

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SPECIAL SESSION, NOV. 6, 1934

E I G H T Y - S I X T H L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 9

H. P. No. 10 House of Representatives, November 7, 1934.

Read and on motion of Mr. Lebel of Brunswick tabled pending passage. Specially assigned for Friday morning, November 9, 1934. 500 copies ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Lebel of Brunswick.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED THIRTY-
FOUR

CONCURRENT ORDER

Whereas, it appears from news reports that conditions at the state prison at Thomaston have not been up to proper standards, and

Whereas, it appears that lax guarding and supervising conditions have permitted convicts to escape in the last two years, and

Whereas, the recent investigation of the governor and council has brought out the allegation that the provisions of section 327 of chapter 1 of the public laws of 1933 have not been administered as intended by the legislature at the time of passage, and

Whereas, it is the duty of the legislature to provide proper statutes and adequate appropriations to maintain such a state penal institution as will insure enforcement of law and order and promote public peace and safety, be it now ordered, the senate concurring, that:

A commission composed of 3 members from the house, appointed by the speaker thereof and 2 members from the senate, appointed by the president thereof be appointed for the purpose of investigating current conditions at the state prison at Thomaston.

The commission shall take into consideration specifically the housing and disciplinary conditions, the industrial activities provided at the prison for the employment of the inmates, methods of guarding prison exits and any other particulars it may deem proper to look into with the view of improving the efficiency of the prison and promoting public safety outside.

The commission shall make specific recommendations for such improvements of housing facilities, further development of industrial activities for the inmates and revision of the guarding system used as will best promote humane conditions at the institution and insure public safety outside, and shall draw up any additional legislation which might appear necessary to assure the proper enforcement of the provisions of chapter 1 of the public laws of 1933.

The warden of the prison and all officials in the state in charge of the institution are hereby directed to furnish the commission any and all data and information pertaining to the prison and its management at their disposal and to cooperate with the commission at all times during the period of inquiry.

The commission shall start its investigation as early as possible after the adjournment of this session and shall prepare and submit to the 87th legislature its report of findings and recommendations not later than the second week in January 1935.

The state treasurer and state comptroller are hereby directed to pay all necessary expenses of the commission, including the time of the members actually spent in conducting the investigation and compiling its report at a per diem to be fixed by the governor and council, out of the legislative expense account.