

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTH REVISION

THE
REVISED STATUTES

OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

PASSED AUGUST 5, 1930, AND TAKING
EFFECT NOVEMBER 10, 1930



By the Authority of the Legislature

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CHAP. 161

nineteen hundred seventeen maturing during the fiscal years ending June thirtieth, nineteen hundred thirty to June thirtieth, nineteen hundred thirty-two, inclusive.

Fifth: To pay the pensions for soldiers, sailors, and marines, their widows, children, and other dependents under any provision of law governing the same and all sums payable under any provision of law for the relief of dependents of soldiers, sailors, and marines who served in the World War, including pensions granted on account of military service under the provisions of any resolve of the legislature.

Sixth: To set aside in the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, nineteen hundred thirty-three, and in each of the fiscal years thereafter to and including the year nineteen hundred thirty-seven, the sum of one hundred thousand dollars each year, the same to be used to pay the bonds maturing on May first nineteen hundred thirty-seven, said bonds having been issued under authority of chapter one hundred eighty-seven, of the public laws of nineteen hundred seventeen.

Seventh: In so far as the amount raised of said tax of one mill on a dollar shall not be required at any time for the purposes intended in the six preceding paragraphs, the excess shall be deemed to be general revenue of the state, available for appropriation by the legislature as it shall determine.

CHAPTER 161.

Provisions for Mothers with Dependent Children.

Sec. 1. Cities and towns to render aid to mothers with dependent children. 1917, c. 222, § 1. 1919, c. 17, § 1. 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 sixteen years, who needs and desires such aid to enable her to maintain herself and children in her home and who is fit and capable, mentally, morally, and physically to bring up her children.

Sec. 2. Settlement or residence in state necessary; not to be deemed paupers. 1917, c. 222, § 2. 1919, c. 17, § 2. This chapter shall apply to all mothers and their dependent children who may have a settlement in this state, or 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. 1917, c. 222, § 3. 1919, c. 17, § 3. The aid to be furnished hereunder may be furnished either in money or supplies or both.

Sec. 4. State board of mothers' aid; municipal board, duties. 1917, c. 222, § 4. The state board of mothers' aid shall serve without compensation and shall consist of the commissioners of the department of public welfare ex officio. The secretary of said commission shall be ex officio secretary of the state board of mothers' aid, and serve without additional compensation as such.

In each city, town, and plantation there shall be a municipal board of mothers' 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.

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 chapter and report the same to the state board.

Sec. 5. Mother to make application to municipal board; form of blank; penalty for false statement. 1917, c. 222, § 5. 1919, c. 17, § 4. 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 required by law to attend school 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 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 chapter solely for the support of herself and her children under the age of sixteen 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 for not more than eleven months or by both such fine and imprisonment.

Sec. 6. Investigation of applications to be made by municipal board. 1917, c. 222, § 6. 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 com-

elling contributions by any person under legal obligation so to do, such mother is in need of aid under the provisions of this chapter, and if so, in what amount.

Sec. 7. State board to make final decision. 1917, c. 222, § 7. 1929, c. 204, § 1. 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 treasurer of state shall thereupon, by order of the state auditor, 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. 1917, c. 222, § 8. If the said municipal board shall fail for thirty 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. 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 treasurer of state, 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. 1917, c. 222, § 9. 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 provision of sections forty-four to forty-eight inclusive of chapter one hundred twenty-nine or in filing a petition under the provisions of section nine of chapter seventy-four; 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 chapter.

Sec. 10. State board to have general supervision; to make annual report. 1917, c. 222, § 10. The state board shall have general supervision over the administration of the provisions of this chapter, and shall prescribe appropriate forms for application, reports and other proceedings required by this chapter; 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 chapter, 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 department of public welfare.

Sec. 11. Towns to be assessed. 1917, c. 222, § 11. 1919, c. 17, § 5. 1929, c. 204, § 2. The state board of mothers' aid shall recover from the town in which the mother so aided has legal settlement, one-half the amount expended, which shall be credited to the regular legislative appropriation for aid to mothers with dependent children. Whenever it appears that a city or town is delinquent in making reimbursements to the state board, the amounts due shall be collected by the treasurer of state in the same manner and subject to the same penalties as state taxes. Any balance due shall be assessed in the succeeding year in the same manner as other state taxes.

CHAPTER 162.

Uniform Bills of Lading Act.

P. L. 1917, c. 132.

- Sections 1-10 The Issue of Bills of Lading.
 Sections 11-27 Obligations and Rights of Carriers upon their Bills of Lading.
 Sections 28-43 Negotiation and Transfer of Bills.
 Sections 44-50 Criminal Offenses.
 Sections 51-55 Interpretation.

The Issue of Bills of Lading.

Sec. 1. Bills governed by this chapter. Bills of lading issued by any common carrier for the transportation of goods within this state shall be governed by this chapter.

Sec. 2. Form of bills, essential terms. Every bill must embody within its written or printed terms:

- (a) The date of its issue,
- (b) The name of the person from whom the goods have been received,
- (c) The place where the goods have been received,
- (d) The place to which the goods are to be transported,
- (e) A statement whether the goods received will be delivered to a specified person, or to the order of a specified person,
- (f) A description of the goods or of the packages containing them which may, however, be in such general terms as are referred to in section twenty-three, and
- (g) The signature of the carrier.