

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

AS PASSED BY THE

Eighty-second Legislature

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE

1925

Published by the Secretary of State, in accordance with the Resolves of the Legislature
approved June 28, 1820, March 18, 1840, and March 16, 1842.

KENNEBEC JOURNAL PRINT SHOP
AUGUSTA, MAINE

1925

PUBLIC LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE

As Passed by the Eighty-second Legislature

1925

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CHAP. 208

boxers who never have taken cash prizes in boxing contests, in which no other prizes than medals or merchandise are awarded.

Approved April 11, 1925.

Chapter 208.

An Act Permitting Sterilizing Operations in Certain Cases of Mental Disease and Feeble-Mindedness.

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

Sec. 1. Operations of vasectomy and fallocotomy may be performed under certain conditions. That the operations of vasectomy and fallocotomy may be performed under the conditions and within the restrictions herein described, and under such provisions shall be lawful.

Sec. 2. Operations may be performed to prevent reproduction of feeble-mindedness or in treatment of mental disease; consent must be obtained; procedure prior to operation. When either of the recognized sterilizing operations herein referred to may be indicated for the prevention of the reproduction of further feeble-mindedness, or for the therapeutic treatment of certain forms of mental disease, physicians having the custody of such cases may recommend to the nearest relative, guardian and affected individual the advisability and necessity of such operation; and when the written consent of the patient, when mentally competent to give such consent, as well as that of the nearest relative or guardian is given, the physician having the custody aforesaid of said case shall call a counsel of two registered medical practitioners—one a physician and one a surgeon—of not less than five years' practice and not related to the patient, whose duty it shall be in conjunction with the physician in charge of the case, to examine the individual recommended for operation. Whether the person to be operated upon is mentally capable of giving his consent shall be decided by the consultants and stated in writing, with their reasons therefor, and such written statement shall be kept on file at school for feeble-minded and in case they find that the patient is mentally incapable of giving his consent, the consent of the guardian or nearest relative must be secured. If in the judgment of the consulting physicians the operation will prevent the further propagation of mental deficiency, or if in the judgment of the medical consultants the physical or mental condition of any such person will be substantially benefited thereby, then the consultants shall select a competent surgeon to perform the operation of fallocotomy or vasectomy, as the case may be, upon such person.

Approved April 11, 1925.