

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NO. 133

In Senate, Jan. 30, 1913.

Presented by Senator Patten of Hancock and on motion by same senator laid on the table for printing, pending reference to a committee.

W. E. LAWRY, Secretary.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND THIRTEEN.

AN ACT to amend section six of chapter eighteen of the
Revised Statutes relating to the State Board of Health.

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

Section 1. Section six of chapter eighteen of the revised
2 statutes, as amended by chapter forty-eight of the public
3 laws of 1909, is hereby further amended by striking out
4 the words "five thousand five hundred," and substituting
5 in the place thereof the words 'seven thousand,' so that said
6 section, as amended, shall read as follows:

'Section 6. The sum of seven thousand dollars shall be
8 annually appropriated to pay the salary of the secretary,

9 meet the contingent expenses of the office of the secretary,
10 and the expenses of the board, which shall not exceed the
11 sum appropriated. Said expenses shall be certified and
12 paid in the same manner as the salary of the secretary.' . .

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

The State Board of Health wishes and advises that this increase in the annual appropriation be made so that the board may do much more work and more efficient work in the lines in which it has already exerted itself, and in addition to do some much needed work in directions which it has hitherto been wholly unable to do.

In this State the work against tuberculosis has been followed by notable results. But the welfare of our State, from many points of view, demands still more effective work for reducing the disability-rate and the death-rate from tuberculosis to the minimum in the shortest practicable time. There is great need of bringing the work of the board against tuberculosis intimately and in an effective way into relation with the working and the home conditions of the people in our manufacturing centers, and the board wishes to do that. It wishes also to do much more effective work than it has yet been able to do with its traveling exhibits on tuberculosis, child welfare, school hygiene and rural hygiene, and by means of illustrated talks or lectures.

Another important problem is the diminution of the typhoid death-rate and the improvement of our summer resorts, the latter through a system of inspection of these places as has been done in some other states. The continued increase in this source of prosperity of our State, which now runs into the millions of dollars, will depend in a large measure upon the assurance which we give of safeguarding reasonably the health of our summer visitors, who are, year by year, becoming more critical of conditions which are not just right. It is believed that work well done in an advisory capacity in these directions with a proper follow up system will be approved by both permanent and transient residents, and will be a good investment.

This is a statement of some of the reasons why the State Board of Health desires this increase in its annual appropriation.