

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE.

NO. 559

House of Representatives, Mar. 14, 1911.

*Reported by Mr. Chase from committee on Judiciary and
ordered printed under joint rules.*

C. C. HARVEY, Clerk.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to establish in Cumberland County a County Farm.

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

Section 1. The County Commissioners of the County of
2 Cumberland are hereby authorized to acquire a tract of land
3 situated in said County of Cumberland, suitable for farm-
4 ing purposes, not exceeding one thousand acres in area,
5 to be used as a County Farm for the employment and re-
6 formation of inebriates, either by purchase, exchange or
7 by taking as for public uses. And said county commis-
8 sioners are further authorized to erect and maintain upon
9 said land suitable buildings for officers' quarters, the prop-
10 er accommodation and custody of such prisoners as may
11 hereafter be sent there by the courts of Cumberland County,
12 and such other buildings as said county commissioners shall

13 deem necessary, the labor in constructing said buildings to
14 be performed by the prisoners so far as is practicable to
15 the health and safety of said prisoners.

Sect. 2. In order to provide for the purchase price of said
2 land and the cost of the erection of said buildings, the said
3 county commissioners are authorized to borrow a sum of
4 money not exceeding twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000)
5 and to issue interest bearing bonds of said county for that
6 purpose.

Sect. 3. The county commissioners shall have the gen-
2 eral superintendence, management and control of said coun-
3 ty farm, of the land and buildings, officers and employees
4 thereof, of the inmates confined therein, and all matters
5 relating to the government, discipline, contracts and fiscal
6 concerns thereof, and make such rules and regulations not
7 inconsistent with law as may seem to them proper or neces-
8 sary for the government of the farm, its officers and em-
9 ployees and for the employment, discipline and education
10 of the inmates thereof. Said board of county commission-
11 ers together with the superintendent shall constitute a board
12 of parole and shall have power to parole or discharge in-
13 mates as hereinafter provided. They shall cause to be kept
14 regular and complete books of accounts of all property, ex-
15 penses and income of the farm and shall publish the same
16 together with a report of the superintendent in their annual
17 report now required by law.

Sect. 4. The officers of the County Farm shall be a su-
2 perintendent and as many assistants as the superintendent

3 and county commissioners shall deem necessary; all of
4 such officers shall be males, one of whom shall act as deputy
5 superintendent during the absence of the superintendent.
6 The superintendent shall be appointed by the county com-
7 missioners and shall hold office during their pleasure and
8 he shall have and exercise all of the powers of a deputy
9 sheriff in criminal matters. Before entering upon his duties
10 he shall give a bond to the treasurer of the County of Cum-
11 berland in the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) with
12 sureties approved by the county commissioners for the faith-
13 ful performance of his duties. He shall reside at all times
14 within the precincts of the County Farm, appoint all neces-
15 sary assistants for whom he shall be responsible; keep the
16 names of all prisoners committed in a suitable book, a re-
17 cord of the conduct of each, have control of them, govern
18 and employ them according to the rules of the farm, and
19 shall have the management and direction of the farm, its
20 inmates, its employees and affairs, subject to the approval
21 of the county commissioners.

Sect. 5. The superintendent shall receive a sum not ex-
2 ceeding twelve hundred dollars (\$1,200) per annum, and
3 each assistant a sum not exceeding six hundred dollars
4 (\$600) per annum, to be determined by the county com-
5 missioners, to be paid monthly by the county treasurer up-
6 on orders drawn by the county commissioners. No other
7 perquisite, reward or emolument shall be allowed or re-
8 ceived by any of them except that all of such officers shall

9 reside on said farm at the public charge and each shall be
10 allowed a vacation of fourteen days, without loss of pay.

The superintendent may employ at the expense of the coun-
12 ty a suitable person to act in their place during such vaca-
13 tion.

He shall provide for the use of the prisoners at the ex-
15 pense of the county a copy of the Bible, or of the New Test-
16 ament, books, papers and magazines not exceeding in cost
17 one hundred dollars in one year.

He shall in conjunction with the county commissioners,
19 furnish instruction in reading and writing one hour each
20 day, except Sunday, to prisoners in his charge who may be
21 benefited thereby and shall provide such moral and religious
22 instruction as they may be able to obtain without expense.

Sect. 6. The judge of the superior court of the County
2 of Cumberland and the judges of the municipal courts and
3 trial justices in the several cities and towns in said county
4 may sentence male persons convicted of drunkenness, vag-
5 rancy or non-support, in said courts to imprisonment and
6 labor on said County Farm, in accordance with Section 57,
7 Chapter 29, of the Revised Statutes of 1903 and any act
8 additional thereto or amendatory thereof, instead of in the
9 county jail or in any house of correction.

Sect. 7. When a man is sentenced to be imprisoned on
2 the County Farm, the judge or trial justice imposing sen-
3 tence shall not prescribe the length of sentence other than
4 it shall not be for less than three months nor more than one

5 year. When a man is so sentenced to be imprisoned on the
6 County Farm, he shall be held and employed thereon for
7 not more than one year.

Sect. 8. When a prisoner has been confined on the farm
2 for the term of three months, if it appears to the super-
3 intendent and county commissioners that he has reformed,
4 they may issue to him a permit to be at liberty during the
5 remainder of his term of sentence, which may be revoked
6 by them at any time previous to its expiration, subject to
7 such rules as they may prescribe and he shall report to them
8 or any probation officer in said county at such times as they
9 may require for a period not longer than the maximum
10 period of his original sentence.

Sect. 9. If the holder of a permit to be at liberty from
2 the County Farm shall faithfully fulfill all of the require-
3 ments of the superintendent, county commissioners and pro-
4 bation officers and in no way violate the same, the charge
5 against him shall be dropped and he shall not be liable to
6 be re-arrested on the same charge.

Sect. 10. If the holders of a permit to be at liberty
2 from the County Farm violates the provisions thereof or
3 it is revoked by the superintendent and county commission-
4 ers, they or any one of them may issue an order for his
5 return to the farm and he may be returned by any one of
6 them or any officer qualified to serve civil or criminal pre-
7 cepts.

A prisoner who has been so returned to the County Farm

9 shall be detained thereon according to the term of his orig-
10 inal sentence. In computing the period of his confinement,
11 the time between his release upon a permit and his return
12 shall not be considered as any part of the term of his original
13 sentence.

If at the time of the order of return to the farm or of the
15 revocation of his permit to be at liberty he is confined in
16 any jail or prison, service of such order shall not be made
17 until his release therefrom.

Any person so returned may be again permitted to be at
19 liberty after the expiration of three months.

Sect. 11. If a prisoner serving sentence at the County
2 Farm is refractory or if during the term of his sentence he
3 refuses or neglects without reasonable cause to labor in a
4 suitable manner when required, he may be kept in solitary
5 confinement and fed on bread and water so long as he re-
6 mains refractory or refuses to labor. Any person so pun-
7 ished shall not be eligible to receive a permit to be at liberty
8 until three months from date of such punishment.

Sect. 12. If a prisoner serving sentence at the Coun-
2 ty Farm escapes or attempts to escape or goes away from
3 said farm without permission he shall when recaptured be
4 returned, subject to such rules and regulations as said coun-
5 ty commissioners and superintendent shall deem necessary
6 to keep him at the farm.

Sect. 13. The county commissioners, in addition to the
2 salary allowed them by law, shall be reimbursed by the coun-

3 ty treasurer for such necessary expenses as are incurred for
4 travel to and from the County Farm or in connection with the
5 business thereof. They may provide prisoners with clothing
6 whenever they shall deem it necessary and may furnish
7 transportation to their homes.