

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

**PUBLIC DOCUMENTS**

OF THE

**STATE OF MAINE**

BEING THE

**REPORTS**

OF THE VARIOUS

**PUBLIC OFFICERS  
DEPARTMENTS AND  
INSTITUTIONS**

FOR THE TWO YEARS

**JULY 1, 1926 - JUNE 30, 1928**

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS, 1926-28

(Explanatory Note)

Three reports in this volume cover periods in variance with the given biennium. They are as follows:

1. The report of the Attorney General covers the period from 1924 to 1928.

2. The report of the Bangor State Hospital covers the period from 1919 to 1928.

3. The report of the department of Inland Fisheries and Game covers the fiscal year ending June 30, 1928. No printed report was made for the fiscal year ending in 1927.

# STATE OF MAINE

---

## REPORT

OF THE

# ATTORNEY-GENERAL

FOR THE TWO YEARS ENDING

JUNE 30, 1926

---

PRESS OF MERRILL & WEBBER CO.  
AUBURN, MAINE

to enrollment, may also be enrolled during the primary election after subscribing and making oath before a registration board to the statement as required by Section 39 of Chapter 6 of the Revised Statutes. A suitable number of such statements shall be furnished at each voting place by the city, town or plantation.

In order to avoid possible confusion and delay at the polls, it is advisable for those voters who can conveniently do so, to make their enrollment prior to election day.

Yours very truly,

Sanford L. Fogg,  
*Deputy Attorney General.*

March 23, 1925.

*Rev. E. W. Webber, Superintendent, State School for Girls,  
Hallowell, Maine.*

DEAR MR. WEBBER: Section 20, Chapter 144, Revised Statutes as amended by Chapter 130, Section 2, Public Laws of 1917, provides that any girl between the ages of nine and seventeen years, when she is leading an idle or vicious life or is found in manifest danger of falling into habits of vice or immorality may be committed to the custody and guardianship of the officers of the State School for Girls, during her minority unless sooner discharged by process of law.

This Section seems to make it obligatory on the officers of the School to receive the girl committed under this section and retain her during her minority, unless discharged by some legal process, subject, however, to the provisions of Sections 3, 4 and 5 of said Chapter 130, Public Laws of 1917.

Section 3 provides that any incorrigible girl sixteen years of age and over may be transferred to the Reformatory for Women by the Trustees of the School.

Section 4 provides that any girl who is feeble minded when committed or becomes feeble minded after her commitment, may be transferred by the trustees to the Maine School for Feeble Minded.

Section 5 provides that any girl now under the guardianship of the School or who may thereafter be committed there who is insane or who after her commitment becomes insane may be

transferred by the trustees to either of the State Hospitals for the Insane.

Section 23 of Chapter 144 of the Revised Statutes, provides that "on complaint to a Trial Justice or municipal or police court of the county, that a girl of the age herein limited has been guilty of an offense punishable by fine or imprisonment, other than imprisonment for life, such justice or court may so far examine into the case as to satisfy himself whether she is suitable subject for commitment to said school, and if he so decides, he may thereupon suspend the case and certify accordingly, and order her to be committed to the guardianship of said school during her minority, unless sooner discharged by process of law."

Section 24 of the same chapter provides that, "If a girl of the age herein limited is found guilty of an offense punishable with fine or imprisonment, other than imprisonment for life, she may be sentenced in the alternative to the aforesaid school, or if not received therein, or if discharged therefrom for misbehavior, to such punishment as the law provides for like offenses."

Section 25 of the same chapter provides that, "The trustees may refuse to receive any girl committed to said school under the two preceding sections, or may discharge any girl whose continuance, by reason of her vicious example and influence or other misconduct, is in their opinion prejudicial to the school, or who for any reason ought not to be retained therein."

The foregoing seems to be the law applicable to the questions you raise. Girls committed under the provisions of Section 20 of Chapter 144, as amended, would have to be received into the school and there retained until their minority, except that after sixteen, if they become incorrigible, they could be sent to the Women's Reformatory. If they were feeble minded at the time of commitment or became so afterwards, they could be sent at any time to the Home for Feeble Minded. In case of insanity, they could be sent to either of the Insane Hospitals.

In commitments to the school under Section 23 of Chapter 144 of the Revised Statutes, the trustees may refuse to receive a girl and if received may discharge her at any time when it is decided that her continuance in the school, by reason of her vicious example, or influence or other misconduct may be prejudicial to the school.

Trusting that the foregoing may give you the desired information,

I am,

Yours very truly,

SANFORD L. FOGG,  
*Deputy Attorney General.*