

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# Seventy-first Legislature.

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SENATE.

No. 102

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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 Work Houses.

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

Section 1. Chapter twenty-one of the Revised Statutes is  
2 hereby repealed.

Sect. 2. Any town may erect or provide a work house for  
2 the employment and support of persons of the following  
3 description; all poor and indigent persons, maintained by or  
4 receiving alms from the town; all ablebodied persons not  
5 having estate or means otherwise to maintain themselves, who  
6 refuse or neglect to work; all who live a dissolute and vag-  
7 rant life and exercise no ordinary calling or lawful business  
8 sufficient to gain an honest livelihood; and all such persons,  
9 as spend their time and property in public houses, to the

10 neglect of their proper business, or by otherwise mis-spend-  
11 ing what they earn, to the impoverishment of themselves and  
12 their families, are likely to become paupers. Any work  
13 house may, by vote of the town, be discontinued, or applied  
14 to other uses. Until such work house is thus provided the  
15 almshouse or any part thereof may be used for that purpose.

Sect. 3. Such work house shall be in charge of the over-  
2 seers of the poor of the town maintaining the same, who  
3 shall have the inspection and government thereof, with power  
4 to appoint a master and needful assistants for the more  
5 immediate care and superintendence of the persons received  
6 or employed therein.

Sect. 4. The overseers, as occasion requires, shall hold  
2 meetings on the business of their office; and make needful  
3 orders and regulations for such house, to be binding until the  
4 next town meeting, when they shall be submitted to the con-  
5 sideration of the inhabitants; and such as are approved at  
6 said meeting shall remain in force until revoked by the town.

Sect. 5. When any person, not having a legal settlement  
2 in any town in the state, becomes idle or indigent, he may be  
3 committed to the work house provided for the town in which  
4 he resides, to be employed, if able to labor, in the same man-  
5 ner, and to be subject to the lawful regulations of the house.

Sect. 6. Every person committed to such work house, if  
2 able to work, shall be kept diligently employed during the  
3 term of his commitment. For idleness, obstinacy, or dis-  
4 orderly conduct, he may be punished as provided by the law-  
5 ful regulations of the house.



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*.