

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# Seventy-first Legislature.

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SENATE.

No. 101

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE  
HUNDRED AND THREE.

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AN ACT relating to Houses of Correction.

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*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in  
Legislature assembled, as follows:*

Section 1. Chapter one hundred forty-one of the Revised  
2 Statutes, except sections twenty-three and twenty-four, is  
3 hereby repealed.

Sect. 2. A municipal or police court, or trial justice in his  
2 county, on complaint under oath may commit to jail or to the  
3 house of correction in the town where the person belongs or  
4 is found, for a term not exceeding ninety days, all rogues,  
5 vagabonds and idle persons going about in any town in the  
6 county, begging; persons using any subtle craft, jugglery, or  
7 unlawful games, or plays, or for the sake of gain pretending  
8 to have knowledge in physiognomy, palmistry, to tell desti-  
9 nies or fortunes or to discover lost or stolen goods; common

10 pipers, fiddlers, runaways, drunkards, night walkers, railers,  
11 brawlers and pilferers ; persons wanton or lascivious in speech  
12 or behavior, or neglecting their callings or employments,  
13 mis-spending what they earn and not providing for the sup-  
14 port of themselves and their families ; all idle and disorderly  
15 persons having no visible means of support, neglecting all  
16 lawful calling or employment ; and all idle and disorderly  
17 persons who neglect all lawful calling or employment and  
18 mis-spend their time by frequenting disorderly houses, houses  
19 of ill fame, gaming houses or tipling shops.

Sect. 3. A town, at its own expense, may build and main-  
2 tain a house of correction. Until such house of correction is  
3 so built, the almshouse, or any part thereof may be used for  
4 that purpose.

Sect. 4. Such house of correction shall be in charge of the  
2 overseers of the poor of the town maintaining the same, who  
3 shall have the inspection and government of the same, and  
4 may establish from time to time, such rules and orders not  
5 repugnant to law, as they deem necessary for governing and  
6 punishing persons lawfully committed thereto. When an  
7 almshouse is used for a house of correction, the master  
8 thereof shall be master of the house of correction ; but in  
9 other cases the overseers thereof shall appoint a suitable  
10 master, removable at their pleasure, and may fix his com-  
11 pensation. The overseers from time to time, shall examine  
12 into the prudential concerns and management of such house,  
13 and see that the master faithfully discharges his duty.

Sect. 5. Every person committed to such house of correc-  
2 tion shall be supplied with suitable food and clothing, and if  
3 sick, with such medical attendance and care as the overseers  
4 order ; and all expenses incurred for commitment and main-  
5 tenance, exceeding the earnings of the person confined,  
6 shall be paid by the town where such prisoner has his legal  
7 settlement, or by his kindred as hereinafter provided.

Sect. 6. The master of such house may set to work all  
2 persons committed to his custody, so far as they are able,  
3 during the time of their confinement; and if their deportment  
4 renders it expedient, he may impose shackles or fetters to  
5 prevent resistance or escape, without unnecessarily inflicting  
6 pain or interrupting labor.

Sect. 7. If a prisoner is stubborn, disorderly, idle, refrac-  
2 tory, or refuses to perform his appointed task in a proper  
3 manner, the master may abridge his supply of food until he  
4 complies with the reasonable requirements of the master and  
5 overseers.

Sect. 8. Notwithstanding the payment of costs and  
2 expenses, if the prisoner has actually received relief as a  
3 pauper, the overseers of the poor where the house is, or of  
4 the town to which he belongs, on complaint to the justice or  
5 court by whom he was committed, may procure an extension  
6 of the confinement, for not more than thirty days at a time,  
7 by the judge or justice; and such application may be renewed,  
8 if occasion requires it, on like complaint; and in all cases the  
9 prisoners shall be brought before the justice or court to  
10 answer to the complaint.

Sect. 9. Such masters shall, within ten days after com-  
2 mitment of any person to such house of correction, give  
3 notice thereof to the overseers of the poor of the town where  
4 it is situated, and if the prisoner has actually received relief  
5 as a pauper, said overseers shall give the same notice thereof  
6 to the overseers of the poor of the town of his legal settle-  
7 ment, as is required in other cases in which paupers become  
8 chargeable in places where they have no legal settlement.

Sect. 10. The master shall keep an exact account of the  
2 earnings of each prisoner, and of the expenses incurred for  
3 commitment and maintenance, specifying the time of his  
4 commitment and liberation, and present it, on oath, to the  
5 overseers of the poor of the town where such house is estab-

6 lished annually and oftener if directed; and the town may  
7 recover the amount of such expenses after deducting the  
8 earnings of the prisoner, from the town where such prisoner  
9 has his legal settlement.

Sect. 11. If there are kindred, obliged by law to maintain  
2 the prisoner as provided in chapter twenty-four, such master,  
3 or the town obliged to pay his account, has the same remedy  
4 against such kindred, as is provided in that chapter for towns  
5 incurring expense for relief and support of paupers.

Sect. 12. Persons shall be committed to work-houses, or  
2 houses of correction, only upon conviction of the offenses,  
3 acts, or conditions for which such commitments are by law  
4 authorized, before some municipal or police court, or trial  
5 justice.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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IN SENATE, February 19, 1903.

Reported by Mr. GOODWIN from Committee on Revision of Statutes,  
and laid on table to be printed under joint rules.

**KENDALL M. DUNBAR, Secretary.**