

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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[NEW DRAFT.]

Sixty-Second Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 148.

STATE OF MAINE.

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

AN ACT to establish the Maine Reformatory Institution for
Women.

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

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

SECT. 2. The supervision and government of said insti-
2 tution shall be vested in a board of managers consisting
3 of five persons, who shall be women, all of whom to be

4 appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent
5 of the Council. When two years shall have expired after
6 the appointment of said board, two of their number shall
7 be appointed annually; and for this purpose the places of
8 the two senior members, as they stand arranged in their
9 commission, shall be thereafter annually vacated. Any
10 member of said board may at any time be removed by
11 the Governor for cause. The members of said board
12 shall not receive any compensation for their services, ex-
13 cepting their actual travelling expenses, nor be financially
14 interested in any contract or business connected with or
15 growing out of the management of said institution.

SECT. 3. The board of managers shall annually elect
2 one of their number president thereof, and another for
3 secretary and treasurer who shall keep true and accurate
4 records of all the proceedings of the board, and true and
5 accurate accounts of all property, receipts and expendi-
6 tures of said institution. Said board shall make all such
7 rules and regulations as they shall deem necessary re-
8 specting other and further organization, the duties devolv-
9 ing upon, and required of them as a whole, or as commit-
10 tees, and the work so assigned them. Each department
11 or system, whether for education or employment, the na-
12 ture thereof, occupation, discipline and punishment, shall
13 be under the management of said board. They shall
14 make all necessary contracts for the proper supply of fuel,
15 food and other materials, for the maintenance of said in-
16 stitution, in no case, however, to exceed the appropria-
17 tions made by the Legislature. They shall appoint a suit-
18 able person to act as matron or superintendent, and any
19 and all other needed officers, who shall be women. The

20 superintendent shall be responsible for the custody of the
21 inmates and the preservation of the property belonging to
22 the institution, and shall give bond to the State in such
23 amount, and upon such conditions as the Governor may
24 require. The managers shall fix the amount to be paid as
25 salaries, and have full power to make and enforce all such
26 rules, regulations and by-laws for the government of said
27 officers and inmates as they shall deem necessary, subject,
28 however, to the approval of the inspectors of prisons and
29 jails, who are hereby constituted an advisory board to
30 said managers; but in case of disagreement between said
31 board of managers and the said inspectors the same shall
32 be submitted to and determined by the Governor and
33 Council. For the transaction of any business a majority
34 of said board shall be present at said institution and vote
35 thereon. Said managers shall there meet at least quarter-
36 annually and the by-laws shall prescribe when they shall
37 otherwise visit and inspect the institution. Said managers
38 shall determine what measures shall be adopted respecting
39 the welfare and reformation of inmates, and shall have
40 power to indenture, discharge on probation, and upon
41 what conditions, any inmate, whenever they shall deem it
42 for the best interest of said inmate and the public so to
43 do. Should any inmate become incorrigible and unfit to
44 remain in said institution, the managers may apply to
45 any justice of the Supreme Judicial Court for the removal
46 of such inmate, who may consign her to the State Prison
47 or any county jail for a period not longer than the
48 unexpired term of her sentence to this institution. Said
49 managers shall cause the said inmates to be employed in
50 all useful employments, and especially in the making of

51 clothing and other articles needed by the inmates of the
52 State Prison, the various jails within the State and the
53 Reform School for boys, and may make contracts to
54 furnish the same to the aforesaid institutions upon such
55 terms as may be agreed upon with the proper authorities
56 thereof. And said managers shall employ suitable persons
57 to instruct said inmates in common branches of learning
58 and educate them to habits of industry and the useful
59 occupations and duties of life.

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

SECT. 5. When the said reformatory institution shall
2 have been established it shall be used exclusively for
3 women; and to this end all female prisoners then confined
4 in the State Prison, and in the various county jails and
5 houses of correction throughout the State, shall, upon the
6 order of the Governor, be transferred thereto to serve out
7 the remainder of their several sentences, unless the said
8 remaining sentence be less than three months or more
9 than ten years; *provided*, that no one under sentence of
10 death, or who is known to be insane, or suffering from
11 severe and incurable illness shall be so transferred. The
12 sheriff of the county where the said reformatory institution
13 is situated shall execute the order of the Governor in this

14 behalf, and demand and receive from the warden of the
15 State Prison and the keepers of the aforesaid jails and
16 houses of correction, all inmates to be so as above trans-
17 ferred, and shall deliver them into the custody of the
18 superintendent of said reformatory institution, there to
19 serve out their unexpired sentences as hereinbefore
20 provided; and all necessary acts of officers in making said
21 transfers shall be legal and valid.

SECT. 6. After said institution shall have been estab-
2 lished all sentences of females shall be thereto; *provided*,
3 the same be not for a less period than three months, nor
4 for more than fifteen years. And it is further enacted and
5 provided, in addition to the penalties hitherto authorized
6 by law, that any female who shall be a second time
7 adjudged guilty of any of the offences enumerated in sec-
8 tion four of chapter one hundred and forty-one of the
9 Revised Statutes of this State, or of larceny, or intoxica-
10 tion and disturbance, may, in the discretion of the court,
11 be sentenced to said institution for a term not less than
12 six months nor for more than three years, but such sen-
13 tence shall be conditional that if such female is not kept
14 there for the full term of her sentence, she shall then
15 suffer such alternative punishment as the court or justice
16 orders. And in the prosecution of all offences referred to
17 in this clause, judges of municipal and police courts shall
18 have concurrent jurisdiction with the Supreme Judicial
19 Court and the Superior Courts of the State.

SECT. 7. The sum of ten thousand dollars is hereby
2 appropriated for the uses and purposes of this institution,
3 and this sum shall be drawn by the Governor from time

4 to time for all needed expenses, under the restrictions of
5 this act.

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

SECT. 9. This act shall take effect when approved.



STATE OF MAINE.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
February 20, 1885. }

Reported from Committee on Judiciary, by Mr. MOORE; ordered
printed under joint rule.

NICHOLAS FESSENDEN, *Clerk.*