

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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N I N E T Y - S E C O N D L E G I S L A T U R E

Legislative Document

No. 122

H. P. 357

House of Representatives, January 25, 1945.

Referred to Committee on Welfare. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Corson of Hodgdon.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
FORTY-FIVE

AN ACT Relating to the Duties of the Department of Health and Welfare and the Inspection and Licensing of Institutions and Boarding Homes for the Aged.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 22, § 2, amended. Section 2 of chapter 22 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

‘Sec. 2. Duties of department. The department shall have the general supervision of the interests of health and life of the citizens of the state. It shall study the vital statistics of the state, and endeavor to make intelligent and profitable use of the collected records of deaths and of sickness among the people; it shall make sanitary investigations and inquiries respecting the causes of disease and especially of communicable diseases and epidemics, the causes of mortality, and the effects of localities, employments, conditions, ingesta, habits, and circumstances on the health of the people; it shall investigate the causes of disease occurring among the stock and domestic animals in the state, and the methods of remedying the same; it shall gather such information in respect to all these matters as it may deem proper for diffusion among the people; it shall, when required or when it shall deem it best, advise officers of the government, or other

boards within the state, in regard to the location, drainage, water supply, disposal of excreta, heating, and ventilation of any public institution or building; it shall from time to time examine and report upon works on the subject of hygiene for the use of the schools of the state; it shall have general oversight and direction of the enforcement of the statutes respecting the preservation of health; and it may direct any officer or employee of the department to assist in the study, suppression, or prevention of disease in any part of the state. **The department shall administer all state funds and appropriations for the aid of private institutions and agencies doing health and welfare work in the state.'**

Sec. 2. R. S., c. 22, § 4, amended. Section 4 of chapter 22 of the revised statutes is hereby amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 4. Inspection and licensing of institutions, agencies and boarding homes. No person, firm, corporation, or association shall operate an institution or agency for the care and treatment of defectives, dependents and delinquents or conduct and maintain a boarding house or home for the aged, blind or other persons over 16 years of age without having in full force, subject to the rules and regulations of the department, a written license therefor from the department. The term of such license shall be for 1 year and the department may revoke such license at any time. It shall give written notice of such revocation by delivering the notice in hand to the licensee. If the licensee cannot be reached for personal service the notice may be left at the licensed premises.

The term "boarding house or home" as used in this section shall mean a house or other place maintained by any association, organization or individual partly or wholly for the purpose of boarding and caring for any of the persons enumerated in the first paragraph of this section but shall not include homes licensed under the provisions of sections 243 and 244 of this chapter.

The department shall inspect and investigate as frequently as it deems necessary the conditions and management of all institutions and agencies providing assistance, care, or other direct services to children who are neglected, delinquent, defective, or dependent, as well as to aged, blind, and other dependent persons, and which derive their support wholly or in part from state, county, or municipal appropriations or funds. Said institutions and agencies shall not include those of a purely educational or industrial nature, or those under the direction or inspection of the department of institutional service. ~~Any private institution providing assistance, care, or other direct services to children who are neglected, delinquent,~~

defective, or dependent, as well as to aged, blind, and other dependent persons may, upon application and request in writing made to the department, become subject to the inspection of the department.

It shall also license and supervise all other institutions and agencies operating within the state for the care and treatment of defectives, dependents, and delinquents and shall administer all state funds and appropriations for the aid of private institutions and agencies doing health and welfare work in the state.

Whoever violates the provisions of this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$500 or by imprisonment of not more than 60 days.'