

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)

NEW DRAFT.

SEVENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NO. 159

In Senate March 2, 1911.

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

W. C. HANSON, Secretary.

STATE OF MAINE

RESOLVE, in favor of the Children's Hospital.

Resolved: That the sum of fifteen thousand dollars
2 (\$15,000) for the year nineteen hundred eleven and fifteen
3 thousand (\$15,000) dollars for the year nineteen hundred
4 twelve, be and hereby is appropriated to be paid to the Chil-
5 dren's Hospital at Portland, Maine, for the maintenance of
6 said institution.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

The Children's Hospital was organized at Portland, Maine, on the 1st day of October, 1908. Upwards of \$17,000 was subscribed by private individuals from Portland and other sections of the State. With this money the old colonial house known as the Mussey house, situated at the corner of High and Danforth Streets, in the city of Portland, was purchased and temporarily equipped as a hospital.

The purposes of the institution are:

The establishment and operation of a hospital in Portland, Maine, for the treatment of physical deformities, to give instruction in such treatment, and more especially to furnish free of charge mechanical and surgical treatment of the disabled and deformed children among the poor, but this shall not exclude adults or infants from the service. The corporation may own real and personal estate and may receive bequests or gifts of any nature or description.

Since the founding of the hospital, no charge has been made to any patient treated in it with the exception that those patients in the in-patient department who can afford to pay for the cost of their board are charged one dollar a day. No private case of any kind can be received into the hospital and the members of the staff all give their services free of charge.

In the fall of 1909, after the purchase of the Mussey house, work was started. A new and fire-proof addition was built to provide adequate quarters for patients. The cost of this new building, fully equipped, is over one hundred thousand dollars. The Legislature of 1909 appropriated for the different purposes of the institution the sum of fifty-five thousand (\$55,000) dollars, of which forty thousand (\$40,000) dollars was towards the equipment of the hospital and the building of the addition; five thousand (\$5,000) dollars for the year 1909 and ten thousand (\$10,000) dollars for the year 1910 was for the maintenance and support of said institution. The reason for the appropriation of these sums for maintenance and support was that it was figured that the new buildings would be equipped and ready to receive patients some time early in 1910. These different sums appropriated by the state have been expended in accordance with the terms of the appropriation.

The service of the hospital is divided into two branches, the out-patient department where patients come for treatment and advice as they would to a doctor's office, returning at stated times for such further treatment as might be necessary; and the in-patient department where patients are admitted to board in the hospital when more radical treatment is necessary by operation or otherwise. In neither the in-patient nor the out-patient departments is any charge made to any one for the service rendered, and as stated above the only charge is one dollar per day for board to those in-patients who can afford to pay it.

The present quarters have only been occupied since June, 1910. Until then the work in the hospital was greatly hampered. At the present time there can be accommodated in the hospital between fifty and sixty in-patients, and it is full all the time. On December 1, 1909, there were twenty-nine patients in the hospital and 346 in the out-patient department. During the year there were 636 patients admitted; of these 185 were in-patients and 451 were out-patients. In the in-patient service 130 have been discharged and four have died, leaving 51 under treatment in the hospital on December 1, 1910.

It will cost to run this institution for a year from \$25,000 to \$30,000. Of this sum it is estimated that there will not be received from patients for board over \$8000. The State last year gave for maintenance \$10,000 but, if the work is to be continued it has been going on since the opening of the new building, this amount must be largely increased, as there is no other source of income from which to draw.

The Trustees of the institution come to the present Legislature asking for only the sum absolutely necessary to continue to run the institution on its present basis.

We would again call (your) attention to the fact that this is a free charitable institution in every particular and no worthy case is denied admission. The services of the staff are absolutely free and no charge of any kind is ever made by any doctor connected with the institution. It treats patients from every section of the State of Maine and, as there is no endowment of any kind for its support and maintenance, this must come from the State which it serves.

Any additional facts which the Legislature may ask for will be very gladly furnished at the hearing on this resolve.