

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# SEVENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

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SENATE.

No. 73

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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RESOLVE in favor of the Maine General Hospital.

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*Resolved,* That there be and hereby is appropriated the sum  
2 of seventy-five hundred dollars, (\$7,500) to be paid to the  
3 Maine General Hospital for the use of said institution for the  
4 year 1905, and seventy-five hundred dollars (\$7,500) to be  
5 paid to said institution for its use for the year 1906.

Be it further resolved that there be and hereby is appro-  
7 priated the further sum of \$1,000 for the year 1905, and  
8 \$1,000 for the year 1906, for repairs.

## STATEMENT OF FACTS.

*To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of  
Maine:*

The Maine General Hospital again makes its appeal as a charitable institution to your consideration and submits herewith a brief statement showing how the appropriations made by the legislature two years ago have been expended and what the hospital's present needs are.

During the past year 334 absolutely free patients have received treatment and 112 more have paid board in part only. Multiplying the number of free patients by the number of weeks' board furnished each and the total number of weeks of free service is 2,031. The daily average of free patients during the year was 38.95.

There was received from the paying patients the sum of \$3,528.75 above the cost of their maintenance. If the number of weeks of absolutely free treatment furnished be multiplied by the average weekly cost of maintenance, \$12.53, the total amount expended for free service was \$25,448.43.

All the available income of the hospital was used in furnishing free service as follows:

State appropriation .....	\$7,500 00
Free bed subscriptions.....	2,150 00
Income from invested funds.....	8,830 80
Hospital Sunday gifts.....	231 45
Receipts from paying patients over cost.....	3,528 75
Service of nurses.....	23 00
Sundry gifts .....	370 00
Deficit .....	2,860 95
	<hr/>
	\$25,494 95

It thus appears that owing to the large amount of free treatment to worthy poor patients there was expended a sum in excess of the income of the hospital. This is the fourth deficit that has been incurred.

Year 1900.....	\$3,508 76	
Year 1901.....	168 37	* Surplus
Year 1902.....	7,302 37	
Year 1903.....	10,762 55	
Year 1904.....	2,860 95	

In all the above years the paying patients yielded something more than their cost. The deficits are due to free service, the coal strike and the high prices of food. The annual income must be increased or free service must be curtailed. Already all unrestricted funds are exhausted and no resources are at hand for making up past shortages.

In the summer of 1901 the construction of a nurses' home, made necessary by the crowded condition of the hospital, was begun. Rooms that should have been devoted to patients were occupied by nurses and one ward could not be opened for lack of a sufficient nursing force. The new building was finished the following year at a total cost of \$45,404.23, of which \$38,355 was met by special subscription by friends of the hospital. Following the nurses' home, it became necessary to replace our surgery with one of modern construction which has been done at a cost of \$35,697.59. At present extensive alterations and enlargements of the kitchen are in progress, in order that the increased number of patients may be supplied with properly prepared and cooked food. This improvement will involve an expense estimated at \$6,000. About fifty thousand dollars of the hospital's funds have during the last four years been spent and are now being spent to bring the plant up to the proper requirements. Since 1885 when \$2,500 was granted, no appropriation for construction has been made by the State and it is to pay in part for the large outlays already made, as well as for those now being made and required in future, that the legislature is asked to make an extra appropriation of \$20,000 for hospital construction. An isolated ward for contagious cases should be constructed without further delay and certain renewals in the older buildings should be begun but the hospital is without

means for further expenditures and is in debt to pay for work now going on.

SIDNEY W. THAXTER,  
ELIAS THOMAS,  
THOMAS L. TALBOT,  
JOSEPH W. SYMONDS,  
F. E. RICHARDS,  
CHARLES H. PAYSON,  
WALTER G. DAVIS,  
WM. W. BROWN,  
WM. H. MOULTON,  
NATHANIEL HOBBS.

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STATE OF MAINE.

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IN SENATE, February 9, 1905.

Reported by Mr. PUTNAM from Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs, ordered printed and assigned for consideration on Tuesday, February 14, on motion by Mr. STAPLES of Knox.

KENDALL M. DUNBAR, *Secretary*.