

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NO. 253

In Senate, March 25, 1919.

Reported by Mr. Gannett from Committee on Blaine Mansion and laid on table to be printed under joint rules.

P. F. CRANE, Secretary.

STATE OF MAINE

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

RESOLVE, Authorizing and Instructing the Governor and Council to Make Such Alterations and Improvements of the Residence of the Late James G. Blaine, Recently Given to the State by Mrs. Harriet Blaine Beale, as May Be Necessary, and to Furnish it Suitably, to Serve the Purpose of an Executive Mansion, and to Acquire by Purchase Such Contiguous Property as May Be Needed for Said Purpose.

Resolved: That the Governor and Council be and hereby
2 are authorized and instructed to make such alterations,
3 improvements and repairs of the residence of the late
4 James G. Blaine, recently given to the state by Mrs. Har-
5 riet Blaine Beale, as may appear to the governor and coun-
6 cil to be needed, and to furnish the house suitably, for the

7 purpose of an executive mansion for the governor of the
8 state while in office, and to acquire by purchase such con-
9 tiguous property as may be desirable for said purpose, and
10 that the same be paid for out of any money in the treasury
11 not otherwise appropriated.

STATEMENT OF FACTS.

Official duty requires the governor to reside in Augusta during his term of office and this imposes a burden on the chief magistrate which is disproportionate to his salary and cannot readily be adjusted on a salary basis.

This increased expense, unless assumed by the state, is likely to deter men of limited means from aspiring to the office of governor, and added to this is the possible difficulty of hiring a suitable and conveniently located dwelling.

It appears that the best way to meet the situation is for the state to provide a permanent executive mansion.

The residence of the late James G. Blaine is conveniently located and otherwise suitable, and, by the generosity of Mrs. Harriet Blaine Beale, having been presented to the state as a free gift, the committee appointed to inquire into this matter recommends that such other adjacent property as may be deemed necessary ought to be purchased and the whole put in suitable condition and furnished by the state to serve as a **home for the governor while in office, to be known as the executive mansion.**