

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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## CHAPTER 71

## TOWN JAILS AND JAILERS

Subch.	Sec.
I. Workhouses .....	1091
II. Houses of Correction .....	1141

## SUBCHAPTER I

## WORKHOUSES

- Sec.
1091. Workhouse provided by town; persons liable to commitment.
1092. Overseers of poor in charge.
1093. Regulations.
1094. Commitment of persons without settlement.
1095. Able inmates kept employed.

**§ 1091. Workhouse provided by town; persons liable to commitment**

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 misspending 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.

R.S.1954, c. 95, § 1.

**§ 1092. Overseers of poor in charge**

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 mas-

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

R.S.1954, c. 95, § 2.

**§ 1093. Regulations**

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.

R.S.1954, c. 95, § 3.

**§ 1094. Commitment of persons without settlement**

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.

R.S.1954, c. 95, § 4.

**§ 1095. Able inmates kept employed**

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.

R.S.1954, c. 95, § 5.

**SUBCHAPTER II****HOUSES OF CORRECTION**

Sec.

- 1141. House of correction maintained by town.
- 1142. Overseers of poor in charge.
- 1143. Food and clothing for inmates.
- 1144. Able inmates kept employed.
- 1145. Insubordination; food abridged.
- 1146. Paupers subject to extension of confinement.
- 1147. Pauper notice to towns of settlement.
- 1148. Earnings and expenditures of prisoners accounted for; excess.
- 1149. Remedy against family.
- 1150. Persons committed only on conviction.

**§ 1141. House of correction maintained by town**

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.

R.S.1954, c. 95, § 6.

**§ 1142. Overseers of poor in charge**

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.

R.S.1954, c. 95, § 7.

**§ 1143. Food and clothing for inmates**

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. 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.

R.S.1954, c. 95, § 8.

**§ 1144. Able inmates kept employed**

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. If their deportment renders it expedient, he may impose shackles or fetters to prevent resistance or escape, without unnecessarily inflicting pain or interrupting labor.

R.S.1954, c. 95, § 9.

**§ 1145. Insubordination; food abridged**

If a prisoner is stubborn, disorderly, idle, refractory or refuses to perform his appointed task in a proper manner, the mas-

ter may abridge his supply of food until he complies with the reasonable requirements of the master and overseers.

R.S.1954, c. 95, § 10.

**§ 1146. Paupers subject to extension of confinement**

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 court by which he was committed, may procure an extension of the confinement for not more than 30 days at a time by the court. Such application may be renewed, if occasion requires it, on like complaint. In all cases the prisoners shall be brought before the court to answer to the complaint.

R.S.1954, c. 95, § 11; 1963, c. 414, § 109.

**§ 1147. Pauper notice to towns of settlement**

Such masters shall, within 10 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.

R.S.1954, c. 95, § 12.

**§ 1148. Earnings and expenditures of prisoners accounted for; excess**

The master shall keep an exact account of the earnings of each prisoner and of the expense 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. 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. If such account shows the earnings of such prisoner to exceed the expenses incurred for commitment and maintenance of said prisoner, such excess may be paid by the overseers of the poor to or for the benefit of the dependant family or kindred of said prisoner.

R.S.1954, c. 95, § 13.

**§ 1149. Remedy against family**

If there are kindred, obliged by law to maintain the prisoner as provided in Title 22, section 4467, such master, or the town obliged to pay his account, has the same remedy against such kindred as is provided in Title 22, chapter 1251 for towns incurring expense for relief and support of paupers.

R.S.1954, c. 95, § 14.

**§ 1150. Persons committed only on conviction**

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 the District Court. Commitments to workhouses may be for terms of not more than 3 months.

R.S.1954, c. 95, § 15; 1963, c. 402, § 119.