

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sixty-Seventh Legislature.

SENATE.

No. 62.

STATE OF MAINE.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, }
AUGUSTA, February 8, 1895. }

To the Honorable Senate:

I have examined the bill, entitled “An Act to fix the compensation and expenses of the Superintendent of the Insane Hospital in the performance of the duties required of him by chapter two hundred and ninety-five of the laws of eighteen hundred and ninety-three.” [Senate Document No. 20.]

It will be seen from an examination of the Public Laws, that legislation, regulating the compensation of the resident officials of the Insane Hospital, has been had at every session of the legislature since the last revision of the Revised Statutes, and in every instance in the direction of increased salaries.

In addition to the emoluments attached to the office of Superintendent, the legislature in 1885, increased his salary from \$1,300 to \$1,600. In 1891, the salary was further increased from \$1,600 to \$2,000. An additional assistant

superintendent was provided in 1889, making three assistant superintendents, instead of two, and the compensation of these assistants, in addition to the emoluments, was increased at that time from \$1,700 to \$2,400. Another assistant superintendent was provided in 1891, increasing the number of assistants to the superintendent to four, and the appropriation for the salaries of these assistants was increased at that time from \$2,400 to \$3,200. In 1893, the pay of the assistant superintendents was authorized to be further increased from \$3,200 to \$3,500.

It will be observed, that during the past six years the number of assistant superintendents has been doubled and the appropriation for the salaries of these officials has been increased from \$1,700 in 1888, to \$3,500 in 1893; and the salary of the superintendent has been increased from \$1,300 in 1885, to \$2,000 in 1891.

The legislature of 1893, in establishing the insane department at Thomaston for the care of the criminal insane, directed that "the superintendent of the Insane Hospital shall visit the insane department of the State prison not less than once each month to advise with the prison physician and warden as to the proper care, treatment and disposition of the convicts in said department." This service was made a part of the superintendent's duties to the State under the salary he was then receiving. The last legislature evidently considered, that while he was visiting the insane at Thomaston under the provisions of the chapter above referred to, he would necessarily be absent from duty at the Hospital at Augusta, and therefore did not deem it advisable to authorize any additional compensation, but did provide under that act for "all the expenses of said superintendent in connection with said department" and directed such expenses to be "paid by the State by order of the Governor and Council." All expenses so incurred during the years 1893 and 1894, in the performance of this duty, were paid by warrant drawn by the Governor and Council on the State Treasurer.

The present bill provides for an indirect increase of the existing salary of the superintendent, by giving him a per diem for services already due the state under the salary now established by law, and in addition thereto, mileage of ten cents a mile each way, instead of actual expenses as provided by the last legislature.

The amount involved by this legislation may not be large, but it is establishing a new departure in the method of increasing the compensation of the officers and agents of the state now serving under fixed salaries. The superintendent *is required*, under existing statutes, to visit the insane department at Thomaston *not less* than once each month, and the number of additional visits to be made is left to his discretion. Under this bill, each visit carries with it mileage at the rate of ten cents a mile each way, and a per diem, leaving it uncertain as to the amount of expenditure to be incurred.

If mileage and per diem are to be established in this instance, in addition to the present salary of the superintendent, on the theory that additional duties are required of him in visiting the criminal insane at Thomaston, it may appropriately be applied to the insurance commissioner, who, under the general laws of the state, is required to perform additional duties in making an examination of newly organized insurance companies, whose charters have been granted since the establishment of his salary; also to the bank examiner, who is required to examine newly organized banks, trust companies, loan and building association, and to various other state officers having established salaries.

All officials should be paid a just and fair compensation for the duties performed. The valuable services rendered to the state and the insane by the efficient superintendent of the Insane Hospital are fully recognized and appreciated, and it is not an agreeable duty to withhold my approval of this bill; but with the depression now existing in almost every branch of the business interests of our people, with many of our citizens now out of employment or working at reduced wages,

it does not seem an appropriate time to inaugurate an increase in the salaries of state officials, and especially in the manner contemplated in this bill.

I therefore most respectfully return the same to the House in which it originated, as provided in the constitution, without my approval, and for further consideration.

HENRY B. CLEAVES.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, February 8, 1895.

Read and on motion by Mr. PRESCOTT of York, laid on the table to be printed, pending reconsideration of the bill.

KENDALL M. DUNBAR, *Secretary*.