

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

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# SEVENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

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SENATE.

No. 478

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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

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AN ACT additional to and amendatory of Section 22, Chapter  
27 of the Revised Statutes, in regard to support of minor  
children.

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*Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:*

Section 1. Section twenty-two of Chapter twenty-seven  
2 of the Revised Statutes is hereby amended by adding there-  
3 to the following words "On and after the first day of Jan-  
4 uary, 1910, it shall be unlawful for any board of overseers  
5 of the poor or any selectmen performing the duties of over-  
6 seers of the poor or other officials performing such duties  
7 to send any child between the ages of six and sixteen years  
8 to any almshouse for support and care, or retain any such  
9 child in such almshouse; but said overseers, selectmen, or

10 other officials, shall provide for such child or children in  
11 families, hospitals, or other appropriate institutions, except  
12 that a child under six years of age may be sent with its  
13 mother who is a poor person to any almshouse but not  
14 longer than until it is six years of age. The appropriate  
15 boards and bodies in the cities and towns shall take such  
16 action in the matter as may be necessary to carry out the  
17 provisions of this section. Any official or person who shall  
18 wilfully violate this act shall be fined not more than fifty  
19 dollars." So that said section twenty-two, as amended,  
20 shall read as follows:

'Sect. 22. The minor children of parents chargeable, or  
22 of parents unable in the opinion of the overseers to main-  
23 tain them, and minor children chargeable themselves, may  
24 without their consent, be bound by the overseers, by deed of  
25 indenture, as apprentices or servants to any citizen of the  
26 State, to continue until the males are twenty-one, and the  
27 females eighteen years of age or are married, unless sooner  
28 discharged by the death of their master. Provisions shall  
29 be made in such deed for the instruction of such children in  
30 reading, writing and arithmetic; and for such further in-  
31 struction and benefit within or at the end of the term, as the  
32 overseers think reasonable. On and after the first day of  
33 January, 1910, it shall be unlawful for any board of over-  
34 seers of the poor or any selectmen performing the duties  
35 of overseers of the poor, or other officials performing such  
36 duties to send any child between the ages of six and six-

37 teen years to any almshouse for support and care, or retain  
38 any such child in such almshouse; but said overseers, select-  
39 men, or other officials, shall provide for such child or chil-  
40 dren in families, hospitals, or other appropriate institutions,  
41 except that a child under six years of age may be sent with  
42 its mother who is a poor person to any almshouse but not  
43 longer than until it is six years of age. The appropriate  
44 boards and bodies in the cities and towns shall take such  
45 action in the matter as may be necessary to carry out the  
46 provisions of this section. Any official or person who shall  
47 wilfully violate this act shall be fined not more than fifty  
48 dollars.'

STATE OF MAINE.

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IN SENATE,

March 20, 1909.

Reported by Mr. GOWELL, from Committee on Legal Affairs and laid on table to be printed under joint rules.

F. G. FARRINGTON, *Secretary*.