

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SIXTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE.

No. 170.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND
EIGHTY-THREE.

AN ACT in amendment of and additional to chapter one hundred and forty-two of the revised statutes, relating to the State Reform School.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows :

SECTION 1. Section eleven of chapter one hundred and forty-two of the revised statutes is hereby amended so as to read as follows :

4 *Sect. 11.* The trustees, under direction of the
5 governor and council, shall establish and maintain
6 a mechanical school and cause the boys under
7 their charge to be instructed in mechanical trades
8 and in the branches of useful knowledge adapted
9 to their age and capacity; in agriculture and hor-

10 ticulture, according to their age, strength, disposi-
11 tion and capacity, and otherwise as will best secure
12 their reformation, amendment and future benefit.
13 The trustees, in binding out the inmates, shall have
14 scrupulous regard to the character of those to
15 whom they are bound, that they may secure the
16 benefit of good example, wholesome instruction
17 and other means of improvement in virtue and
18 knowledge, and the opportunity of becoming in-
19 telligent, moral and useful citizens to the state.
20 The trustees shall establish rules and regulations
21 for the direction of the officers, agents and ser-
22 vants of the school, and for the government, in-
23 struction and discipline of the inmates, that shall
24 specify the punishments that may be inflicted upon
25 the boys in the school, and any officer, agent or
26 servant who inflicts punishment not so authorized
27 shall be discharged and dismissed. Such rules
28 and regulations shall be submitted to and ap-
29 proved by the governor and council, and shall not
30 be altered without their consent.

SECT. 2. Section twelve of said chapter is here-
2 by amended by inserting in the seventh line, after
3 the word "employments," the words: "He (the
4 superintendent) shall see that no punishment is
5 inflicted upon the boys in violation of the rules of

6 the trustees, and shall immediately cause to be en-
 7 tered in a book kept for the purpose, a particular
 8 record of all corporal punishments inflicted upon
 9 the boys, stating the offence, the punishment, and by
 10 whom inflicted, which record shall be open to pub-
 11 lic inspection and shall be laid before the trustees
 12 at their quarterly meetings at the school, a majority
 13 of whom shall then certify upon said book whether
 14 or not such punishments are approved by them.”

SECT. 3. Said chapter is hereby further amended
 2 by adding thereto the two following sections:

3 *Sect. 16.* The inmates of the school shall be
 4 separated into classes, regard being had to their
 5 age, their character and conduct, and the offence
 6 for which they have been committed. The boys of
 7 each class shall be allowed each day, so far as
 8 practicable, out-door exercise and be employed in
 9 some out door-labor. Each boy shall be provided
 10 with his own clothing and be taught to care
 11 for it. Solitary confinement shall not be allowed,
 12 except for grave offences, specified by the rules of
 13 the trustees, and the apartment in which it is in-
 14 flicted shall be suitably warmed, lighted, and pro-
 15 vided with a bed and proper appliances for
 16 cleanliness. All the boys shall receive the same
 17 quality of food, and in quantities to satisfy the

18 appetite of each. Punishment of withholding, or
19 short allowance of food, shall not be inflicted,
20 except as specified by the rules of the trustees.

21 *Sect. 17.* A committee of the council, consist-
22 ing of three, with whom shall be associated one
23 woman, shall be appointed by the governor annu-
24 ally, who shall visit the State Reform School from
25 time to time and examine into the treatment of the
26 inmates, their condition and progress. They shall
27 maintain in the school a box for the receipt of
28 letters, to which the inmates at all times shall have
29 free access to deposit letters without the knowl-
30 edge or scrutiny of the officers of the school.
31 They shall hear complaints of illtreatment from
32 the inmates and shall make such suggestions to
33 the superintendent and trustees as they think the
43 good of the school requires, and yearly, severally
35 report to the governor and council concerning the
36 school, its condition and needs.

STATE OF MAINE.

In HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
March 2, 1883. }

Reported by Mr. HERR from Committee on Reform School,
and ordered printed.

ORAMANDAL SMITH, *Clerk.*