

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# SIXTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE.

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HOUSE.

No. 49.

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[NEW DRAFT.]

## STATE OF MAINE.

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IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND  
EIGHTY-THREE.

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AN ACT to provide for greater security against fire  
in buildings used for public purposes.

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

SECTION 1. Every church, theatre, hall, or other  
2 building or structure intended to be used tempora-  
3 rily or permanently for any public purpose, and  
4 every school house or school room, public or pri-  
5 vate, shall have all inner doors, intended to be  
6 used for egress therefrom, open outwards.

SECT. 2. All outer doors of buildings or struct-  
2 ures of the kind mentioned in the preceding sec-  
3 tion shall be kept open when such buildings or  
4 structures are used by the public, unless such doors

5 open outwards; except that fly doors opening both  
6 ways may be kept closed.

SECT. 3. Every public house where guests are  
2 lodged, and every shop, mill, factory, and other  
3 building in which any trade, manufacture, or busi-  
4 ness is carried on, which requires the presence of  
5 workmen or other persons in any part thereof  
6 above the first story, and all halls and other rooms  
7 used for public assembly or for public amusement,  
8 shall at all times be provided with suitable and  
9 sufficient fire escapes, outside stairs or ladders from  
10 each story or gallery above the level of the ground,  
11 easily accessible to all inmates in case of fire or of  
12 an alarm of fire; the sufficiency thereof to be deter-  
13 mined as provided in the following section.

SECT. 4. In towns or parts of towns where there  
2 is no organized fire department, it shall be the duty  
3 of the municipal officers annually to make careful  
4 inspection of the precautions and safeguards pro-  
5 vided in compliance with the foregoing require-  
6 ments, and to pass upon their sufficiency in respect  
7 to arrangement and number, and upon their state  
8 of repair; and to direct and order such alterations,  
9 additions and repairs as they may adjudge neces-  
10 sary. In towns, cities and villages which have an

11 organized fire department, the duties aforesaid shall  
12 be discharged by the board of fire engineers.

SECT. 5. Such municipal officers or fire engi-  
2 neers shall give written notice to the occupant of  
3 such building, room, hall or other place hereinbe-  
4 fore specified, also to the owner thereof, if known,  
5 of their determination as to the sufficiency of said  
6 precautions and safeguards, specifying in said  
7 notice any alteration, addition or repair which they  
8 deem necessary and require. Sixty days shall be  
9 allowed after such notice and order, for compliance  
10 with the same.

SECT. 6. Any owner or occupant who neglects  
2 or refuses within the time so allowed to comply  
3 with such order, forfeits fifty dollars, and an addi-  
4 tional sum of five dollars a day for every day's  
5 continuance of such neglect or refusal; and the  
6 building or part of building so occupied shall be  
7 deemed to be a common nuisance, without any other  
8 proof thereof than proof of its use; and the keeper  
9 shall be subject to the penalties provided in case of  
10 other nuisances. And said officers may forbid the  
11 use of such building for any public purpose until  
12 their order has been complied with. And if the  
13 owner or occupant of said building lets or uses the

14 same in violation of such order, said owner or  
15 occupant forfeits not less than twenty nor more  
16 than fifty dollars for each offence.

SECT. 7. Whenever the municipal officers or  
2 engineers, upon inspection, find that proper safe-  
3 guards and precautions for escape in case of fire,  
4 or of alarm, have been provided, it shall be their  
5 duty to give to the occupant of such building a  
6 certificate, under their hands, of such fact; and  
7 such certificate shall be valid only for one year  
8 from its date. It shall be the duty of such officers  
9 to return to the clerk's office of their town or city,  
10 monthly, a list of such certificates by them issued,  
11 which the clerk shall record in a book kept for  
12 that purpose.

SECT. 8. Every person receiving such certificate  
2 shall pay to such officers the sum of two dollars  
3 therefor, and shall keep such certificate posted in  
4 the building affected thereby. Such annual certi-  
5 ficate, so posted, is to be taken as *prima facie*  
6 evidence of the inspection of such building, and of  
7 its provision with the suitable safeguards and pre-  
8 cautions hereinbefore mentioned.

SECT. 9. Every occupant of such building who  
2 neglects or refuses to procure such certificate, or

3 to have the same posted as aforesaid, forfeits ten  
4 dollars for each and every week he so neglects and  
5 refuses.

SECT. 10. Every municipal officer or fire engi-  
2 neer who shall refuse or neglect to perform the  
3 duties imposed upon him by this act, forfeits the  
4 sum of fifty dollars.

SECT. 11. All fines and forfeitures imposed by  
2 this act shall be recovered by and for the town or  
3 city where the building is located, by an action on  
4 the case, or by indictment.

SECT. 12. Chapter seventy, of the public laws of  
2 the year eighteen hundred and seventy-eight, and  
3 chapter fifty, of the public laws of the year  
4 eighteen hundred and eighty-one, are hereby re-  
5 pealed.



STATE OF MAINE.

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In HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }  
February 2, 1883. }

Reported by Mr. HALE, from the Committee on Judiciary, and  
ordered printed.

ORAMANDAL SMITH, *Clerk.*