

SUMMARIES OF LAWS

RELATIVE TO THE

COMMITMENT AND CARE

OF THE

FEEBLE-MINDED

IN

MAINE

Summaries of Laws Relating to the Commit-  
ment and Care of the Feeble-Minded in  
Maine.

MAINE SCHOOL FOR FEEBLE-MINDED. R. S. 1916  
Chap. 145  
Sec. 47

The Maine School for Feeble-Mind-  
ed, established at Pownal, Cumberland  
County in 1907, and opened in 1908.

MANAGEMENT OF SCHOOL. R. S. 1916  
Chap. 145  
Sec. 47

The Hospital Trustees have the gen-  
eral management and supervision of  
the Maine School for Feeble-Minded,  
and make all necessary rules and regu-  
lations as to admission to the School.

The School must be visited as often  
as once each month by one or more  
of the Trustees. The Trustees must  
hold an annual meeting and furnish a  
report to the Governor and Council,  
containing a history of the School for  
the year and a complete statement of  
all accounts and disbursements.

AGES OF INMATES. R. S. 1916  
Chap. 145  
Sec. 47

The School admits feeble-minded  
males between the ages of six and

forty, and females between the ages of six and forty-five. Feeble-minded state paupers of either sex may be admitted at a later age.

R. S. 1916  
Chap. 145  
Sec. 48

#### SUPPORT OF INMATES.

All indigent and destitute persons in this state, who are proper subjects for the School, and who have no parents, kinsmen or guardian able to provide for them, may be admitted as state charges.

Inmates from this state, whose parents, kinsmen or guardian bound by the law to support them are able to pay, shall pay such sum for care, education and maintenance of such persons as the Trustees shall determine.

Persons from other states may be admitted, when there is room without excluding state charges, upon payment of not less than \$3.25 per week.

R. S. 1916  
Chap. 145  
Sec. 49

#### COMMITMENT BY JUDGE OF PROBATE.

The judge of probate for any county may commit to the School for Feeble-Minded after due notice and hearing, any person in said county, or any inmate of the state school for girls; the

state school for boys, the Bath military and naval orphan asylum, or any person supported by any town, who is a fit subject for the School.

Application for admission of such person must first be made to the Hospital Trustees, which shall be placed on file at the institution and evidence thereof presented to the judge of probate, accompanied by a certificate of the Superintendent, stating, in substance, that such person will be received when properly committed.

The judge of probate may then secure the certificate of two graduate physicians who have practised three years in this state, certifying that such person is a proper subject for the school for feeble-minded, and the judge may then commit such person to the said School by an order of commitment directed to the Hospital Trustees.

#### APPEAL FROM COMMITMENT.

The order of committal is subject to appeal to the supreme court, in the same manner and to the same extent as in the appointment of guardians.

R. S. 1916  
Chap. 145  
Sec. 50

No committal shall bar habeas corpus proceedings, but the court upon habeas corpus proceedings may confirm the order of commitment whenever justice requires.

R. S. 1916  
Chap. 145  
Sec. 50

#### DISCHARGE OF INMATES.

Any inmate of the School may be discharged by a majority of the trustees or by a justice of the supreme judicial court, or of either superior court, whenever a further detention in such school in their opinion is unnecessary; but any person so discharged who was under sentence of imprisonment at the time of his commitment, the period of which shall not have expired, shall be committed or remanded to prison for such unexpired time.

R. S. 1916  
Chap. 145  
Sec. 51

#### ORDER OF ADMITTANCE.

Feeble-minded persons shall be admitted to the institution in the following order: first, feeble-minded persons in public institutions supported entirely at public expense; second, feeble-minded persons in public institutions not supported as aforesaid;

third, feeble-minded persons who are not in any institution of the state, who have no parents, kinsmen or guardian able to provide for them, or who are committed by a judge of probate; fourth, those residing within the state whose parents, kinsmen or guardian bound by law to support such persons are able to pay; fifth, persons of other states whose parents, kinsmen or guardian are willing to pay.

#### PENALTY FOR AIDING ESCAPE OF INMATES.

R. S. 1916  
Chap. 145  
Sec. 52

Whoever aids or abets any one committed to the Maine School for Feeble-Minded in escaping therefrom, or who knowingly harbors or conceals any one who has escaped from said School, shall be punished by fine of not less than fifty nor more than one hundred dollars, or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than sixty days.

#### FUGITIVES MAY BE RETURNED.

R. S. 1916  
Chap. 145  
Sec. 52

Any fugitive from said School may, on order of the Superintendent or Hospital Trustees, be arrested and re-

turned to said School, or to any officer or agent thereof, by any sheriff, constable or police officer or other person; and may also be arrested and returned by any officer or agent of said School.

TRANSFER OF PATIENTS FROM THE INSANE HOSPITALS TO THE SCHOOL FOR FEEBLE-MINDED, OR VICE VERSA.

R. S. 1916  
Chap. 145  
Sec. 6

The Trustees may transfer feeble-minded persons in the insane hospitals to the Maine school for feeble-minded, and may transfer any inmate of the Maine school for feeble-minded to either insane hospital, whenever in their judgment, the welfare of patients and inmates or of either institution will be promoted thereby.

A copy of the commitment certified by the superintendent, with a certificate signed by the secretary of the trustees, showing that such transfer has been voted by the trustees shall accompany each transfer.

The expense attending such transfer shall be paid by the institution transferring, and shall be a charge upon the person liable for the support of such patient or inmate.

COMMITMENTS FROM STATE SCHOOL FOR BOYS, AND STATE SCHOOL FOR GIRLS. P. L. 1917  
Chap. 130

Any boy committed to the State School for Boys, or any girl committed to the State School for Girls, who is feeble-minded, may be transferred by the trustees of juvenile institutions, to the Maine School for Feeble-Minded.

In such transfer, the President or Secretary shall endorse on the original mittimus the fact that the boy or girl is feeble-minded, and attach thereto a certificate from a regular practising physician certifying that the boy or girl is feeble-minded.

Must obtain a certificate from the Superintendent of Maine School for Feeble-Minded stating in substance that such boy or girl will be received, before the transfer can take place.

COMMITMENT FROM REFORMATORY FOR WOMEN. P. L. 1917  
Chap. 88  
Sec. 17

Manner of commitment the same as by judge of probate, except that the judge of the Western Somerset Municipal Court, Somerset County, commits.

P. L. 1917  
Chap. 40

FEEBLE-MINDED PERSONS MAY NOT  
MARRY.

No insane or feeble-minded person or idiot is capable of contracting marriage. Such marriages are void.

R. S. 1916  
Chap. 129  
Sec. 16

PENALTY FOR TRESPASS UPON LAND  
OF MAINE SCHOOL FOR FEEBLE-  
MINDED.

Whoever wilfully trespasses upon land which belongs to the State and is appurtenant to the Maine School for Feeble-Minded, or after notice from an officer of said institution to leave said land, remains thereon, shall be punished by imprisonment for not more than three months or by a fine of not more than fifty dollars.