

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING THE

EXTRA SESSION OF 1853, AND SESSION OF 1854.



Augusta:

WILLIAM T. JOHNSON, PRINTER TO THE STATE.

1854.

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# THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE.

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HOUSE.

No. 27.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND  
FIFTY-FOUR.

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### AN ACT to establish an Experimental Farm.

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

SECTION. 1. That one hundred acres, or as near  
2 that quantity as may conveniently be appropriated, of  
3 the lands belonging to this state, on which the Maine  
4 Hospital for the insane is situated, be and hereby are  
5 made by law, an experimental farm, for illustrating  
6 and perfecting the theory and practice of agriculture,  
7 in its various departments, as best adapted to the soils  
8 and climate of this state.

SECT. 2. That the trustees of said hospital shall,  
2 as soon as may be, appoint some suitable person  
3 as supervisor, who shall have the general charge and

4 supervision of said farm, with power to lay out the  
5 grounds, make drains, fences, walls, trellises and  
6 arbors ; manufacture and purchase manures and fer-  
7 tilizers ; procure seeds, plants, fruit, and ornamental  
8 trees and shrubbery, implements of husbandry, and  
9 such other matters and things as may be necessary  
10 for carrying on the operations of the farm in a man-  
11 ner to accomplish the objects of its institution. He  
12 shall, also, have power to establish a nursery for the  
13 propagation of the best kind of fruit trees, shrubs,  
14 vines, and floral plants, suitable for cultivation in  
15 Maine ; also, to lay out a garden for the raising of  
16 culinary and other vegetables ; and connected with  
17 which, he may construct a green house, for the dis-  
18 semination of such exotic fruits and flowers as may  
19 be advantageously cultivated in factories, work-shops,  
20 houses, and other buildings, where uniform tempera-  
21 tures are maintained. Said supervisor may also  
22 establish, in some suitable room of the hospital edifice,  
23 an agricultural cabinet, for the deposit of seeds and  
24 tubers, raised upon the farm or elsewhere ; samples  
25 of wool, flax, hemp, analyzed soils, lime, gypsum,  
26 muck, marl, and other fertilizing agents ; earths, min-  
27 erals, fossils, wood, shells, skeletons, models, books,

28 diagrams, and such other matters and things of popular  
29 use and interest as may be produced on the farm, col-  
30 lected by the supervisor elsewhere, or contributed by  
31 generous persons from any places whatsoever. From  
32 the collections of this cabinet, the supervisor shall  
33 supply, at their requests, any members of the Legis-  
34 lature, during its annual session, with packages of  
35 seeds, tubers, and scions, gratuitously, for distribution  
36 in their several localities, in such quantities as the  
37 farm may be able annually to supply. Said super-  
38 visor shall also have power, at his discretion, to pro-  
39 cure any new and improved kinds of horses, mules,  
40 neat cattle, sheep, swine, and domestic fowls, for  
41 breeding purposes, and loan them for use, or cause  
42 their progeny to be distributed as extensively and  
43 equitably into the several counties of the state as the  
44 means of the farm will allow.

SECT. 3. The supervisor shall keep an account  
2 current of all expenditures and receipts, and account  
3 for the same to the trustees of the hospital at their  
4 order. He shall draw no money from the treasury,  
5 but by their consent. He shall, also, keep a diary  
6 of all the operations and experiments, of importance,  
7 on the farm, with such notes and observations as may

8 be of interest to the cause of agriculture ; which diary  
9 shall be open at all times for the inspection of the  
10 trustees of the hospital, the members of the legisla-  
11 ture, and executive government, and of all visitors ad-  
12 mitted to the cabinet. He shall, also, submit a report  
13 annually, in the month of January, to the legislature,  
14 giving the true and faithful results of all the experi-  
15 ments and operations on the farm for the preceding  
16 year, that may be of use or interest to the public  
17 generally, and the farming community in particular,  
18 together with such reflections and recommendations  
19 as the operations and experiments shall annually sug-  
20 gest. And this report shall be prepared with a view  
21 to publication, for the general benefit of the cause of  
22 agriculture, horticulture, floriculture and the house-  
23 hold arts.

SECT. 4. In the products of the farm, the supervisor  
2 shall have reference to the culinary and domestic  
3 wants of the hospital which shall have the first right  
4 to all such products. But these products, as often  
5 as appropriated by the hospital steward, shall be  
6 charged to the account of the hospital, at the ordi-  
7 nary market prices, and be placed by the hospital  
8 treasurer to the credit of the farm. And whatever

9 else is produced which may not be required by the  
10 hospital, the supervisor shall dispose of to the best ad-  
11 vantage, thus keeping an account of the entire avails  
12 of the farm, delivering all money, or other values re-  
13 ceived, to said treasurer ; it being the design of this  
14 act that the farm shall receive annually from said  
15 treasurer the annual value of its products, but that all  
16 the profits arising from the operations of the farm  
17 shall either accrue to the support of the hospital, or  
18 be appropriated to improvements on the farm, ac-  
19 cording as said trustees shall at the time deem the  
20 most necessary. In case the outlays and expenditures  
21 on the farm shall, in any year, exceed the value of its  
22 products for that year, the trustees of the hospital, in  
23 their annual report to the governor and council, shall  
24 make known the deficit for the consideration of the  
25 legislature.

SECT. 5. That the patients in the hospital shall  
2 have access to the walks, parterres, arbors, gardens,  
3 fields, greenhouse and cabinet of said farm, by the  
4 consent, and under the direction of the medical  
5 superintendent of the hospital ; and to such as are  
6 able, both male and female, the superintendent shall

7 give useful employment to said patients, in any of  
8 the departments of labor of which they are capable.

SECT. 6. Said supervisor shall hold his situation  
2 during good behavior ; shall give bonds satisfactory  
3 to said trustees for the faithful discharge of his duty ;  
4 shall have power to employ such men and teams as  
5 may be necessary to carry on the labors of the farm ;  
6 shall consult said trustees on all important operations ;  
7 and shall receive such compensation for his services  
8 as may be agreed upon by himself and the trustees.

SECT. 7. To enable the trustees and supervisor  
2 aforesaid to make the seasonable outlays and pur-  
3 chases necessary to accomplish the objects contem-  
4 plated by this act, the sum of                      dollars is  
5 hereby appropriated out of the treasury of this state ;  
6 and the governor is hereby authorized to draw his  
7 warrant on the treasurer for that amount, to be  
8 delivered to the treasurer of the Insane Hospital for  
9 the benefit of the experimental farm, as hereinbefore  
10 described.

SECT. 8 This act shall take effect from and after  
2 its approval by the governor.



STATE OF MAINE.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }  
April 1, 1854. }

*Ordered*, That 350 copies of this Bill, (laid upon the table by Mr. Hubbard of Fayette,) be printed for the use of the legislature.

JOHN J. PERRY, *Clerk*.