

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# Sixty-Eighth Legislature.

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HOUSE.

No. 191.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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RESOLVE in aid of the Little Samaritan Aid Society of  
Portland, Maine.

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*Resolved,* That there be appropriated for the use of the  
2 Little Samaritan Aid Society of Portland, Me., the sum of  
3 two hundred and fifty dollars for the year 1897 and a like  
4 sum of two hundred and fifty dollars for the year 1898.





STATE OF MAINE.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
March 3, 1897.

Reported by Mr. HOUGHTON of Fort Fairfield, from Committee on  
Financial Affairs, and ordered printed under joint rules.

W. S. COTTON, *Clerk.*

STATEMENT OF FACTS TO ACCOMPANY HOUSE  
DOCUMENT No. 191.

The Little Samaritan Aid Society, of Portland, was formed and incorporated February 3, 1893, for the purpose of assisting destitute and friendless boys of Maine. During the past three years sixty children have been aided in various ways. This is distinctively a Boys' Aid Society. The work assumed such proportions that it was deemed advisable to start a Home, where boys could be placed temporarily, until permanent places, or work, as the cases demanded, could be obtained for them. The officers are glad to announce that sufficient funds have been pledged to encourage the starting of a Home on the above plan, which was opened December 8, 1895. The location is most desirable in every respect, and the place easy of access by electric cars from Portland, also by Maine Central R. R., and Portland & Rochester R. R. The Home is in Deering, Me., (one-half mile from Westbrook Junction), and has accommodations for twenty boys. It is not the aim of the Society to build an institution, but a home whose doors shall be open to receive any needy boy in the State. The gratifying results of the work for the past few months is convincing proof of the wisdom of this plan. Twenty-five boys have been cared for since December, their ages varying from six to thirteen years. Twelve of the older boys are at present in good homes, while four of the younger have been legally adopted.

Letters from the boys, and also from those who have taken these little ones to their hearts and homes, are most satisfactory. A careful supervision of all boys placed out shows conclusively that it is the best policy to gather up the homeless and neglected little ones and place them in families

where they can have care and training to fit them for usefulness in life.

When it is remembered that our State provides for every class of unfortunates except needy boys, not proper subjects for the Reform School, it must be apparent to every thoughtful observer that this Boys' Home is supplying a long felt want. Money is greatly needed to carry it on.

It has been the good fortune of the Little Samaritan Aid Society, thus far, to respond and give efficient aid to all cases brought to notice. To make happier, to enlarge, to beautify the lives of helpless children appeals so strongly to kind hearts, that we honestly hope for co-operation in this direction, that the good work may be extended. Every dollar contributed will help some poor lad to a start in life. Contributions may be sent to the treasurer, Mr. Wm. Chamberlain, 145 Middle Street, Portland. Applications for admissions, or for further information concerning the Home, address Mrs. M. E. McGregor, President Little Samaritan Aid Society, 295 Spring Street, Portland, Maine.

## MERCHANTS EXCHANGE AND BOARD OF TRADE.

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Portland, Me., February 12, 1897.

Members of the Finance Committee, Senators and Representatives Assembled.

Dear Sirs:—I want to bring to your particular attention the bill now before the legislature calling for an appropriation for the Home of Friendless Boys at Deering, Me.

The points which recommend most the passage of the bill are first: great need of such a Home as caring for a large number of unfortunate boys who can be taken from evil influences and surroundings, and with proper environments start them on the road of making men of themselves.

This Home cares for such boys temporarily, and gives special attention to their mental and physical improvement, that they may be made fit subjects to be placed in family homes. This Home for friendless boys is the only intermediate place in the State between street influence and the reform school, where, if it were not for the influence of such a Home, such boys would eventually drift.

From personal observation of the work, I can testify to the faithful manner in which the officers of the Society perform their duties, and the present need of money is to supply clothing, travelling expenses, board at the Home, and to replace the wear and tear of the furnishings. Also to purchase suitable books and other material for the improvement of their minds.

Since the Society opened in December, 1895, there have been thirty (30) boys cared for, and the outlook for them is very encouraging.

I would, then, beg to recommend the Home and its work to the finance committee, knowing that whatever assistance is given will be not only appreciated, but judiciously and economically taken care of.

Yours very truly,

F. E. BOOTHBAY, President.