be made in a form which will disclose to the state board of health or to any other person, except the said superintendent, manager or physician, the identity of the inmate. Said superintendents, managers and physicians shall comply with such rules and regulations as are made by the said state board to prevent the spread of venereal disease.