

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

Senate Document

No. 19

S. P. 28

In Senate, January 22, 1929.

Referred to Committee on State Prison and 500 copies ordered printed. Sent down for concurrence.

ROYDEN V. BROWN, Secretary.

Presented by Senator Littlefield of York.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to Provide for the Employment of Certain Inmates
of Penal Institutions.

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

Section 1. Within six months of the time when this act
2 takes effect the governor and council shall arrange to begin
3 in the state's prison at Thomaston, and within such other
4 of our correctional institutions as is deemed reasonable and
5 proper, the manufacture or production of articles or com-
6 modities which are reasonably possible under the following
7 provisions of this act, and shall cause to be employed in
8 such manufacture or production as many of the inmates of
9 such correctional institution as they deem proper.

Sect. 2. It is declared to be the intention of the legislature
2 representing the people of Maine to place the matter of edu-
3 cation, instruction, and true reformation ahead of any eco-
4 nomic considerations whatsoever.

Sect. 3. Nothing herein contained shall abridge the right
2 of the state to employ its prisoners upon highway construc-
3 tion or repair carried on by the state itself or any of its
4 departments, nor the matter of farming or reforestation,
5 authority to employ its prisoners along these three lines
6 being expressly herein given to the head of each correc-
7 tional institution, subject to supervision and control by the
8 governor and council, and subject further to the condition
9 that for the labor of any prisoner employed upon highway
10 construction or repair, a credit to the institution, wherein
11 such prisoner is confined, shall be given equal to an amount
12 for each day's labor, which shall be the same as that paid
13 for free labor in similar employment.

Sect. 4. Articles produced or manufactured in any of
2 our correctional institutions shall be only such articles as
3 can be used by inmates of the several public institutions
4 within the state, or political sub-divisions of the state, which
5 are controlled and supported entirely, or in part, by the
6 state. Articles so produced or manufactured shall be used
7 only in the institutions hereinbefore in this section men-
8 tioned, and no article so produced shall be sold to, or ex-
9 changed with, any individual, firm, corporation, associa-
10 tion, or public body. The purpose of this act is to enable

11 the state of Maine in an educational, reformatory and part-
12 ly economic way to employ its inmates in correctional in-
13 stitutions in the manufacture or production of articles which
14 the state itself may use in supplying the needs of those per-
15 sons who are inmates in the institutions herein mentioned,
16 and to prevent any such articles from being sold or ex-
17 changed in competition with similar articles produced by
18 free labor. In arranging for compensation of prisoners
19 employed, the governor and council is authorized to allow
20 to each prisoner such compensation not exceeding the ordi-
21 nary wage for similar employment of free labor as is deemed
22 wise and proper, and in the accounts between the state and
23 institutions receiving for use the articles herein mentioned,
24 the bookkeeping items of charge and credit which will be
25 amounts not less than the actual cost of each such article.

Sect. 5. To carry out the provisions of this act the sum
2 of twenty thousand dollars is hereby appropriated for the
3 year nineteen hundred and twenty-nine and for the year
4 nineteen hundred and thirty, to be controlled, administered
5 and expended under the direction of the governor and coun-
6 cil, and only for the purposes and uses herein mentioned.

Sect. 6. Each purchasing agent, or other fiscal officer,
2 having charge of the matter of procuring for the inmates
3 of our several institutions articles for use within such insti-
4 tution, shall procure from the state itself all of the articles
5 for use which the state, through the production herein men-
6 tioned, can supply.

Sect. 7. No inmate, or inmates, of any of our correctional
2 institutions shall be employed under, by virtue of, or in con-
3 nection with, any form of contract or lease, it being the
4 intention of the legislature to permit the state, through its
5 own agencies, to engage in the production and distribution
6 herein set forth, and to deny the right to enter into any
7 form of contract or lease under which any inmate of any
8 state institution shall be employed.

Sect. 8. Section thirty-four and section thirty-five of chap-
2 ter one hundred and forty-two of the revised statutes of
3 Maine, revision of nineteen hundred and sixteen, are hereby
4 repealed, as well as other act, or part of act, inconsistent
5 herewith.