

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# DOCUMENTS

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# THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

# STATE OF MAINE,

A. D. 1859.



AUGUSTA:

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1859.

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# THIRTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE.

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HOUSE.]

[No. 20.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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RESOLVES in relation to the State Prison.

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RESOLVED, That the governor is hereby authorized to  
2 appoint a commission of three suitable men, whose  
3 duty it shall be to consider the expediency of enlarg-  
4 ing and reconstructing the state prison at Thomaston,  
5 and also the expediency of building a new prison in  
6 some other locality. The commissioners thus ap-  
7 pointed shall carefully examine the structure and  
8 present condition of the prison and appurtenant  
9 buildings, and shall determine upon the cheapest and  
10 best mode of enlarging the same to an extent that  
11 will give two hundred to two hundred and fifty cells  
12 in the prison when completed, together with a pro-  
13 portionate supply of shop room; and the plans and  
14 specifications of said enlargement, with the estimated  
15 cost of same shall be laid before the governor on or  
16 before the first day of December next, and the gov-

17 ernor shall transmit the same to the legislature at the  
18 commencement of the ensuing session. But if after  
19 due investigation into the internal economy and man-  
20 agement of the prison, as hereinafter directed and  
21 provided for, said commissioners shall deem it neces-  
22 sary for the financial success of the prison to change  
23 its location, they shall proceed to select a new site for  
24 the same and ascertain upon what terms said site  
25 may be obtained; and they shall further procure  
26 accurate estimates and specifications of the cost of a  
27 new prison, containing from two hundred to two  
28 hundred and fifty cells, with all needful appurtenances  
29 and out-buildings, and they shall lay all the facts in  
30 relation to the subject before the governor, on or be-  
31 fore the first day of December next, and the governor  
32 shall transmit the same to the legislature at the com-  
33 mencement of the ensuing session.

RESOLVED, That it shall be the further duty of the  
2 commissioners to examine into the internal economy  
3 and management of the prison, and with the sanction  
4 of the governor and council they shall make such  
5 changes as they may deem advantageous to the state;  
6 they may fix anew the compensation of the various  
7 officers of the prison; may reduce the number and  
8 alter the respective duties of the same; may revise

9 and correct the entire system of disbursements in the  
10 various departments, and are further authorized to  
11 exercise all the powers and duties of the inspectors of  
12 the state prison, as prescribed in chapter one hundred  
13 and forty of the revised statutes.

RESOLVED, That it shall be the further duty of said  
2 commissioners to examine into the contracts now  
3 made for the labor of the convicts in the prison, and  
4 if they shall consider said contracts disadvantageous  
5 to the state, they shall with the sanction of the gov-  
6 ernor and council institute measures for speedily  
7 terminating the same; having due regard in such  
8 action to the legal and equitable rights of said con-  
9 tractors. And in the event of existing contracts being  
10 thus terminated, the commissioners shall proceed to  
11 procure and execute new contracts for the labor of  
12 the convicts, and to this end shall advertise for pro-  
13 posals in at least two papers outside the county of  
14 Lincoln, and two papers in said county. Said pro-  
15 posals shall be sealed and addressed to the commis-  
16 sioners at Thomaston, and shall be opened on a day  
17 specified, and the contracts shall be awarded to the  
18 party or parties offering the highest net sum for the  
19 labor of the convicts, and giving due security for the  
20 performance of the covenants and agreements into

21 which said party or parties may enter with the state.  
22 In advertising, said commissioners shall state the total  
23 number of convicts to be hired, and shall invite pro-  
24 posals for the whole number or for any specified por-  
25 tion of the same; and in awarding the contracts  
26 preference shall be given to the party or parties pro-  
27 posing to hire the larger number, if the rates offered  
28 are the same as those offered for a smaller number.

RESOLVED, That the compensation of said commis-  
2 sioners shall be fixed by the governor and council,  
3 but the total amount which each shall receive for  
4 services and expenses of every kind shall not exceed  
5 two hundred dollars.

RESOLVED, That these resolves shall take effect when  
2 approved by the governor.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 8, 1859.

By Mr. BLAINE of Augusta, laid on the table, and 350 copies of  
the same ordered to be printed for the use of the Legislature.

GEO. W. WILCOX, *Clerk.*