

HOUSE No. 184.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, March 19, 1873.

The Committee on Prisons to whom was referred so much of the governor's address as refers to prisons, present the following Report and accompanying Bill.

Per order,

E. D. WINSLOW.

REPORT.

The Committee on Prisons have considered the subject referred to them regarding a prison for women, and are unanimously of the opinion that the best interests of the Commonwealth requires the immediate establishment of a prison exclusively for women.

Your Committee can only present a summary of facts in view of which this conclusion has been reached.

The average number of women in the various jails, houses of correction and workhouse for the year has been 650, distributed throughout the State, usually in small numbers, rendering it impossible for prison-officers to so care for them as to meet the most evident requirements of humanitarianism.

There is now no system of reformatory discipline, secular education or systematic employment, nor are these possible as our prisons are now constituted.

To gather these prisoners into one institution, placed in charge of women believing in and willing to attempt their reformation and discipline, to properly classify, to educate and to employ constantly and systematically, presents itself to your Committee as the obvious duty which humanity imposes upon the State having the custody of criminal women.

The present condition of our prisons in relation to women prisoners is not more in the interest of economy than of humanity, since that portion of the several jails and houses of correction allotted to women is not often full, while, in the same institutions, that devoted to men is crowded and insufficient. To remove the women from these to one institution would largely increase the available room for men at a cost much less than that made necessary by the removal and concentration of the women now occupying parts of the various jails and houses of correction.

Your Committee were of the opinion that a new prison especially adapted to the purpose intended, in a convenient location, would be most successful in the accomplishment of the desired object; but, after mature deliberation, have decided it expedient to appropriate the workhouse at Bridgewater for a prison for women in accordance with the recommendation of the governor and the prison commissioners, as affording the most speedy improvement in the condition of the female prisoners in the Commonwealth. Your Committee therefore report the accompanying Bill.

Per order of Committee,

E. D. WINSLOW.

Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

In the Year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Seventy-Three.

AN ACT

To establish a Reformatory Prison for Women.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 SECT. 1. A state reformatory prison for women
2 shall be established. The state workhouse at
3 Bridgewater shall be devoted to this purpose.
4 Such alterations may be made therein, and such
5 additions may be made thereto, as the commission-
6 ers of prisons, with the approval of the governor
7 and council, shall think advisable, for the purpose
8 of carrying into effect the provisions of this act.

1 SECT. 2. The expense of the reformatory prison
2 for the current year shall be paid from the annual
3 appropriation for the state workhouse. The re-
4 ceipts of the prison for labor shall be paid quarter-
5 ly into the state treasury.

1 SECT. 3. The officers of the prison shall consist
2 of three auditors, one superintendent, one deputy

3 superintendent, one treasurer and steward, one
4 chaplain, one physician, one clerk, one school-mis-
5 tress, four matrons, four deputy matrons, four as-
6 sistant matrons, and as many additional deputy
7 matrons, not exceeding four, and as many addi-
8 tional assistant matrons, not exceeding four, as the
9 superintendent and the commissioners of prisons
10 may find necessary.

1 SECT. 4. The auditors shall be appointed by the
2 governor, with the advice and consent of the coun-
3 cil, and one member at least of the board of said
4 auditors shall be appointed annually. The super-
5 intendent, the treasurer and steward, the chaplain
6 and the physician shall be appointed by the govern-
7 or, with the advice and consent of the council,
8 and commissioned to hold their offices during the
9 pleasure of the executive.

1 SECT. 5. The deputy superintendent, and all
2 other officers, shall be appointed by the superin-
3 tendent, with the approval of the commissioners of
4 prisons and advisory board, and shall hold their
5 offices during the pleasure of the superintendent
6 and the commissioners of prisons.

1 SECT. 6. The officers of the prison shall receive
2 the following annual salaries, viz.: Each auditor
3 one hundred dollars; the superintendent, fifteen
4 hundred dollars; the deputy superintendent, six
5 hundred dollars; the treasurer and steward, eigh-
6 teen hundred dollars; the chaplain, two thousand
7 dollars; the physician, one thousand dollars; the
8 clerk, four hundred dollars; the school-mistress,

9 five hundred dollars; each matron, three hundred
10 and fifty dollars; each deputy matron, three hun-
11 dred dollars; each assistant matron, two hundred
12 and fifty dollars, payable in monthly payments by
13 the treasurer, out of the treasury of the prison, and
14 in full for all services. No other perquisite, reward
15 or emolument shall be allowed to or received by
16 any of them, save that, except the auditors and the
17 chaplain, they may reside at the building under
18 their care, and the auditors shall be allowed and
19 paid their necessary travelling expenses. All
20 these officers, except the auditors, treasurer,
21 steward and chaplain, shall be women.

1 SECT. 7. The superintendent, with the approv-
2 al of the auditors, shall appoint and fix compensa-
3 tion for the engineer, the farmer, the gate-keeper
4 and the stable-men, said compensation to be paya-
5 ble by the treasurer out of the treasury of the
6 prison.

1 SECT. 8. The auditors, or one of them, shall
2 visit the prison at least once in each month, and
3 shall audit and allow all bills before payment of
4 the same; and they shall on or before the fifteenth
5 day of October make a detailed report to the gov-
6 ernor and council of the state of the prison and
7 the expenses in detail of the prison for the year
8 ending on the last day of the preceding month,
9 with a list of the salaried officers and their salaries,
10 and in a tabular form under the heads specified in
11 section eleven of chapter five, the value of stock
12 and supplies.

1 SECT. 9. The superintendent shall reside con-
2 stantly in the precincts of the prison, and shall
3 have charge and custody of all prisoners in the
4 prison, and shall govern and employ them in the
5 manner prescribed by law and pursuant to their
6 respective sentences and the rules and regulations
7 of the prison, until their sentences are performed
8 or they are otherwise discharged by due course of
9 law. She shall have the management and control
10 of the prison and its operations. Before the su-
11 perintendent enters upon the duties of her office
12 she shall give bonds to the treasurer of the Com-
13 monwealth for the faithful performance of her
14 duties, in such sum as shall be designated by the
15 rules and regulations of the commissioners of
16 prisons, and with sufficient surety or sureties to
17 the acceptance of the board of auditors, and sub-
18 ject to the approval of the governor.

1 SECT. 10. The treasurer and steward shall
2 give bonds to the treasurer of the Commonwealth
3 for the faithful performance of his duties in such
4 sum as shall be designated by the rules and regu-
5 lations of the commissioners of prisons, and with
6 sufficient surety or sureties to the acceptance of
7 the board of auditors, and subject to the approval
8 of the governor.

9 The treasurer and steward shall receive and pay
10 out all money granted by the legislature for the
11 support of the prison, and shall cause to be kept
12 in suitable books regular and complete accounts
13 of all the property, expenses, income, business and
14 concerns of the establishment. He shall purchase
15 all supplies for the prison, and shall have charge

16 and custody of the prison buildings, with the land,
17 buildings, tools, implements, stock, provisions and
18 every other species of property appertaining there-
19 to or within the province thereof. He shall issue
20 at appointed times the proper supplies, and also
21 issue at any time on requisition by the superin-
22 tendent.

1 SECT. 11. The commissioners of prisons and
2 advising board, created in chapter three hundred
3 and seventy of the acts of eighteen hundred and
4 seventy, shall have the general supervision of the
5 prison and shall make rules and regulations, con-
6 sistent with the laws of the state, for the direction
7 of the officers of the prison in discharge of their
8 duty, the government, employment and discipline
9 of the convicts and the custody and preservation
10 of the public property.

1 SECT. 12. The commissioners of prisons shall
2 have the same power of discharging persons con-
3 fined for any cause in said prison that overseers of
4 houses of correction now have in those institutions.
5 There shall also be vested in said commissioners of
6 prisons all the powers not herein given to the
7 superintendent, treasurer and board of auditors,
8 that county commissioners and overseers now
9 have in relation to houses of correction.

1 SECT. 13. The said advisory board, or some
2 member of it, shall visit said prison at least once
3 each month, and shall see that the rules and regu-
4 lations are enforced and the officers competent and
5 faithful, and they shall report to the commission-

6 ers of prisons all violations of duty coming to their
7 knowledge.

1 SECT. 14. After the completion of the altera-
2 tions and additions at the state almshouse at
3 Bridgewater provided for in this act, the governor,
4 upon being notified of that fact by the commission-
5 ers of prisons, shall issue his proclamation estab-
6 lishing the reformatory prison for women, and
7 thereupon, the convicts who are at that time at
8 said state workhouse shall be transferred to said
9 reformatory prison, and the master of said state
10 workhouse shall at the same time transfer to the
11 superintendent of said reformatory prison all war-
12 rants, mittimusses and other official papers or
13 attested copies thereof by which said convicts
14 were committed, and all official records concerning
15 said convicts that may be in his possession. Said
16 convicts shall serve the remainders of their respec-
17 tive sentences in said prison.

1 SECT. 15. The commissioners of prisons may
2 remove, from time to time, female prisoners held
3 under sentence in any jail, or house of correction,
4 or in the house of industry at Deer Island, to the
5 reformatory prison for women, where the said
6 prisoners shall serve the remainder of their terms
7 of sentence.

1 SECT. 16. All warrants, mittimuses, processes,
2 or other official papers, or attested copies thereof,
3 by which a prisoner is committed, shall be trans-
4 ferred at the time of the removal of the prisoner;
5 with an order for such removal signed by the sec-

6 retary of said commissioners and directed to the
7 proper officer to make such removal to the said
8 prison, there to be kept as if such prisoner was
9 originally committed thereto.

1 SECT. 17. The supreme judicial court, the
2 superior court, or any district, municipal or police
3 court, or trial justice, may sentence any female, con-
4 victed before such court or trial justice, respec-
5 tively, of an offence punishable by imprisonment
6 in the jail, house of correction or house of indus-
7 try, to the reformatory prison for women.

1 SECT. 18. Any officer authorized to serve
2 criminal processes in any county may serve the
3 process by which a prisoner is committed or re-
4 moved under this act.

1 SECT. 19. All the costs and expenses of com-
2 mitment or removal under this act shall be paid
3 from the state treasury, and shall be taxed and
4 allowed by the several district attorneys in the
5 same manner that county costs and expenses are
6 taxed and allowed.

1 SECT. 20. The superintendent of said prison
2 for women shall make to the commissioners of
3 prisons such reports and returns as are required
4 by law to be made by the keepers of prisons to
5 the board of state charities.

1 SECT. 21. All keepers of jails and masters of
2 houses of correction and the superintendent of the
3 house of industry shall whenever a female is com-
4 mitted to the prisons under their respective charge
5 forthwith transmit to the secretary of the commis-

6 sioners of prisons such an abstract of the mittimus
7 on which she is committed as the commissioners
8 of prisons shall prescribe.

1 SECT. 22. Females convicted of any of the
2 offences enumerated in sections twenty-eight and
3 thirty-five of chapter one hundred and sixty-five
4 of the General Statutes, shall be sentenced to the
5 reformatory prison for women for a term not less
6 than six months nor more than two years.

1 SECT. 23. After the passage of this act there
2 shall be no commitments to the state workhouse at
3 Bridgewater; nothing in this act shall be construed
4 to affect the condition or relation of any of the
5 inmates of the state workhouse at Bridgewater
6 until the proclamation as provided for is made.

1 SECT. 24. A sum not exceeding fifty thousand
2 dollars is hereby appropriated to the alterations
3 and additions to the state workhouse at Bridge-
4 water, authorized to be expended by the commis-
5 sioners of prisons, with the approval of the gov-
6 ernor and council in accordance with the provisions
7 of the first section of this act, and the same shall
8 be allowed and paid.

1 SECT. 25. All acts and all parts of acts incon-
2 sistent with this act are hereby repealed.

1 SECT. 26. This act shall take effect upon its
2 passage.