

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

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SEVENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE

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SENATE

NO. 428

*In Senate, March 30, 1917.*

*Reported by Mr. Gordon from committee on public health  
and ordered printed under joint rules.*

*W. E. LAWRY, Secretary.*

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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 to facilitate the care and treatment of certain infectious diseases, and to add certain sections to Chapter 19 of the Revised Statutes relating to the State Board of Health.

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

Chapter 19, Revised Statutes, is hereby amended by adding  
2 at the end of said chapter the following section, namely:

Sect. 125. It shall be the duty of every superintendent,  
2 manager or physician in charge of any state, county or mu-  
3 nicipal, charitable or correctional institution immediately to  
4 report to the state board of health every case of venereal  
5 disease among the inmates of said institution of which he

6 has knowledge. It shall be the duty of every superintendent,  
7 manager or physician in charge of any state-aided, county-  
8 aided, or municipally-aided charitable institution to make  
9 a similar report to the state board of health in relation to  
10 inmates of such institution, the cost of whose care and treat-  
11 ment is being paid in whole or in part by the state, or by  
12 any county or municipality in the state. Said report shall  
13 be made in the form which may be required by the rules  
14 and regulations of the said state board, provided that such  
15 rules and regulations shall not require said reports to be  
16 made in a form which will disclose to the state board of  
17 health or to any other person, except the said superintend-  
18 ent, manager or physician, the identity of the inmate. Said  
19 superintendents, managers and physicians shall comply with  
20 such rules and regulations as are made by the said state  
21 board to prevent the spread of venereal disease.

Sect. 126. The reports to the state board of health pre-  
2 scribed by the preceding section shall be confidential, and  
3 shall not be accessible to the public nor shall such records  
4 and reports be deemed public records.

Sect. 127. The state board of health shall provide, at the  
2 state laboratory of hygiene or elsewhere, facilities for the  
3 free bacteriological examination of discharges for the diag-  
4 nosis of gonorrhoeal infections, and shall also provide at  
5 cost vaccine or anti-toxin for the treatment of such infec-  
6 tions. And said board shall make at the expense of the  
7 state the Wassermann test for the diagnosis of syphilis;

8 and shall furnish the treatment known as Salvarsan or other  
9 accredited specific treatment at cost.

Sect. 128. The state board of health shall include in bulletins and circulars distributed by it, information concerning the diseases covered by the preceding sections, provided that nothing shall be contained in such bulletins or circulars which will disclose the identity of the persons suffering from such venereal disease nor the identity of any state-aided, county-aided or municipally-aided charitable institution in which such persons are treated or cared for.

Sect. 129. Any inmate of any state, county or municipal charitable or correctional institution, or any dependent child supported or partially supported by public funds, afflicted or suspected of being afflicted with venereal disease, shall forthwith be placed under medical treatment, and, if in the opinion of the attending physician, it is necessary, shall be isolated until danger of contagion is passed. Such case shall be immediately reported to the state board of health in accordance with the latter's rules and regulations, provided that such rules and regulations shall not require information disclosing the identity of any dependent or delinquent child, and the rules and regulations of the state board of health for the examination, testing and treatment of cases of venereal disease shall be faithfully observed. If the sentence or term of commitment of an inmate to any such state, county or municipal charitable or correctional institution expires before such disease is cured, or if, in the

18 opinion of the attending physician of the institution, or of  
19 such physician as the authorities thereof may consult, his  
20 discharge would be dangerous to the public health, he shall  
21 be continued under such medical treatment, care and cus-  
22 tody until in the opinion of such physician his discharge  
23 will not endanger the public health. The expenses of his  
24 support and treatment shall be paid by the place in which  
25 he has a pauper settlement, or by the state if he has no  
26 pauper settlement, after notice of the expiration of his sen-  
27 tence and of his condition to the overseers of the poor of  
28 the city or town or plantation where he was residing at the  
29 time of his commitment to the institution.

Sect. 130. Any official or person who shall wilfully fail,  
2 neglect or refuse to perform any of the duties imposed upon  
3 him by the provisions of this act shall be fined not more  
4 than five hundred (\$500.00) dollars or be imprisoned for  
5 not more than six months.

Sect. 131. For the purpose of enabling the state board  
2 of health to carry out the provisions of this act there is here-  
3 by appropriated for the year nineteen hundred seventeen  
4 the sum of four thousand (\$4000) dollars, and for the year  
5 nineteen hundred eighteen, the sum of four thousand  
6 (\$4000) dollars.