

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SIXTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE.

HOUSE.

No. 145.

The Committee on the Judiciary, to which was referred the various petitions praying for the establishment of a Reformatory Prison for Women, have had the same under consideration, and have given several public hearings to parties interested.

From the highly respectable character of the petitioners,—including judges of all the various grades of our courts and officers of the law, having peculiar knowledge in the premises,—and from the very cogent reasons urged by the philanthropic ladies and gentlemen who have interested themselves in behalf of female convicts, and have given the committee the results of their observations, we are convinced that the matter demands the attention of the State. But, as no definite plan, which seems to the committee feasible, has been presented; and as the erection of suitable buildings would involve an expenditure, which we believe would be unwarranted at present, at least without further information upon the subject, we recommend a reference of the whole matter to the consideration of the Governor and Council, who shall inquire into the necessity or propriety of the establishment of a reformatory prison for women in the State, procure plans with estimated expense of a suitable structure and report to the next Legislature. And they may recommend any plan which may seem to them feasible, either by a new structure or by the use of some structure existing, to carry into effect the separation of female from male convicts; *provided, however*, that the whole expense incurred by the Governor and Council in such investigation and report, shall not exceed two hundred and fifty dollars.

We, therefore, recommend the passage of the accompanying resolve.

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE authorizing the governor and council to inquire into the expediency of establishing a reformatory prison for women.

Resolved, That the governor and council are 2 hereby authorized and empowered to make inquiry 3 into the necessity and expediency of the establish- 4 ment of a reformatory prison for women; to pro- 5 cure plans with estimated cost of a new structure, 6 or of the fitting up or remodeling of some building 7 now existing, suitable to carry into effect the 8 separation of female from male convicts, with a 9 view to their reformation, and to report to the next 10 legislature; *provided, however,* that the whole ex- 11 pense incurred by such investigation and report 12 shall not exceed two hundred and fifty dollars, to 13 be paid out of the contingent fund of the governor 14 and council.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
February 28, 1883. }

Reported by Mr. HALE, from Committee on the Judiciary,
and ordered printed.

ORAMANDAL SMITH, *Clerk.*