

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# Seventy-first Legislature.

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HOUSE.

No. 340

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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RESOLVE in favor of the Maine Eye and Ear Infirmary.

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*Resolved,* That there be and hereby is appropriated annually  
2 the sum of five thousand dollars to be paid to the treasurer of  
3 the Maine Eye and Ear Infirmary for the use of said institu-  
4 tion, for the years 1903-1904.

## STATEMENT OF FACTS.

Founded in 1886, for seventeen years the Maine Eye and Ear Infirmary has carried on a charitable work for the benefit of the poor people of the State. During this time not only has it extended free treatment to all applicants suffering from diseases of the eye and ear, but in the daily free clinics of the out-patient department a corp of experienced physicians have furnished free treatment to those suffering from any disease of the body. The only requirement necessary to obtain free treatment in the Infirmary is proof from the person applying or his friend that he is poor and without means to pay for medical attendance.

The records for the year ending November 1, 1902, show that during the past year 1779 patients have been treated at this institution and that the patients in the out-patient department made 7,015 calls upon the physicians of this department alone. The register shows that these patients come from all parts of the State.

Keeping ever in mind the purposes for which the Infirmary was founded and endowed the officials have made sure that eye and ear cases were promptly admitted and no worthy poor person suffering from these diseases has been refused admission and treatment. After patients suffering with eye and ear diseases have been provided for the Infirmary pursues the same plan adopted in other hospitals of the State and the rooms not actually needed for the original purpose of the institution are open to receive the patients of any reputable physician in the State and the income derived from this source is devoted to paying its running expenses.

The Infirmary was incorporated under the statute laws of Maine February 15, 1886, and was opened for the reception and treatment of patients April 22, 1886. Since that time over 22,000 patients have been registered and these patients have made over 142,000 calls upon the attending physicians. Over 6,700 operations have been performed including nearly 700 cataract operations for the relief of blindness. Thus several hundred blind persons, who otherwise would have become dependants of the State, have had their sight restored or preserved and have been able to resume their work and earn their living.

Besides the charitable work which the Maine Eye and Ear Infirmary is doing for the poor and helpless of our State, it has maintained for several years a training school for nurses in which young women are fitted to aid the physicians in their work of preventing and curing disease.

If further particulars of the work done at this institution are desired they will be learned by consulting the 17th annual report, a copy of which will be sent to anyone upon request.

STATE OF MAINE.

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IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

AUGUSTA, March 12, 1903.

Reported by Mr. SWETT of Portland, from Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, and ordered printed under joint rules.

W. S. COTTON, *Clerk.*