

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NO. 35

In Senate, Feb. 2, 1923.

Referred to Committee on Appropriations and Financial Affairs and five hundred copies ordered printed. Sent down for concurrence.

L. ERNEST THORNTON, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Brewster of Cumberland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND TWENTY-THREE

RESOLVE, in Aid of the Maine Institution for the Blind.

Resolved: That thirty-seven thousand five hundred dol-
2 lars in the year nineteen hundred twenty-three and thirty-
3 seven thousand five hundred dollars in the year nineteen
4 hundred twenty-four be used under the direction of the
5 governor and council in the erection of a fireproof dormi-
6 tory on premises of the Maine Institution for the Blind at
7 Portland.

STATEMENT OF FACT

Four years ago the legislature appropriated \$37,500, on condition that a like sum was otherwise provided, with which total sum in 1920 a large tract of land was purchased from Mr. Rines adjoining the present property of the Maine Institution for the Blind and having thereon a three-story wooden building that could be used temporarily as a dormitory for men, making it unnecessary for the blind to cross any street in going to and from the workshop. It was thought this dormitory was large enough for years to come, but it is now filled to the extreme limit and the fire hazard is great.

To carry out the plans of the extension committee of this institution there is needed a modern, fireproof dormitory for men, large enough to house at least 50 men with matron's family; to contain proper exercise room, bathrooms, showers, and assembly room.

This property now consists of several acres in the heart of the city of Portland and will undoubtedly one day become state property. The state has not and will not ever put in the money value of the property that it will have when it is taken over. This property is on the corner and faces the beautiful park known as The Oaks. There is but one house lot between the corner portion of this property and the present school land whereon are the workshop, Barker Memorial, dormitory for blind women, and the superintendent's home. As time goes on this property will increase mightily in value and is now getting along towards the half million dollar mark. One might say that every day, in every way, the property is growing more and more valuable.

The change in the laws and in the by-laws contemplates a majority of directors to be appointed by the state.

This new dormitory is a grave necessity *now*.