

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

AS PASSED BY THE

Eighty-fifth Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1931

Published by the Secretary of State, in conjunction with the Revisor of Statutes
in accordance with the Resolves of the Legislature, approved June 28, 1820,
March 18, 1840, March 16, 1842, and an Act of August 6, 1930.

KENNEBEC JOURNAL COMPANY
AUGUSTA, MAINE
1931

PUBLIC LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

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tory until it shall be two years of age, when it must be removed therefrom. The board of trustees may cause such child to be placed in any asylum for children in this state and pay for the care and maintenance of such child therein until the mother of such child shall have been discharged, or may commit such child to the care and custody of some relative or proper person willing to assume such care, or such child may be committed to the custody of the state board of children's guardians under the provisions of section fifty-two of chapter seventy-two. If such woman, at the time of such commitment, shall be the mother of and have under her exclusive care, a child more than one year of age, which might be otherwise left without proper care or guardianship, the magistrate committing such woman shall cause such child to be committed to such asylum as may be provided by law for such purposes, or to the care and custody of some relative or proper person willing to assume such care or to the custody of the state board of children's guardians. Any commitment of a child under the provisions of this section to the custody of any asylum for children or to any relative or other person, or to the state board, shall be subject to the provisions of section fifty-five of chapter seventy-two.'

Approved March 16, 1931.

Chapter 34.

AN ACT Relating to the Counting and Sealing of Ballots.

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

R. S., c. 8, sec. 18; relating to counting and sealing of ballots, amended. Section eighteen of chapter eight of the revised statutes is hereby amended by striking out the whole section and substituting in place thereof the following:

'Sec. 18. Ballots to be counted by duly constituted officials sworn to do their duty. The ballots shall be sorted and counted in open town or ward meeting by duly constituted officials sworn to do their duty by town or city clerks, and in such capacity shall be known as public officials, who shall not have been in the employ of any of the parties, or their agents, to the referendum or election for six months prior to the election, each official signing and filing a sworn statement of his count with the name of the official written or stamped on the ballots counted by said official. The counting of said ballots to be done in such manner as to afford the electors present ample opportunity to observe the sorting and counting, and the result shall be declared and recorded in open town or ward meeting. When the ballots have been so sorted and counted and the result so declared and

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recorded, all the ballots and sworn statements of said officials shall in open meeting be sealed in a package, which said package with the check-lists sealed in the same manner as the ballots shall forthwith be returned to the city, town, or plantation. In case two or more kinds of official ballots are used at any election each kind shall be sealed in a separate package. All ballots and check-lists, and sworn statements of said officials, shall be so sealed that the packages and check-lists cannot be opened or examined without first breaking the seal; and the sealed packages of ballots cast at any state election or at any election of electors of president and vice-president of the United States shall have an indorsement of substantially the following tenor indorsed thereon or securely affixed thereon: "This package contains the ballots cast at an election for _____ held in the _____ of _____ (or in ward _____ of the city of) _____ on the _____ day of _____ 19 _____; said ballots were sorted, counted, the result declared and recorded, and this package sealed in open meeting in accordance with section eighteen of chapter eight of the revised statutes." Such indorsement shall be signed by the town, plantation, or ward clerk and by a majority of the selectmen of towns and the assessors of plantations, or by the wardens in cities or voting precincts. The ballots and check-lists and sworn statements of said officials returned to the city clerk after any city election and all other ballots returned to him, which he is not required to forward to the secretary of state according to the provisions of section forty-seven, shall be preserved by him as a public record for six months.'

Approved March 16, 1931.

Chapter 35.

AN ACT Relating to Removal of Patients from State Hospitals when Requested; Towns May Become Liable for Support on Failure to Remove.

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

Sec. 1. Removal of patient; liability of town for costs. When the municipal officers of any city or town are requested in writing by the superintendent of a state hospital to remove any patient committed to said state hospital from said city or town, when in the opinion of said superintendent such patient does not require further state hospital care or treatment, or when such patient has been discharged by the trustees, it shall be the duty of said municipal officers to remove such patient within fifteen days after receiving such notice. After the expiration of said fifteen days, said city or town shall be liable for the full support of said patient so long as he remains in said hospital.