

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sixty-Second Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 63.

STATE OF MAINE.

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

AN ACT to establish the Maine Reformatory Institu-
tion for Women.

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

SECTION 1. There shall be established within
2 this State, as soon as practicable after the taking
3 effect of this act, an institution to be known as the
4 Maine Reformatory Institution for Women, the
5 premises, location, purchase, lease and preparation
6 thereof to be determined by the Governor and
7 Council, who are hereby empowered and directed
8 to provide lot, buildings and all suitable accommo-
9 dations therefor; and when the same shall have
10 been established and made ready under this act,

11 the Governor shall issue his proclamation giving
12 public notice of the fact.

SECT. 2. The supervision and government of
2 said institution shall be vested in a board of man-
3 agers consisting of five persons, who shall be
4 women, all of whom to be appointed by the Gov-
5 ernor, with the advice and consent of the Council.
6 When two years shall have expired after the ap-
7 pointment of said board, two of their number shall
8 be appointed annually; and for this purpose the
9 places of the two senior members, as they stand
10 arranged in their commission, shall be thereafter
11 annually vacated. Any member of said board
12 may at any time be removed by the Governor for
13 cause. The members of said board shall not re-
14 ceive any compensation for their services, excepting
15 their actual travelling expenses, nor be financially
16 interested in any contract or business connected
17 with or growing out of the management of said
18 institution.

SECT. 3. The board of managers shall annually
2 elect one of their number president thereof, and
3 another for secretary and treasurer who shall keep
4 true and accurate records of all proceedings of the
5 board, and true and exact accounts of all property,
6 receipts and expenditures of said institution. Said

7 board shall make all such rules and regulations as
8 they shall deem necessary respecting other and
9 further organization, the duties devolving upon,
10 and required of them as a whole, or as committees,
11 and the work so assigned them. Each department
12 or system, whether for education or employment,
13 the nature thereof, occupation, discipline and pun-
14 ishment, shall be under the management of said
15 board. They shall make all necessary contracts
16 for the proper supply of fuel, food and other ma-
17 terials, for the maintenance of said institution, in
18 no case, however, to exceed the appropriations
19 made by the Legislature. They shall appoint a
20 suitable person to act as matron or superintendent,
21 and any and all other needed officers, who shall be
22 women. The superintendent shall be responsible
23 for the custody of the inmates and the preservation
24 of the property belonging to the institution, and
25 shall give bond to the State in such amount, and
26 upon such conditions as the Governor may require.
27 The managers shall fix the amount to be paid as
28 salaries, and have full power to make and enforce
29 all such rules, regulations and by-laws for the gov-
30 ernment of said officers and inmates as they shall
31 deem necessary, subject, however, to the approval

32 of the inspectors of prisons and jails, who are
33 hereby constituted an advisory board to said man-
34 agers; but in case of disagreement between said
35 board of managers and the said inspectors the
36 same shall be submitted to and determined by the
37 Governor and Council. For the transaction of
38 any business a majority of said board shall be
39 present at said institution and vote thereon. Said
40 managers shall there meet at least quarter-annually
41 and the by-laws shall prescribe when they shall
42 otherwise visit and inspect the institution. Said
43 managers shall determine what measures shall be
44 adopted respecting the welfare and reformation of
45 inmates, and shall have power to indenture,
46 discharge on probation, and upon what conditions,
47 any inmate, whenever they shall deem it for the
48 best interest of said inmate and the public so to
49 do. Should any inmate become incorrigible and
50 unfit to remain in said institution, the managers may
51 apply to any justice of the Supreme Judicial
52 Court for the removal of such inmate, who may
53 consign her to the State Prison or any county jail
54 for a period not longer than the unexpired term of
55 her sentence to this institution. Said managers
56 shall cause the said inmates to be employed in all
57 useful employments, and especially in the making

58 of clothing and other articles needed by the in-
59 mates of the State Prison, the various jails within
60 the State and the Reform School for boys, and may
61 make contracts to furnish the same to the aforesaid
62 institutions upon such terms as may be agreed
63 upon with the proper authorities thereof. And
64 said managers shall employ suitable persons to
65 instruct said inmates in common branches of
66 learning and educate them to habits of industry
67 and the useful occupations and duties of life.

SECT. 4. The president of the board of man-
2 gers shall submit to each Legislature a full report
3 of their doings, number of inmates, expenses of
4 the institution, work performed, financial stand-
5 ing, and all matters of interest connected there-
6 with. All accounts of expenditures, and all their
7 financial transactions shall be passed upon by the
8 Governor and Council, and all contracts exceeding
9 three hundred dollars in amount shall first be
10 authorized by them.

SECT. 5. When the said reformatory institution
2 shall have been established it shall be used exclu-
3 sively for women; and to this end all female pris-
4 oners then confined in the State Prison, and in
5 the various county jails and houses of correction
6 throughout the State, shall, upon the order of the

7 Governor, be transferred thereto to serve out the
8 remainder of their several sentences, unless the
9 said remaining sentence be less than three months
10 or more than ten years; *provided*, that no one
11 under sentence of death, or who is known to be
12 insane, or suffering from severe and incurable ill-
13 ness shall be so transferred. The sheriff of the
14 county where the said reformatory institution is
15 situated shall execute the order of the Governor
16 in this behalf, and demand and receive from the
17 warden of the State Prison and the keepers of the
18 aforesaid jails and houses of correction, all inmates to
19 be so as above transferred, and shall deliver them into
20 the custody of the superintendent of said reform-
21 atory institution, there to serve out their unexpired
22 sentences as hereinbefore provided; and all neces-
23 sary acts of officers in making said transfers
24 shall be legal and valid.

SECT. 6. After said institution shall have been
2 established all sentences of females shall be there-
3 to; *provided*, the same be not for a less period
4 than three months, nor for more than ten years.
5 And it is further enacted and provided, in addition
6 to the penalties hitherto authorized by law, that
7 any female who shall be a second time adjudged
8 guilty of any of the offences enumerated in sec-

9 tion four of chapter one hundred and forty-one of
10 the Revised Statutes of this State, or of larceny,
11 or intoxication and disturbance, may, in the discre-
12 tion of the court, be sentenced to said institution
13 for a term not less than six months nor for more
14 than three years. And in the prosecution of all
15 offences referred to in this clause judges of muni-
16 cipal and police courts shall have concurrent juris-
17 diction with the Supreme Judicial Court and the
18 Superior Courts of the State.

SECT. 7. The sum of ten thousand dollars is
2 hereby appropriated for the uses and purposes of
3 this institution, and this sum shall be drawn by the
4 Governor from time to time for all needed expenses,
5 under the restrictions of this act.

SECT. 8. All acts inconsistent with this act, re-
2 lating to crimes and their punishment, are hereby
3 repealed. All acts relating to escapes, rescues
4 and attempts to rescue prisoners, safe keeping and
5 discipline of the same, and the misconduct of
6 officers and other persons relating thereto, shall
7 apply to this act.

SECT. 9. This act shall take effect when ap-
2 proved.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
February 5, 1885.

Presented by Mr. J. E. MOORE, from Committee on Judiciary, and
on his motion tabled and ordered printed.

NICHOLAS FESSENDEN, *Clerk.*