

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIFTH REVISION.

THE
REVISED STATUTES

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

PASSED SEPTEMBER 1, 1903, AND TAKING EFFECT JANUARY 1, 1904.

BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE LEGISLATURE.



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CHAP. 142.

SEC. 48. The warden, on recommendation of the inspectors and with the approbation of the governor and council, may make such additional buildings or alterations within the prison or its precincts, as they deem necessary and proper.

SEC. 49. The governor shall annually appoint one of the council a committee, who shall, as often as the governor and council direct, visit the prison, make a thorough and careful examination into the condition of the prison and inmates, and its affairs and management, and report to them.

SEC. 50. The governor, on recommendation of the warden and inspectors, and with the approval of the council, may appoint and commission, to hold office during the pleasure of the executive, but not longer than two years under one appointment, a suitable person chaplain of the state prison; who shall, in accordance with the rules of the prison, perform religious services in the chapel every Sunday, visit the sick, labor diligently and faithfully for the mental, moral and religious improvement of the convicts, and aid them when practicable in obtaining employment after their discharge. With the assent of the inspectors, a Sunday school may be established, and persons from without, of proper character, may be admitted to assist in it.

SEC. 51. Besides the salaries and pay of the officers of the prison, there shall be appropriated, and annually paid out of the state treasury, fifty dollars for maintaining a school in the prison; fifty dollars for purchase of books for the use of convicts; the two sums last named to be expended by the warden under direction of the inspectors; and a sum not exceeding one hundred and fifty dollars for medicines.

SEC. 52. The governor, with the advice and consent of the council, may draw warrants on the state treasury in favor of the warden for all such sums as they, from time to time, deem proper, from appropriations for the support of the state prison.

Alterations may be made by warden, under the inspectors.
R. S., c. 140, § 47.

Governor shall appoint one of the council to examine prison.
R. S., c. 140, § 48.

Chaplain for the prison may be appointed.
R. S., c. 140, § 49.

—Sunday school.

Appropriations for school, books and medicines.
R. S., c. 140, § 50.
See c. 116, §§ 1, 11, 12.

Appropriations, how to be paid to the warden.
R. S., c. 140, § 51.

CHAPTER 142.

WORKHOUSES. HOUSES OF CORRECTION.

WORKHOUSES.

SEC. 1. Any town may erect or provide a workhouse for the employment and support of persons of the following description; all poor and indigent persons, maintained by or receiving alms from the town; all able-bodied persons not having estate or means otherwise to maintain themselves, who refuse or neglect to work; all who live a dissolute and vagrant life and exercise no ordinary calling or lawful business sufficient to gain an honest livelihood; and all such persons, as spend their time and property in public houses, to the neglect of their proper business, or by otherwise mispending what they earn, to the impoverishment of themselves and their families, are likely to become paupers. Any workhouse may, by vote of the town, be discontinued, or applied to other uses. Until such workhouse is thus provided the almshouse or any part thereof may be used for that purpose.

SEC. 2. Such workhouse shall be in charge of the overseers of the poor of the town maintaining the same, who shall have the inspection and government thereof, with power to appoint a master and needful assistants

Workhouse may be provided by any town.
R. S., c. 21, §§ 1, 19.
1903, c. 38, § 2.
See c. 27, § 28.

—persons liable to commitment.
11 Me., 210.
65 Me., 121.

—how workhouse may be discontinued.

Overseers of poor shall have charge.
1903, c. 38, § 3.

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—may
appoint a
master.

Overseers
shall hold
meetings,
and make
regulations.
R. S., c. 21, § 3.
1903, c. 38, § 4.

Persons not
having legal
settlement
may be
committed.
R. S., c. 21, § 12.
1903, c. 38, § 5.
See c. 27, § 46.

Inmates, if
able, shall
be kept
employed.
R. S., c. 21, § 18.
1903, c. 38, § 6.

Rogues,
vagabonds,
idle persons,
etc., may be
committed by
municipal
or police
judge or trial
justice.
R. S., c. 141, § 4.
1891, c. 31.
1903, c. 37, § 2.
See c. 27, §§ 26,
43, 46; c. 136,
§ 3.

Town may
maintain a
house of
correction.
1903, c. 37, § 3.

Overseers of
poor shall
have charge
of house of
correction.
1903, c. 37, § 4.

Overseers
shall order
supplies of
suitable food
and clothing
to persons
committed.
1903, c. 37, § 5.

for the more immediate care and superintendence of the persons received or employed therein.

SEC. 3. The overseers, as occasion requires, shall hold meetings on the business of their office; and make needful orders and regulations for such house, to be binding until the next town meeting, when they shall be submitted to the consideration of the inhabitants; and such as are approved at said meeting shall remain in force until revoked by the town.

SEC. 4. When any person, not having a legal settlement in any town in the state, becomes idle or indigent, he may be committed to the workhouse provided for the town in which he resides, to be employed, if able to labor, in the same manner, and to be subject to the same rules as the other persons thereto committed.

SEC. 5. Every person committed to such workhouse, if able to work, shall be kept diligently employed during the term of his commitment. For idleness, obstinacy, or disorderly conduct, he may be punished as provided by the lawful regulations of the house.

HOUSES OF CORRECTION.

SEC. 6. A municipal or police court, or trial justice in his county, on complaint under oath may commit to jail or to the house of correction in the town where the person belongs or is found, for a term not exceeding ninety days, all rogues, vagabonds and idle persons going about in any town in the county, begging; persons using any subtle craft, jugglery, or unlawful games, or plays, or for the sake of gain pretending to have knowledge in physiognomy, palmistry, to tell destinies or fortunes or to discover lost or stolen goods; common pipers, fiddlers, runaways, drunkards, night-walkers, railers, brawlers and pilferers; persons wanton or lascivious in speech or behavior, or neglecting their callings or employments, misspending what they earn and not providing for the support of themselves and their families; all idle and disorderly persons having no visible means of support, neglecting all lawful calling or employment; and all idle and disorderly persons who neglect all lawful calling or employment and misspend their time by frequenting disorderly houses, houses of ill-fame, gaming houses or tipling shops.

SEC. 7. A town, at its own expense, may build and maintain a house of correction. Until such house of correction is so built, the almshouse or any part thereof may be used for that purpose.

SEC. 8. Such house of correction shall be in charge of the overseers of the poor of the town maintaining the same, who shall have the inspection and government of the same, and may establish from time to time, such rules and orders not repugnant to law, as they deem necessary for governing and punishing persons lawfully committed thereto. When an almshouse is used for a house of correction, the master thereof shall be master of the house of correction; but in other cases the overseers thereof shall appoint a suitable master, removable at their pleasure, and may fix his compensation. The overseers from time to time, shall examine into the prudential concerns and management of such house, and see that the master faithfully discharges his duty.

SEC. 9. Every person committed to such house of correction shall be supplied with suitable food and clothing, and if sick, with such medical attendance and care as the overseers order; and all expenses incurred for commitment and maintenance, exceeding the earnings of the person confined, shall be paid by the town where such prisoner has his legal settlement, or by his kindred as hereinafter provided.

SEC. 10. The master of such house may set to work all persons committed to his custody, so far as they are able, during the time of their confinement; and if their department renders it expedient, he may impose shackles or fetters to prevent resistance or escape, without unnecessarily inflicting pain or interrupting labor.

Persons committed to custody may be set to work.
R. S., c. 141, § 7.
1903, c. 37, § 6.

SEC. 11. If a prisoner is stubborn, disorderly, idle, refractory, or refuses to perform his appointed task in a proper manner, the master may abridge his supply of food until he complies with the reasonable requirements of the master and overseers.

Insubordination: supply of food may be abridged.
R. S., c. 141, § 8.
1903, c. 37, § 7.

SEC. 12. Notwithstanding the payment of costs and expenses, if the prisoner has actually received relief as a pauper, the overseers of the poor where the house is, or of the town to which he belongs, on complaint to the justice or court by whom he was committed, may procure an extension of the confinement, for not more than thirty days at a time, by the judge or justice; and such application may be renewed, if occasion requires it, on like complaint; and in all cases the prisoners shall be brought before the justice or court to answer to the complaint.

Actual paupers may be subject to extension of confinement.
R. S., c. 141, § 5.
1903, c. 37, § 8.

SEC. 13. Such masters shall, within ten days after commitment of any person to such house of correction, give notice thereof to the overseers of the poor of the town where it is situated, and if the prisoner has actually received relief as a pauper, said overseers shall give the same notice thereof to the overseers of the poor of the town of his legal settlement, as is required in other cases in which paupers become chargeable in places where they have no legal settlement.

Pauper notice shall be given to towns where prisoner has settlement.
R. S., c. 141, § 6.
1903, c. 37, § 9.
See c. 27, § 35.
22 Me., 389.
51 Me., 458.

SEC. 14. The master shall keep an exact account of the earnings of each prisoner, and of the expenses incurred for commitment and maintenance, specifying the time of his commitment and liberation, and present it, on oath, to the overseers of the poor of the town where such house is established annually and oftener if directed; and the town may recover the amount of such expenses after deducting the earnings of the prisoner, from the town where such prisoner has his legal settlement.

Earnings and expenditures shall be accounted for.
R. S., c. 141, § 11.
1903, c. 37, § 10.

SEC. 15. If there are kindred, obliged by law to maintain the prisoner as provided in chapter twenty-seven, such master, or the town obliged to pay his account, has the same remedy against such kindred, as is provided in that chapter for towns incurring expense for relief and support of paupers.

Remedy against kindred.
R. S., c. 141, § 14.
1903, c. 37, § 11.
See c. 27, § 17.

SEC. 16. Persons shall be committed to workhouses, or houses of correction, only upon conviction of the offenses, acts or conditions for which such commitments are by law authorized, before some municipal or police court, or trial justice. Commitments to workhouses may be for terms not exceeding three months.

Persons shall be committed only on conviction.
R. S., c. 141, § 25.
1903, c. 37, § 12.

Note. Masters of houses of correction and workhouses to give notice of births and deaths occurring therein, c. 61, § 25.