

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

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SEVENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

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HOUSE

NO. 366

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*House of Representatives, March 2, 1911.*

*Reported by Mr. Hastings from Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and ordered printed under joint rules.*

*C. C. HARVEY, Clerk.*

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STATE OF MAINE

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RESOLVE, in favor of the Women's Christian Temperance  
Union Temporary Home for Children.

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*Resolved:* That there be and is hereby appropriated for  
2 the use and benefit of the Women's Christian Temperance  
3 Union Temporary Home for Children, located at Gardiner,  
4 seven hundred and fifty dollars for the year nineteen hun-  
5 dred and eleven, and seven hundred and fifty for the year  
6 nineteen hundred and twelve, for maintenance. Should any  
7 part of the appropriation for a particular year remain un-  
8 expended at the end of said year it shall not lapse but may  
9 be expended in the succeeding year.

A STATEMENT OF FACTS RELATIVE TO THE RESOLVE IN FAVOR OF THE WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION TEMPORARY HOME FOR CHILDREN.

The Women's Christian Temperance Union Temporary Home for Children is a corporation organized under Chapter 57 of the Revised Statutes of Maine. The corporation was organized in January 1909, and its membership is made up of citizens of Augusta, Hallowell and Gardiner numbering about eighty. The object of the Home is to provide a temporary home for children until permanent homes can be found for them, either in institutions or in private homes.

The legislature of 1909, before the Home had acquired any real estate, and while it occupied temporary quarters in the home of one of its members, granted the sum of \$750 for the year 1909 and a like sum for the year 1910. The directors have raised about \$1700 by subscriptions from charitably disposed persons. About \$775 was raised by a Tag Day held simultaneously in the cities of Augusta, Hallowell and Gardiner.

In 1909, the corporation purchased a large two-story house with a barn and about ten acres of land on High Street in Gardiner. Since that time many improvements have been made, so that the Home is now a fairly well equipped house, and has cared for many children since the house was acquired. About fifty children were cared for last year. The Home is constantly receiving applications which it cannot fill on account of lack of funds.

The Home has the moral support, and to some extent, the financial support, so far as they are able, of the local Women's Christian Temperance Unions in Augusta, Hallowell and Gardiner. The directors serve without pay and are soliciting funds from the public as much as possible, but cannot secure enough funds to carry on the work without aid from the state. The Home fills a want, not filled by any other institution of a similar nature, in that it takes infants and children up to ten years of age, and also in providing a temporary home where many institutions will not take children unless a release of custody is first given.

The original idea was that the Home would provide temporarily for children taken by the State Agents for the prevention of cruelty to children. The Home is now equipped, so that with proper funds this branch can be developed. The directors are in receipt of many letters from these State Agents, stating that they would be glad to avail themselves of the privileges of the Home when the Home has sufficient funds to do the work properly.

The Home has also performed useful work in providing a temporary home for children where the father or mother or both are at work and do not wish to relinquish entirely the custody of the children, and are yet unable to furnish a home for them. In such cases, the parent or parents contribute what they can until they are able to care entirely for the children, and thus the family is kept together.