

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

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SEVENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

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HOUSE

NO. 538

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*House of Representatives, March 17, 1913.*

*Reported by Mr. Conners from Committee on Legal Affairs,  
and ordered printed under joint rules.*

*W. R. ROIX, Clerk.*

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STATE OF MAINE

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

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AN ACT to establish a County Farm in the County of  
Penobscot.

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

Section 1. The county commissioners of the county of  
2 Penobscot are hereby authorized to acquire a tract of land  
3 situated in said county of Penobscot, suitable for farming  
4 purposes, not exceeding five hundred acres in area, to be  
5 used as a county farm for the employment and reforma-  
6 tion of inebriates and other male persons, either by pur-  
7 chase, exchange, or by taking as for public uses, and said  
8 county commissioners are further authorized to erect and  
9 maintain upon said lands, suitable buildings for officers'

10 quarters, the proper accommodations and custody of such  
11 prisoners as may hereafter be sent there by the courts of  
12 Penobscot county, and such other buildings as said county  
13 commissioners shall deem necessary.

Sect. 2. The county commissioners shall have the general  
2 superintendence, management and control of said county  
3 farm, and 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 said farm, its officers and em-  
9 ployees and for the employment, discipline and improve-  
10 ment of the inmates thereof, said board of county commis-  
11 sioners shall constitute a board of parole and shall have  
12 power to parole or discharge inmates as hereinafter pro-  
13 vided. They shall cause to be kept regular and complete  
14 books of accounts of all property, expenses and income of  
15 the farm and shall publish the same together with a report  
16 of the superintendent in their annual report now required  
17 by law.

Sect. 3. The officers of the county farm shall be a super-  
2 intendent and as many assistants as the superintendent and  
3 county commissioners shall deem necessary; all of such offi-  
4 cers shall be males, one of whom shall act as deputy super-  
5 intendent during the absence of the superintendent. The  
6 superintendent shall be appointed by the county commis-

7 sioners and shall hold office during their pleasure and he  
8 shall have and evercise all of the powers of a deputy sheriff  
9 in criminal matters. Before entering upon his duties he  
10 shall give a bond to the treasurer of the county of Penob-  
11 scot in the sum of five thousand dollars (\$5000) with sure-  
12 ties approved by the county commissioners for the faithful  
13 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 rec-  
17 ord 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 officers, subject to the approval  
21 of the county commissioners.

Sect. 4. The superintendent shall receive a sum not ex-  
2 ceeding twelve hundred dollars (\$1200) per annum, and in  
3 addition be allowed to have his immediate family reside  
4 on said farm at the public charge. The salary of each as-  
5 sistant shall be established and determined by the county  
6 commissioners, to be paid monthly by the county treasurer ;  
7 no other rewards shall be allowed, except that all of such  
8 officers shall reside on said farm at the public charge and  
9 each shall be allowed a vacation of fourteen days without  
10 loss of pay. The superintendent may employ at the ex-  
11 pense of the county a suitable person to act in their place  
12 during each vacation.

He shall act in conjunction with the county commissioners,  
14 shall provide moral and religious instruction at a cost not  
15 to exceed one hundred dollars (\$100) per annum.

Sect. 5. The judge of the supreme court of the county  
2 of Penobscot 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 any crime in said  
5 courts, to imprisonment and labor on said county farm, in  
6 accordance with section fifty-seven, chapter twenty-nine, of  
7 the Revised Statutes of 1903, and any act additional there-  
8 to and amendatory thereof, instead of in the county jail or  
9 in any house of correction.

Sect. 6. When a man is sentenced to be imprisoned on  
2 the county farm, the judge or trial justice shall not impose  
3 a sentence of less than one month or more than one year.  
4 When a man is so sentenced to be imprisoned on the county  
5 farm, he shall be held and employed thereon for not more  
6 than one year.

Sect. 7. When a prisoner has been confined on the farm  
2 for the term of three months, if it appears to the superin-  
3 tendent and the 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 require for a period not longer than the minimum period  
10 of his original sentence.

Sect. 8. 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 charges  
5 against him shall be dropped and he shall not be liable to  
6 be re-arrested on the same charge.

Sect. 9. If the holder of a permit to be at liberty from  
2 the county farm violates the provisions thereof or it is re-  
3 voked by the superintendent and county commissioners, they  
4 or any one of them may issue an order for his return to  
5 the farm, and he may be returned by any of them or any  
6 officer qualified to serve civil or criminal precepts. A pris-  
7 oner who has been so returned to the county farm shall be  
8 detained thereon according to the terms of his original sen-  
9 tence. In computing the period of his confinement the time  
10 between his release upon a permit and his return shall not be  
11 considered as any part of the term of his original sentence.

If at the time of the order of return to the farm or of the  
13 revocation of his permit to be at liberty he is confined in  
14 any jail or prison, service of such order shall not be made  
15 until his release therefrom, and any person so returned may  
16 be again permitted to be at liberty after the expiration of  
17 three months.

Sect. 10. 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 secure a permit to be at liberty  
8 until three months from date of such punishment.

Sect. 11. If a prisoner serving sentence at the county farm  
2 escapes or attempts to escape or goes away from said farm  
3 without permission, he shall when captured be returned sub-  
4 ject to such rules and regulations as said county commis-  
5 sioners and superintendent shall deem necessary to keep him  
6 at the farm.

Sect. 12. 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  
5 the business thereof.

They may provide prisoners with clothing whenever they  
7 shall deem it necessary and may furnish transportation to  
8 their homes.