

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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HOUSE

NO. 19

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*House of Representatives, Jan. 24, 1917.*

*Referred to committee on Judiciary, five hundred copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.*

*W. R. ROIX, Clerk.*

*Presented by Mr. Farrington of Augusta.*

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STATE OF MAINE

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

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AN ACT in relation to the care of Female Prisoners and to amend Chapters 83 and 85, Revised Statutes, relating to County Commissioners and County Jails.

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

Section 1. Section 11, Chapter 83, Revised Statutes, is hereby amended by adding in the fourth line thereof the words, "and with separate apartments having separate entrances for male and female prisoners," so that as amended said section shall read as follows:

‘Sect. 11. They shall, in the shire town of their county, provide and keep in repair, court houses, with a suitable

3 room in each for the county law library; jails, with apart-  
4 ments for debtors separate from criminals, and with separate  
5 apartments having separate entrances for male and female  
6 prisoners; and fire-proof buildings of brick or stone for the  
7 safe-keeping of records and papers belonging to the offices of  
8 registers of deeds, and of probate and insolvency, and of the  
9 clerk of courts, with separate fire-proof rooms, and suitable  
10 alcoves, cases or boxes for each office, and also any other  
11 necessary buildings. If in the judgment of the county com-  
12 missioners, public convenience so requires, they may, at the  
13 expense of the county, cause the files and records of the  
14 probate and other county courts to be rearranged, indexed  
15 and docketed; the dockets which are worn or defaced to be  
16 renewed and the indexes to be consolidated, under the direc-  
17 tion of their respective registers and clerks of said courts.'

Sect. 2. Section 27, Chapter 85, Revised Statutes, is  
2 hereby amended by adding at the end of the section the fol-  
3 lowing words, "Whenever any female prisoner or prisoners  
4 are confined in any county jail, municipal police station or  
5 other place of detention in the state and no regular jail or  
6 police matron has been appointed, there shall be designated  
7 by the sheriff or other police officer, some suitable woman  
8 who shall have immediate care of such female prisoner or  
9 prisoners. Such female prisoners shall be so kept that they  
10 cannot see or be seen by or converse with any male prisoners  
11 confined in said jail, police station or other place of deten-  
12 tion, and it shall be unlawful for any male officer or jailer to

13 search the person of any female prisoner, or to enter either  
14 the room or cell occupied by any female prisoner except in  
15 the company of such matron or woman having the care of  
16 such female prisoners," so that said section as amended shall  
17 read as follows:

'Sect. 27. The sheriff has the custody and charge of the  
2 jail in his county and of all prisoners therein, and shall keep  
3 it himself, or by his deputy, as jailer, master or keeper, for  
4 whom he is responsible. The jailer, master or keeper shall  
5 appoint all subordinate assistants and employees, for whom  
6 he is responsible, and the pay of whom, including the jailer,  
7 shall be fixed by the county commissioners, and paid by their  
8 several counties, except when otherwise provided by law.  
9 Whenever any female prisoner or prisoners are confined in  
10 any county jail, municipal police station or other place of  
11 detention in the state and no regular jail or police matron has  
12 been appointed, there shall be designated by the sheriff or  
13 other police officer some suitable woman who shall have  
14 immediate care of such female prisoner or prisoners. Such  
15 female prisoners shall be so kept that they cannot see or be  
16 seen by or converse with any male prisoners confined in said  
17 jail, police station or other place of detention and it shall be  
18 unlawful for any male officer or jailer to search the person  
19 of any female prisoner, or to enter either the room or cell  
20 occupied by any female prisoner except in the company of  
21 such matron or woman having the care of such female  
22 prisoners.'