

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

---

# SEVENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

---

SENATE.

No. 36

---

## STATE OF MAINE.

---

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

---

AN ACT creating a State Board of Charities and Corrections.

---

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

Section 1. The governor, by and with the advice and con-  
2 sent of the council, shall appoint five persons who shall con-  
3 stitute a state board of charities and corrections, to serve  
4 without compensation, except their traveling and other  
5 necessary expenses, which shall be audited by the governor  
6 and council and paid by the state treasurer quarterly upon  
7 the warrants of the governor and council issued therefor.  
8 One of these persons, as selected by the governor upon the  
9 first appointment, shall serve for five years, one for four  
10 years, one for three years, one for two years and one for  
11 one year, and upon the expiration of the terms of each, his

12 or her successor shall in like manner be appointed for the  
13 term of five years. Any vacancy arising before the expira-  
14 tion of a term of office shall be filled by appointment by the  
15 governor for the residue of the term. The board shall be  
16 non-partisan politically, and at least one member of the  
17 board shall be a woman. Regular meetings of the board  
18 shall be held quarterly, or oftener, if required, and a suitable  
19 room shall be provided in the state house for its use. The  
20 board may elect a president and make such rules and orders  
21 for the regulation of its proceedings as it may deem neces-  
22 sary.

Sect. 2. The board shall appoint a secretary, who shall not  
2 be chosen from their own number and who shall be qualified  
3 by special knowledge and experience in charitable and cor-  
4 rectional and institutional work, and who shall receive for  
5 his services, in addition to his travelling and other necessary  
6 expenses, such salary as may be agreed upon by the board,  
7 with the advice and consent of the governor. The accounts  
8 of such secretary for his travelling and other necessary  
9 expenses shall be approved by the board, audited by the  
10 governor and council, and, together with the salary of each  
11 secretary, shall be paid out of the state treasury quarterly  
12 upon the warrants of the governor and council issued there-  
13 for. The total amount to be expended annually for salary  
14 and expenses of secretary and board and any agent thereof,  
15 shall not exceed five thousand dollars.

Sect. 3. The board shall investigate the whole system of  
2 public charities and correctional institutions, examine into  
3 the condition and management of all prisons, jails, reform  
4 and industrial schools, hospitals, sanitoriums, almshouses,  
5 orphanages, public and private retreats and asylums for the  
6 insane, and any and all other such institutions which derive  
7 their support wholly or in part from state, county or munici-  
8 pal appropriations; and the officers in charge of all such  
9 institutions and local boards or committees having any  
10 powers or duties relative to the management of the same,  
11 and those who are in any way responsible for the adminis-  
12 tration of public funds used for the relief or maintenance of  
13 the poor, shall furnish to the board or its secretary such  
14 information and statistics as may be demanded. The board  
15 may prescribe such forms as it may deem necessary to  
16 secure uniformity and accuracy in the statements of the  
17 several institutions and officials reporting. The board shall  
18 at any time, upon request of the governor, make a special  
19 investigation of the management of any penal, reformatory,  
20 charitable or other institution made subject to its supervi-  
21 sion by the terms of this act; and in making such investiga-  
22 tion the board shall have power to summon witnesses and  
23 demand the production of papers and documents material as  
24 evidence, and to compel the attendance of such witnesses  
25 and the production of such papers and documents by punish-  
26 ment for contempt in case of wilful failure, neglect or  
27 refusal to attend on the part of any person summoned as a

28 witness, or to produce such papers or documents when  
29 ordered by the board, and shall have power to administer  
30 oaths and affirmations; and the report of such investiga-  
31 tions, with the testimony and the conclusions of the board  
32 thereon, shall be made to the governor and may be submitted  
33 by him, with his recommendations, to the legislature.

Sect. 4. Each institution under the supervision of the  
2 board shall be visited at least once each year by a member of  
3 the board, or by the secretary of the board, and as much  
4 oftener as seems possible and expedient, and at such times  
5 said visiting member or secretary shall consult with the  
6 trustees or managing officers of such institutions and make  
7 such recommendations and suggestions as to the manage-  
8 ment thereof as may seem advisable, and the board as a  
9 whole shall, whenever it seems to be necessary, formally  
10 recommend to the officers in control of any such institution  
11 such course of action in the conduct of said institution as  
12 the board shall deem best. The board shall also give to the  
13 governor, or governor and council, or to the legislature or  
14 any committee thereof, at any time, upon their request, or  
15 when the board shall deem it necessary, information and  
16 advice with reference to any charitable, correctional or insti-  
17 tutional matters which the board is required by this act to  
18 supervise or investigate, or as to which it is required to  
19 collect information or statistics.

Sect. 5. The board shall give its opinion as to the ability of the proposed organization and incorporation of all institutions of a charitable, eleemosynary, correctional or reformatory character which are or shall be subject to the supervision and inspection of the board, and shall advise in regard to the rules for the reception and retention of inmates of all institutions subject to its supervision.

Sect. 6. All plans and specifications for new jails, work-houses, prisons, reformatories, children's homes, almshouses, hospitals, or other similar institutions and buildings, whether state, county, city or town, shall be submitted to the board for criticism and suggestions before the same are accepted.

Sect. 7. Overseers of the poor and all other officers having charge of the administration of pauper funds shall keep full and accurate records of the paupers fully supported, the persons relieved and partially supported, and the travellers and vagrants lodged at the expense of their respective towns, together with the amount paid by them for such support and relief, and shall annually make return of the number of such persons supported and relieved, with the cost, to the State Board of Charities. From the returns made by the overseers of the poor or other officers responsible for the administration of pauper funds the board shall prepare and print in its annual report a complete statement and table of all statistics and information thus obtained.

Sect. 8. The board shall annually on the thirty-first day  
2 day of December prepare and print, for the use of the legis-  
3 lature, a full and complete report of its work during the  
4 preceding year, stating in detail all the expenses incurred  
5 all officers and agents employed, with a report of the secre-  
6 tary showing the actual condition of the various institutions  
7 under its supervision, with such suggestions and recommen-  
8 dations as it may deem necessary and advisable.

Sect. 9. Any official or person who shall wilfully fail,  
2 neglect or refuse to perform any of the duties imposed upon  
3 him by the provisions of this act, shall be fined not more than  
4 five hundred dollars, or be imprisoned not more than six  
5 months.

Sect. 10. It shall be the duty of the attorney general and  
2 of the several county attorneys within their respective coun-  
3 ties, when so required, to furnish such legal assistance, coun-  
4 sel or advice as the board may require in the discharge of  
5 its duties.

Sect. 11. This act shall take effect when approved.





STATE OF MAINE.

---

IN SENATE, January 29, 1907.

On motion by Mr. THERIAULT of Aroostook, laid on the table for printing, pending reference to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs.

F. G. FARRINGTON, *Secretary*.