

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT

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SEVENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

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SENATE

NO. 283

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In Senate, March 27, 1919.

Reported by Mr. Chick under suspension of rules from Committee on Insane Hospitals and laid on table to be printed under joint rules.

P. F. CRANE, Secretary.

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STATE OF MAINE

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

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AN ACT Additional to Chapter One Hundred Forty-five of  
the Revised Statutes, Relating to the Commitment, Observa-  
tion and Care of Insane Persons.

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

OBSERVATION AND CARE OF INSANE PERSONS

Section 1. If a person is found by two physicians quali-  
2 fied as examiners in insanity, to be in such mental condi-  
3 tion that his commitment to an institution for the insane  
4 is necessary for his proper care or observation, he may  
5 be committed by any judge or any other officer authorized  
6 to commit insane persons to either of the state hospitals

7 for the insane, under such limitations as the judge may  
8 direct, pending a determination of his insanity.

#### VOLUNTARY COMMITMENT OF INSANE PERSONS

Sect. 2. The superintendent in charge of either of the  
2 state hospitals to which an insane person may be commit-  
3 ted, may receive and detain therein, as a boarder and pa-  
4 tient, any person who is desirous of submitting himself to  
5 treatment and who makes written application therefor, and  
6 whose mental condition in the opinion of the superintendent  
7 or physician in charge is such as to render him competent  
8 to make the application.

Such superintendent shall give immediate notice of the  
2 reception of such voluntary patient to the board of state  
3 hospital trustees.

Such patient shall not be detained for more than ten days  
2 after having given notice in writing of his intention or de-  
3 sire of leaving the institution.

The charges for support of such a voluntary patient shall  
2 be governed by the laws or rules applicable to the support  
3 of an insane person in such institution.

#### TEMPORARY CARE OF INSANE PERSONS

Sect. 3. The superintendent of either of the state hos-  
2 pitals, to which an insane person may be legally committed,  
3 may, when requested by a physician, a member of the  
4 board of health, a health officer, a police officer of a city  
5 or town, receive and care for as a patient in such institution  
6 for a period not exceeding fifteen days, any person who

7 needs care and treatment because of his mental condition.

Such request for admission of a patient shall be in writing and filed at the institution at the time of the reception of the patient, together with a statement in a form prescribed or approved by the Board of State Hospital Trustees, together with a statement giving such information as said board may deem appropriate.

Such a patient who is deemed by the superintendent not suitable for such care, shall upon the request of the superintendent be removed forthwith from the institution by the person requesting his reception, and if he is not so removed, such person shall be liable for all reasonable expenses incurred under the provisions of this act, on account of the patient, which may be recovered by the institution in an action of contract.

Such superintendent shall cause every patient to be duly committed according to law, provided he shall not sign a request to remain as a voluntary patient or to be removed therefrom before the expiration of such period of fifteen days.

All reasonable expenses incurred for the examination of the patient, for his transportation to the institution and for his support therein, shall be allowed, certified and paid according to the laws providing for similar expenses in the commitment and support of the insane.

#### COMMUNITY SERVICE

Sect. 4. Every state institution, to which an insane, feeble-

2 minded or epileptic person may be committed, shall ap-  
3 point a physician experienced in the care and treatment of  
4 such persons, also the necessary assistants to such phy-  
5 sician and shall organize and administer under his direc-  
6 tion a department for community service in the district  
7 served by the institution. The duties of said department  
8 shall be:

First: The supervision of patients who have left the in-  
2 stitution with a view to their safe care at home, suitable  
3 employment and self support under good working and liv-  
4 ing conditions, and prevention of their relapse and return  
5 to public dependency.

Second: Provision for informing and advising any in-  
2 digent person, his relatives or friends and the representa-  
3 tives of any charitable agency as to the mental condition  
4 of any indigent person, as to the prevention and treatment  
5 of such condition, as to the available institutions or other  
6 means of caring for the person so afflicted, and as to any  
7 other matter relative to the welfare of such person.

Third: Whenever it is deemed advisable the superin-  
2 tendent of the institution may cooperate with other state  
3 departments such as Health, Education, Charities, Penal,  
4 Probation, etc., to examine upon request and recommend  
5 suitable treatment and supervision for

A. Persons thought to be afflicted with mental or nervous  
2 disorder.

B. School children who are nervous, psychopathic, retarded, defective or incorrigible.

C. Children referred to the Department of Juvenile Courts.

Fourth: The acquisition and dissemination of knowledge of mental disease, feeble-mindedness, epilepsy and allied conditions, with a view to promoting a better understanding and the most enlightened public sentiment and policy in such matters. In this work the department may cooperate with local authorities, schools and social agencies. The necessary expenses of said department shall be paid from the general maintenance of the institution, subject to the approval of the Board of State Hospital Trustees.