

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)

SEVENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE

NO. 498

House of Representatives, March 4, 1915.

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

C. C. HARVEY, Clerk.

STATE OF MAINE

RESOLVE, in favor of the State Board of Charities and Cor-
rections, for the years 1915 and 1916 in lieu of the sum pro-
vided by Chapter 196 of the Public Laws of 1913.

Resolved, That there be, and hereby is, appropriated the
2 sum of six thousand dollars (\$6,000.00) for the year one
3 thousand nine hundred and fifteen and the sum of six thou-
4 sand dollars (\$6,000.00) for the year one thousand nine
5 hundred and sixteen, to be expended by the State Board of
6 Charities and Corrections in carrying out the provisions of
7 Chapter 196 of the Public Laws of 1913; provided, that
8 such sums shall be in lieu of the pro rata deduction of the
9 same amount from other appropriations as provided by said
10 Chapter 196.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

Accompanying Resolve for a direct appropriation to pay the expenses of the State Board of Charities and Corrections *in lieu* of the pro rata deduction from appropriations for state aided institutions provided by Chapter 196 of the Public Laws of 1913.

When Chapter 196 of the Public Laws of 1913 was passed by the last Legislature, it was not deemed advisable that the total appropriations made by the State for the years 1913 and 1914 for charitable and correctional institutions, the several items of which had already been practically agreed upon, should be increased thereby; accordingly, the provision was made that the amount allowed, \$6,000.00 each year, should be deducted pro rata from the amounts appropriated for all institutions receiving state aid coming within the scope of the act.

Had this deduction been made pro rata from all state appropriations for all institutions coming within the provisions of the law, so that it would have been deducted from a total appropriation of \$730,102.00, or if the appropriation for state paupers were included since poor relief statistics are compiled, from \$807,602.00, instead of from the appropriation of \$132,650.00 for state aided institutions, doubtless no objection to the application of the law would have been raised. It is believed that the information contained in the reports of the Board to the legislature as to the exact condition of the two hundred odd charitable and correctional institutions in the state inspected, together with the sources from which their income has been received and the purposes for which it has been expended, and the expenditures of public money for poor relief in the 470 cities and towns granting aid to poor persons has fully justified the existence of the Board, and the scope of the act creating it, but it has been contended, with apparent justice, by many of the state-aided institutions, that they are being taxed for a work that is state wide in its character and benefits, covering seven state institutions, fifteen county institutions and one hundred and thirty odd municipal institutions (almshouses), to-

gether with the compilation of statistics in relation to expenditures for and the number of poor persons assisted, as well as some forty-five state-aided private institutions, and that the burden is unjustly distributed. It therefore seems wise for this legislature in making up its total budget of expenditures to take into account the objection raised, and while not necessarily increasing the amount appropriated for charitable and correctional institutions and purposes of all kinds, to provide, either by means of a direct appropriation for this particular item or in such other manner as to it seems wise, for a more equitable distribution of the cost of the department.