

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-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE.

No. 118

STATE OF MAINE.

RESOLVE in favor of the Maine General Hospital.

Resolved, That there be and hereby is appropriated the sum
2 of ten thousand dollars to be paid to the Maine General Hos-
3 pital for the use of said institution for the year nineteen
4 hundred nine, and ten thousand dollars to be paid to said in-
5 stitution for its use for the year nineteen hundred ten.

Be it further *Resolved,* That there be and hereby is appro-
2 priated the sum of twelve thousand dollars to be used for the
3 purpose of repairs upon its buildings for the year nineteen
4 hundred and nine.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

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

The Directors of the Maine General Hospital, in presenting the claims of that institution to the Legislature, and urging that it be aided by an appropriation from the State, would again set forth the reasons which in their judgment justly entitle it to State aid, and also briefly state the manner in which the appropriations made to it by the last Legislature were expended.

The Maine General Hospital is a quasi State institution, four of its board of twelve directors are appointed by the Governor, the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

As its name indicates, it is a general hospital for the benefit of the entire State. It draws its patients from very county, and is in no sense a local hospital for the people of Portland, or for Cumberland County.

The entire number of patients treated in the Hospital from 1874 to the close of the present hospital year was 23,655, coming from the several counties as follows:

Androscoggin	451
Aroostook	585
Cumberland	9462
Franklin	678
Hancock	986
Kennebec	1402
Knox	1084
Lincoln	774
Oxford	1243
Penobscot	852
Piscataquis	486
Sagadahoc	877

Somerset	795
Waldo	615
Washington	1129
York	2564

While it is a fact that patients in private rooms pay board at rates ranging from \$2.50 to \$6.00 a day, the great majority are treated in the wards either wholly without charge, or at rates which only partially cover the cost of their care and maintenance. The weekly average cost of maintaining patients was \$13.37 for the past year, while the weekly board of ward patients was \$10.50.

In the outset the number of free patients was very small, but that number has increased continuously, until last year there were furnished to 385 patients 1906 1-7 weeks' board at a cost of \$25,610.48, for which the Hospital received no return. On an average 36.55 persons each day received medical and surgical treatment, nursing, medicines, board, lodging and laundry without charge.

The State appropriation of \$8,500 was applied directly to the maintenance of free patients, but did not measure the value of that service, which amounted, as before stated, to \$25,610.48. In other words, the State appropriation only sufficed to meet one-third of the cost of the charitable work of the Hospital, the remaining two-thirds of which were made up by the gifts and contributions of the friends of the Hospital.

It has been the policy of the Hospital to receive the largest possible number of free patients without crippling its finances. Expenses of maintenance have steadily risen of recent years and much of the plant is now of an age as to require extensive repairs. Had the free service been rigidly limited to the income of the Hospital, the accounts would have more nearly balanced, but many suffering men and women in this State would have been deprived of means of relief. Urgent cases cannot be refused, and business considerations must be controlled by those of humanity. As a result, the expenses of this year exceeded income \$5,690.66, and the previous year by \$6,067.65.

The Directors of the Hospital have always tried to keep their demands upon the public treasury within reasonable limits. The State is not called upon to pay the running expenses of the

institution, or to make appropriations only a portion of which is expended for a public purpose, namely, the free treatment of worthy sick people, but has been asked to aid in the charitable work of the Hospital, and has contributed a proportion of the funds annually dispensed for the benefit of the people of this State.

The Hospital plant stands at a total cost of \$362,070.25. This cost has been defrayed by individual gifts except for a State appropriation of \$45,000 when the Hospital was established, \$10,000 in 1875, \$10,000 in 1876, \$2500 in 1885, or \$67,500 in the aggregate. The Legislature has only helped those who help themselves.

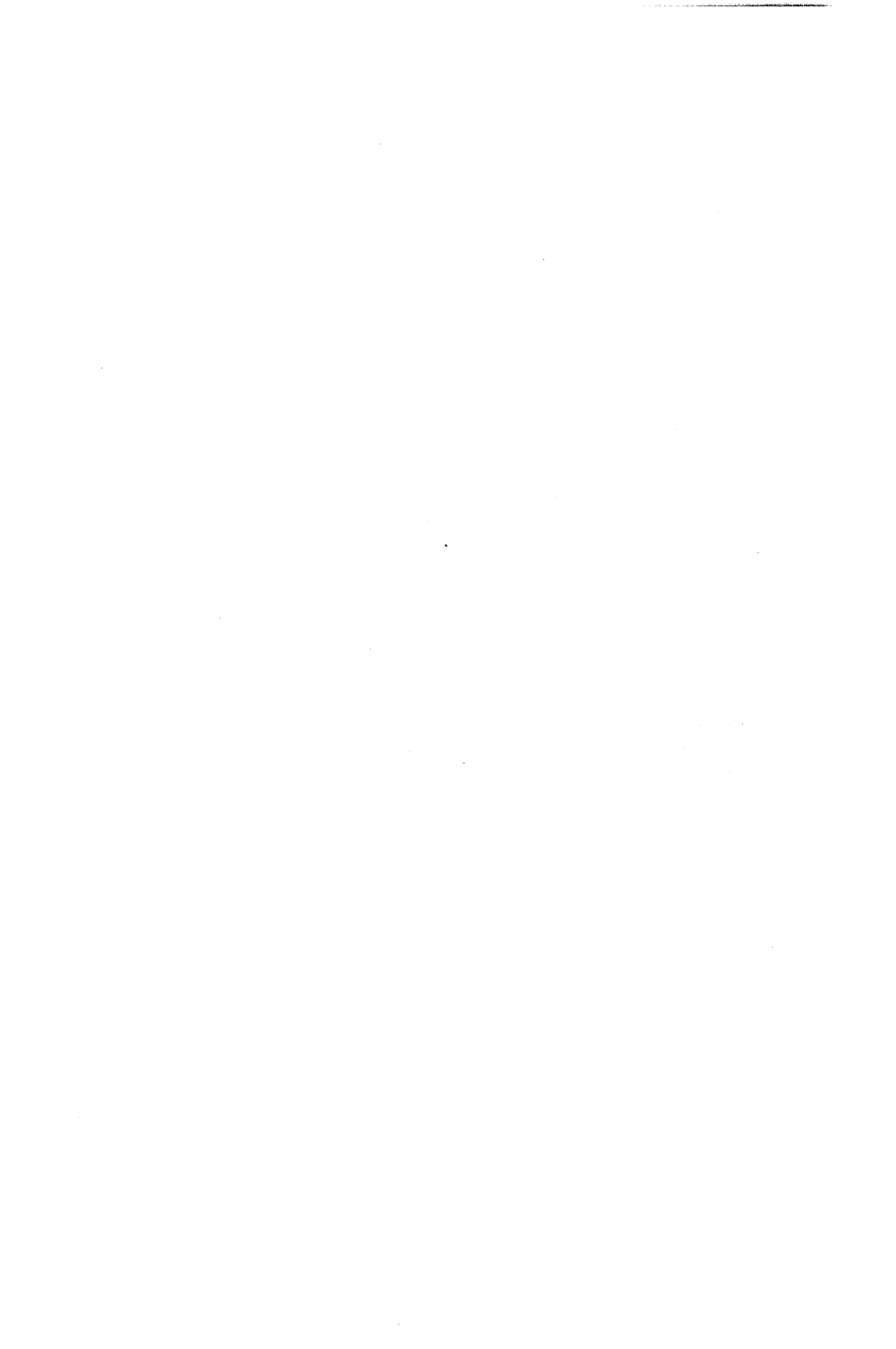
It has, since 1875, furnished free of charge, 47,330 weeks' board, with all that that includes. This service means a total outlay of \$492,269.66.

The limited resources at the disposal of the Directors prevented the completion of the Hospital buildings in a manner to make them entirely fit and suitable for the purpose for which they were intended, and the same lack of resources has since prevented the expenditure of such sums as were required for the maintenance and proper repair of the structures and plant. An estimate under the direction of a competent architect has recently been made, showing that an expenditure of \$20,275 should be made in the near future for the purpose of renewing floors that have been worn out, laying concrete floors in the basement, renewing gutters, painting, repairs and overhauling of the piping system and other matters. For a long time the Directors have had in mind the erection of a suitable ward where cases of contagious sickness might be properly treated, and where cases originating in the hospital itself might be treated, so removing danger to other hospital patients. The possibility of an outbreak of diseases readily communicable to others within the buildings is always present, and in order properly to guard against such risk a properly isolated ward should be provided. The Directors have had plans made by an architect and are advised that a building suitable for this purpose could be constructed at a cost of \$35,000.

The Directors, therefore, respectfully request the Legislature to appropriate the sum of \$55,275 as an extraordinary appropriation for the repairs and additions above set forth.

The Directors further request the Legislature to increase the annual appropriation from \$8,500 to \$12,500. This they ask upon the ground that the hospital cannot continue to furnish the large amount of free service it has furnished for the past years, without additional aid from the State. The additional sum requested will only in part cover the annual deficit, and will still leave a heavy burden on the resources of the hospital. It is not believed that the people of Maine would favor any curtailment in the charitable work of the hospital, but would approve an appropriation for an object of such obvious utility as the lightening of the burden which disease and sickness impose upon the poor.

JOSEPH W. SYMONDS,
WILLIAM H. MOULTON,
ELIAS THOMAS,
THOMAS L. TALBOT,
CHARLES H. PAYSON,
WALTER G. DAVIS,
CHARLES O. HUNT,
WILLIAM W. BROWN,
FRANKLIN A. WILSON,
NATHANIEL HOBBS,
FRED E. RICHARDS,
HERBERT J. BROWN.



STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE,

Augusta, February 3, 1909.

Reported by Mr. IRVING from Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and laid on table to be printed under joint rules.

F. G. FARRINGTON, *Secretary*.