

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

OF THE

SEVENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1903.

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PUBLIC LAWS  
OF THE  
STATE OF MAINE.

1903

**Chapter 1.**

An Act to amend Chapter one hundred and forty-three of the Revised Statutes, relating to Insane Persons.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in Legislature assembled, as follows :*

Section 1. Section thirteen of chapter one hundred and forty-three of the revised statutes, as amended by chapter two hundred and forty-four of the public laws of eighteen hundred and ninety-seven, is hereby amended as follows : In line four strike out the word "relative," and instead thereof insert the words 'blood-relative, husband or wife of said alleged insane person;' also in the same line strike out the words "in their town;" also in line six after the word "insane," insert 'shall appoint a time and place for a hearing by them of the allegations of said complaint, and shall cause to be given in hand to the person so alleged to be insane, at least twenty-four hours prior to the time of said hearing, a true copy of said complaint, together with a notice of the time and place of said hearing and that he has the right and will be given

Section 13,  
chapter 143,  
R. S., as  
amended by  
chapter 244,  
laws 1897,  
further  
amended.

—shall  
appoint time  
and place for  
hearing.

—twenty-four  
hours notice  
shall be  
given.

## CHAP. 1

opportunity then and there to be heard in the matter ;” also in line nine strike out the words “to the hospital” and instead thereof insert the words ‘either to the Maine Insane Hospital or to the Eastern Maine Hospital,’ so that said section, as amended, shall read as follows :

Municipal officers shall constitute board of examiners.

‘Section 13. Insane persons, not thus sent to any hospital, shall be subject to examination as hereinafter provided. The municipal officers of towns shall constitute a board of examiners, and on complaint in writing of any blood-relative, husband or wife of said alleged insane person, or of any justice of the peace, they shall immediately inquire into the condition of any person in said town alleged to be insane ; shall appoint a time and place for a hearing by them of the allegations of said complaint, and shall cause to be given in hand to the person so alleged to be insane, at least twenty-four hours prior to the time of said hearing, a true copy of said complaint, together with a notice of the time and place of said hearing and that he has the right and will be given opportunity then and there to be heard in the matter ; shall call before them all testimony necessary for a full understanding of the case ; and if they think such person insane, and that his comfort and safety, or that of others interested, will thereby be promoted, they shall forthwith send him either to the Maine Insane Hospital or to the Eastern Maine Insane Hospital, with a certificate stating the fact of his insanity, and the town in which he resided or was found at the time of examination, and directing the superintendent to receive and detain him until he is restored or discharged by law, or by the superintendent or trustees. They shall keep a record of their doings, and furnish a copy to any interested person requesting and paying for it.’

—shall appoint time and place for hearing.

—twenty-four hours notice to be given.

—shall call testimony.

—record shall be kept and copy furnished.

Section 34, chapter 143, R. S., amended.

Section 2. Section thirty-four of chapter one hundred and forty-three of the revised statutes is hereby amended as follows : Strike out all of said section, and instead thereof insert :

Preliminary proceedings.

‘Section 34. In all cases of preliminary proceedings for the commitment of any person to the hospital, to establish the fact of the insanity of the person to whom insanity is imputed there shall be required the evidence of at least two reputable physicians given by them under oath before the board of examiners, together with a certificate signed by such physicians and filed with said board, that in their opinion such person is insane, such evidence and certificate to be based upon due inquiry and personal examination of the person to whom insanity is imputed ; and a certified copy of the physicians’ certificate shall accompany the papers of commitment of the insane person to the hospital.’

—certified copy of physicians’ certificate shall accompany papers of commitment.

Section 3. This act shall take effect when approved.

Approved January 22, 1903.