

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 151

House of Representatives, Feb. 11, 1915.

Ordered, That five hundred copies be printed and that the same be referred to the Committee on Public Health.

Committee on Reference.

Presented by Mr. Greenleaf of Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to provide for the care and treatment of tubercular
persons.

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

Section 1. That the state shall establish and maintain by
2 building, lease or by purchase several sanatoria, for the care
3 and treatment of persons affected with pulmonary tuber-
4 culosis, in such parts or districts of the state as shall seem
5 best to serve the needs of the people.

Where lease or purchase is made the state shall have the
7 right to enlarge or otherwise adapt the property to meet the
8 needs of the situation; and such additions or improvements

9 shall be considered permanent. At the expiration of the
10 original lease of any property for use as a tuberculosis sana-
11 torium the state shall have the right of re-lease or of pur-
12 chase.

Sect. 2. Persons having legal residence in Maine shall be
2 admitted to these sanatoriums from any part of the state;
3 provided, after due examination by any reputable physician
4 or the superintendent of the sanatorium said person shall be
5 found to be suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis and have
6 tubercle bacilli in the sputum. According to the capacity
7 of the sanatorium, such patients shall be eligible especially
8 in the advanced stage of the disease.

Whenever a patient is received for treatment in any of
10 these state sanatoria, the charge for treatment shall not ex-
11 ceed five dollars per week. If upon due inquiry into the
12 circumstances of a patient, the superintendent of the sana-
13 torium finds such patient or his relatives unable to pay for
14 his care and treatment in whole or in part, the charge for
15 such care and treatment may be laid upon, and in such case
16 shall be paid by, the town or city in which said patient shall
17 have legal residence. In no case, however, shall the charge
18 exceed five dollars per week per patient. All charges for
19 care and treatment shall be paid, whether by the patient or
20 by the community, before the tenth of each month.

No discrimination shall be made in the accommodation,
22 care or treatment of any patient because of the fact that the
23 patient or his relatives do or do not contribute in whole or

24 in part to the charge for treatment; and no officer or em-
25 ployee of such state sanatorium shall accept from any patient
26 thereof any fee or gratuity whatever for any services ren-
27 dered.

Sect. 3. The government of sanatoriums shall be vested
2 in a "Board of Trustees for Tuberculosis Sanatoria." Said
3 board of trustees shall consist of five members who shall
4 be residents of the state, appointed by the governor and
5 approved by his council as soon as may be after the passage
6 of this act. The original appointments shall be for the
7 respective terms of five, four, three, two and one years.
8 Thereafter one member shall be appointed annually for the
9 full term, which shall be five years, except that appointments
10 of persons to fill vacancies shall be made for the unexpired
11 term. No more than three of any one political party shall
12 serve on the board of trustees at one time.

It shall be the duty of the said board as soon as practi-
14 cable to erect necessary buildings or to alter any buildings,
15 on property acquired, for sanatorium use in the proper care
16 and treatment of persons sick with tuberculosis. The said
17 board shall have the general management and supervision of
18 the state tuberculosis sanatoria, and one or more of said trus-
19 tees shall visit each institution under supervision at least once
20 each month. The said board of trustees shall on or before
21 the first day of October of each year furnish a report to the
22 governor and council containing a history of the several
23 sanatoriums for the year and a complete statement of all

24 accounts, with all the funds, general and special, appropri-
25 ated or belonging to said sanatoria, including a detailed
26 statement of disbursements.

Sect. 4. The board of trustees may appoint the superin-
2 tendents, physicians, assistants and other employees, and fix
3 the salaries of the same, for the proper administration of
4 the several sanatoriums; and said board shall have like
5 duties and like powers as those required of and vested in
6 the trustees of other state hospitals.

Sect. 5. The governor and council shall, before payment,
2 approve all bills of the board of trustees contracted in
3 establishing and maintaining or operating the state tuber-
4 culosis sanatoria.

Sect. 6. The board of trustees shall have authority to
2 accept and hold in trust for the state, any grant or devise
3 of land, or any gift or bequest of money or other personal
4 property, or any donation to be applied, principal or income,
5 or both for the benefit of either or all said sanatoria, and
6 apply the same in accordance with the terms of the gift.

Sect. 7. The members of the board of trustees shall re-
2 ceive five (5) dollars per diem when on official business
3 connected with these several tuberculosis sanatoria, plus
4 their necessary expenses.

Sect. 8. For the carrying out of the provisions of this
2 act the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars shall be and
3 hereby is appropriated for use within the years 1915 and
4 1916.