

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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SENATE

NO. 50

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*In Senate, Jan. 26, 1917.*

*Reported by Mr. Higgins from Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and ordered printed, and recommitted to the committee.*

*W. E. LAWRY, Secretary.*

*Presented by Mr. Holt of Cumberland.*

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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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RESOLVE, in behalf of the Children's Hospital of Portland.

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*Resolved:* That there be and is hereby appropriated the  
2 sum of Twenty-eight thousand dollars to be paid the Chil-  
3 dren's Hospital of Portland for the year 1917, and the sum  
4 of twenty-eight thousand dollars for the year 1918, for main-  
5 tenance.

That there be further appropriated the sum of Ten Thous-  
2 and Dollars for the year 1917 and the sum of Ten Thousand  
3 Dollars for the year 1918, said sums to be applied in reduc-  
4 tion of the debt of said institution, and that there be further

5 appropriated the sum of Nine Thousand Dollars for the year  
6 1917 to be used in paying the deficit in the operation of said  
7 hospital during the years 1915 and 1916.

## STATEMENT OF FACTS.

The Children's Hospital was organized on the first day of October, 1908, as a charitable corporation for the care and free treatment of the crippled and deformed in the State of Maine.

In the opening of a hospital of this kind, a much needed charity was supplied. Heretofore this work had been done at the various general hospitals throughout the state, but the nature of the treatment required is such that it is impracticable for the work to be done as effectively in these general hospitals, and, following the examples of other centers the Children's Hospital in Portland was established, and unfortunates can now be brought together there for the most expert and appropriate treatment.

Such an institution would seem to be worthy of the support of the state.

The work of the hospital is divided into two services, an out-patient and an in-patient department.

The out-patient service consists of free clinics held every day throughout the year, with the exception of Sundays and holidays, from 3.30 to 5.30 P. M. when poor patients, both children and adults, who cannot afford to pay, may come to be examined and treated. They then return to their homes or boarding places. So far as the number treated goes, this is the largest part of the work of the hospital, and during the year 1916 10,385 free treatments were given in this department alone.

The in-patient department is limited to children and boys and girls under twenty-one years of age, who come to the hospital for treatment, and surgical operation, when necessary, and remain until discharged. The total number treated during 1916 in this department was 193.

The normal present capacity of the in-patient department is 52, but at times by placing beds in the halls and solarium, 64 patients have been in the hospital at the same time.

On January 1, 1917, 45 patients were in attendance, and of these 19 were paying absolutely nothing for board, medical services, laundry or anything else; 10 were paying full board and 16 part board.

The following specific facts may be of interest:

1. The hospital is free to every crippled and deformed child in Maine who cannot afford to pay anything.
  2. No person connected with the hospital or medical staff has ever received anything for his services.
  3. There are no private rooms for patients.
  4. No one connected with the medical or surgical staff can take his private patients to the hospital.
  5. Patients come from every county in Maine.
  6. The management is by a board of managers upon which the surgical and medical staff have no representation. The executive committee of the board meets on every Wednesday throughout the year.
  7. The hospital has a small invested fund, and its only income is the interest from this small fund, from board paid by about one-fifth of the patients, from private gifts and from state aid. The amount of board received from Dec. 1, 1915, to Jan. 1, 1917, was \$3,956.95.
  8. Conservative estimate shows that there are more than 40,000 of the crippled and deformed in Maine, probably more than double the combined number of blind, deaf and dumb, feeble minded and insane.
  9. This hospital is the only one in Maine specially and fully equipped for the treatment of orthopedic diseases and deformities.
  10. The legislature of two years ago appropriated \$22,500 for maintenance for 1915, and \$22,500 for 1916, and for deficit of 1913-1914, \$10,000.
  11. Estimated annual expense, including interest on debt, is \$33,500. Estimated annual income from all sources except private gifts and state aid is \$4,500. Needed, if hospital is to continue, \$28,000 annually from the state for maintenance.
  12. Debt of the hospital on January 1, 1917, was \$75,500.
  13. The hospital actually ran behind during the years 1915 and 1916 about \$9,000, and now owes this sum.
- Any further information which may be desired about this hospital, or any of its departments, by any member of the legislature, will be gladly given at the hearing upon the Resolve.

THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL,

BY ROSCOE T. HALE, *Treasurer.*