

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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SENATE

NO. 246

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*In Senate, Feb. 28, 1917.*

*Referred to Committee on Public Health and fifteen hundred copies ordered printed. Sent down for concurrence.*

*W. E. LAWRY, Secretary.*

*Presented by Mr. Holt of Cumberland.*

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STATE OF MAINE

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE  
HUNDRED AND SEVENTEEN

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AN ACT to amend Chapter 19, Revised Statutes, in relation  
to the State Board of Health.

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

Chapter 19, Revised Statutes, is hereby amended by adding at the end of said chapter the following section, namely:

'Sect. 125. It shall be the duty of every physician, superintendent or manager of any state, county or municipal charitable or correctional institution, or any such private institution receiving public funds, immediately to report to the state board of health, every case of venereal disease which

6 he is called upon to treat or which is in such hospital or  
7 public institution, and every such physician, superintendent  
8 or manager shall make such report in the form which may  
9 be required by the rules and regulations of the said state  
10 board and shall comply with such rules and regulations as  
11 are made by said state board to prevent the spread of vene-  
12 real disease.

Sect. 126. All information and reports in connection with  
2 persons suffering with venereal diseases shall be confidential  
3 and shall not be accessible by the public nor shall such rec-  
4 ords be deemed public records.

Sect. 127. The state board of health shall provide, at the  
2 state laboratory of hygiene or elsewhere, facilities for the  
3 free bacteriological examination of discharges for the diag-  
4 nosis of gonorrhoeal infections, and shall also provide at cost  
5 vaccine or anti-toxin for the treatment of such infections.  
6 And said board shall make at the expense of the state the  
7 Wassermann test for the diagnosis of syphilis; and shall  
8 furnish the treatment known as Salvasan or other accred-  
9 ited specific treatment at cost.

Sect. 128. The state board of health shall include in bulle-  
2 tins or circulars distributed by it, information concerning  
3 the diseases covered by the three preceding sections.

Sect. 129. Any inmate of any state, county or municipal  
2 charitable or correctional institution or dependent child sup-  
3 ported or partially supported by public funds, afflicted or sus-  
4 pected of being afflicted with venereal disease, shall forthwith

5 be placed under medical treatment, and, if in the opinion of  
6 the attending physician, it is necessary, shall be isolated until  
7 danger of contagion is passed. Such case shall be immedi-  
8 ately reported to the state board of health in accordance with  
9 the latter's rules and regulations, and the rules and regula-  
10 tions of the state board of health for the examination, testing  
11 and treatment of cases of venereal disease shall be faithfully  
12 observed. If the sentence or term of commitment of an  
13 inmate of any such institution expires before such disease  
14 is cured, or if, in the opinion of the attending physician of  
15 the institution, or of such physician as the authorities thereof  
16 may consult, his discharge would be dangerous to the public  
17 health, he shall be continued under such medical treatment,  
18 care and custody until in the opinion of such physician his  
19 discharge will not endanger the public health. The expenses  
20 of his support and treatment shall be paid by the place in  
21 which he has a pauper settlement, or by the state if he has  
22 no pauper settlement, after notice of the expiration of his  
23 sentence and of his condition to the overseers of the poor  
24 of the city or town or plantation where he was residing at  
25 the time of his commitment to the institution.

Sect. 130. Any official or person who shall wilfully fail,  
2 neglect or refuse to perform any of the duties imposed upon  
3 him by the provisions of this act shall be fined no more than  
4 five hundred dollars (\$500.00) or be imprisoned for not  
5 more than six months.

Sect. 131. For the purpose of enabling the state board of

2 health to carry out the provisions of this act there is hereby  
3 appropriated for the year 1917 the sum of five thousand  
4 dollars (\$5000) and for the year 1918, the further sum of  
5 five thousand dollars (\$5000).'