

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sixty-Second Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 68.

STATE OF MAINE.

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

AN ACT to ascertain by proofs the Citizens who are entitled
to the Right of Suffrage.

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

SECTION 1. Within thirty days after the passage of this
2 act, the mayor of each city in the State, of 5,000 or more
3 inhabitants, subject to the approval of the board of alder-
4 men, shall appoint three able and discreet persons, voters
5 in the said city, who shall hold no other office or position
6 by election or appointment in said city, who shall con-
7-stitute together with the city clerk for the time being a
8 board of registrars of voters. One of the registrars so
9 appointed shall hold his office until the first day of May,
10 eighteen hundred and eighty-six. One until the first day
11 of May, eighteen hundred and eighty-seven, and one until
12 the first day of May, in the year eighteen hundred and
13 eighty-eight; and in the manner aforesaid the mayor of

14 each city shall in the month of April or May, A. D., 1886,
15 and in each year thereafter appoint one person qualified
16 as aforesaid, to be registrar of voters for the term of
17 three years from the first day of May then next ensuing,
18 and until another is appointed in his place. In case of a
19 vacancy occurring by reason of the death, resignation or
20 removal from office of any one of the registrars appointed
21 as aforesaid, during the term for which he is appointed,
22 the mayor in manner aforesaid, shall appoint a person
23 qualified as aforesaid for the residue of said term. The
24 members of said board shall at all times equally represent
25 the two political parties which cast the largest number of
26 votes in the State at the annual election next preceding
27 the appointment, and not more than two of the registrars
28 shall be of the same political party. The city clerk shall
29 act as clerk of said board, and shall keep a full and correct
30 record of its proceedings, and procure the serving or
31 posting of such notices as the registrars may require.

SECT. 2. Such registrars shall perform all the duties in
2 relation to the registration of voters, or preparing voters'
3 lists now imposed upon aldermen in our cities, and shall
4 before entering upon the duties of their office take and
5 subscribe an oath, faithfully to perform the duties of the
6 office. They shall receive such compensation as the city
7 council may from time to time determine; but such com-
8 pensation shall not be regulated by the number of names
9 registered on any list of voters, and any reduction of
10 compensation shall take effect upon such registrars only
11 as appointed after such reduction. The city council shall
12 furnish office room for the registrars, and such aid as may
13 be needed by them.

SECT. 3. The registrars at their first meeting to make the
2 register of voters, or at an adjourned meeting thereof,
3 may use the voting list of the last annual election, then
4 last past, to aid them in forming the said register, but the
5 name of no person shall be placed on such register if
6 objected to by one of the registrars, or by a voter of the
7 same city, unless he shall be known or proved, to the
8 satisfaction of the registrars, to be at the time a voter in
9 such city. Nor shall the name of any person be placed
10 or retained on such register without the concurrence of
11 three of the four registrars.

SECT. 4. The registrars of voters in each city shall make
2 and keep a record of all persons entitled to vote therein
3 at any election of city, county, district, state or national
4 officers, which shall be the register of voters.

SECT. 5. Said register shall contain the name of such
2 voter written in full, or his first christian name, or that
3 name by which he is generally known written in full with
4 the initial or initials of any other name or names which
5 he may have in addition to his surname, his age and place
6 of birth, the street, place and road in the city where he
7 resided on the first day of June next prior to the regis-
8 tration, the date of said registration, his occupation and
9 place of business at the time of registration, and such
10 other particulars as may be necessary to fully identify
11 him.

SECT. 6. The registrars of voters shall cause proper
2 and public notice of the time and place of their meetings
3 for the purpose of registration and correcting the voters'
4 lists by publication in one or more of the newspapers
5 published in the city and by posting up such notices in the

SECT. 8. The registrars of voters in the cities shall at
2 least thirty days before each municipal, State or National
3 election make correct alphabetical lists of the voters of
4 each ward in the city, which list they shall post up or
5 cause to be posted up, one or more of each ward, in the
6 post office of the city in a conspicuous place, and shall also
7 prepare a like list of the voters of each ward, and shall
8 at the same time cause them to be posted up on a con-
9 spicuous part of the building in which the ward room is,
10 in each ward of the city, all of which lists shall be printed.
11 After such lists of voters are so printed and posted up, no
12 voter's name shall be added thereto unless the applicant
13 for registration appears in person before the registrars and
14 proves to them his right to be registered, or unless by
15 unanimous consent of the full board of registrars.

SECT. 9. If any person who will become twenty-one
2 years of age before the election next ensuing, shall make
3 application to the registrars for registration in order to
4 entitle him to vote at such election, he shall be examined
5 under oath and admitted to registration provided the reg-
6 istrars shall be satisfied that he will be of age before such
7 election and will be a voter in the city.

SECT. 10. When complaint in writing under oath is
2 made by a voter in a city at least seven days before an
3 election, setting forth, that he has reason to believe, and
4 does believe, that a certain person, giving his name, is
5 illegally registered, and the reasons therefor, the regis-
6 trars shall re-examine the registration of such person, and
7 if there shall appear to be probable ground for such com-
8 plaint, they shall make record thereof and shall summon
9 such person to appear before them, and examine him

10 under oath in regard to the matter set forth in the com-
11 plaint; they may hear other and further evidence relative
12 thereto, and if satisfied that his name is entered upon the
13 list of a ward other than where he ought to be registered
14 they shall transfer his name to the list of the ward where
15 it should be, or if satisfied, that he is not a voter they
16 shall strike his name from the list. Said summons shall
17 be directed to the person named in said affidavit and shall
18 require him to appear before said board of registrars at
19 a time and place therein named, which time shall be before
20 the election next ensuing, then and there to show cause
21 why his name should remain upon the register of voters.
22 Service of the summons shall be made by an officer duly
23 qualified to serve civil or criminal process, by delivering
24 to the person named therein a copy thereof attested by
25 the officer who serves it, by reading it to him aloud in his
26 hearing and presence, or by leaving such copy at his last
27 and usual place of abode known to the officer, not more
28 than seven days nor less than twenty-four hours before the
29 return day thereof, and such officer shall return said sum-
30 mons to the registrars before the return day thereof, with
31 his service endorsed thereon. If such person shall fail to
32 appear as directed therein without sufficient cause being
33 shown therefor, his name shall be stricken from the list of
34 voters. Any one of the registrars shall have the right to
35 summon any person before the board of registrars in like
36 manner and for like causes as above stated in this section,
37 and similar actions may be had as if summoned at the
38 request of a person not a member of the board.

SECT. 11. The registrars of voters in the cities shall be
2 in session until five o'clock in the afternoon of the Satur-
3 day next but one preceding the day of any municipal,
4 State or National elections, and for such time previous
5 thereto as they may judge necessary for the purpose of
6 receiving evidence of persons claiming the right to vote,
7 and of correcting the list of voters; and they shall give
8 notice of the time and place of holding the sessions as
9 provided in section six, and shall also state therein the
10 day of the month when their session will begin and when
11 cease, and, that after the close of registration, no name
12 will be entered on the list of voters except as hereinafter
13 provided.

SECT. 12. The registration of voters in the cities shall
2 cease at five o'clock in the afternoon of the Saturday next
3 but one preceding the day of any election; and no name
4 shall be entered on the list of voters of any city after the
5 close of registration, unless the person has been deter-
6 mined to be a voter by the registrars of voters at some meet-
7 ing held before the close of registration, the fact that he
8 was registered verified by the certificate of the clerk of
9 the board of registrars.

SECT. 13. The registrars of voters, before entering upon
2 the register the name of a naturalized citizen, shall require
3 him in person to produce for their inspection his papers
4 of naturalization, and make oath that he is the identical
5 person named therein, and they shall be satisfied that he
6 has been legally naturalized, shall make a record or
7 memorandum upon said papers of the date of such inspec-
8 tion, and shall enter upon the said register the name and
9 location of the court by which said papers were issued,

10 with the date thereof. They shall cause so much of his
11 naturalization papers to be recorded as to show his name,
12 date of naturalization, and the name and location of the
13 court where the papers were issued, and the date of entry,
14 upon a book to be kept by the city in the city clerk's
15 office for such purposes. They need not require the pro-
16 duction of such papers after they have once examined and
17 passed upon them.

SECT. 14. Registrars of voters shall not register voters
2 in secret session, but publicly, and shall give to a reasona-
3 ble number of persons of the various political parties,
4 opportunity to witness such registration; and the register
5 of voters and the record of the clerk of the board of
6 registrars shall at all reasonable times be open to public
7 inspection, at the office of the authorities with whom they
8 are deposited.

SECT. 15. The board of registrars shall possess full
2 authority to maintain order and to enforce obedience to
3 their lawful commands in proceedings before them, and
4 shall have full authority to preserve peace and good order
5 at and around the place where their sessions are held,
6 and to call upon constables, police officers and other
7 persons, if necessary to communicate their orders and
8 directions, and to assist in the performance of their
9 duties.

SECT. 16. No name shall be added to the list of voters
2 until it has been recorded in the register of voters, and
3 all names stricken from the register of voters shall be
4 stricken from the list of voters; no name shall be added
5 to the list of voters in use at any election after the open-
6 ing of the polls, except to correct a clerical error or

7 omission, and all names on lists of voters shall be written
8 in full or as provided in section five.

SECT. 17. If the name of a voter shall be erroneously
2 erased from the published list of voters or omitted there-
3 from by clerical error, he may apply to the registrars of
4 voters at any time before the closing of the polls for its
5 restoration ; and if he shall prove that his claim is valid
6 his name shall be restored to the list of voters, and he shall
7 be given a certificate that his name had been previously
8 registered, and on presentation of which certificate to the
9 warden of the ward in which he was entitled to be regis-
10 tered he shall be allowed to vote thereon ; and the cer-
11 tificate shall be returned and preserved in the office of
12 the registrars.

SECT. 18. At any election held in a city between the
2 day of the municipal election and the day of the State
3 election the list of voters prepared for the preceding
4 municipal election shall be used, subject to the changes,
5 erasures and additions provided for by law.

SECT. 19. The list of voters prepared and corrected by
2 the registrars in the various cities shall be used at all
3 elections at the polls and voting places in the wards of
4 the cities in the same manner and for the same purpose as
5 the lists are required to be used, as now prepared by
6 aldermen of our cities.

SECT. 20. Any person who shall cause his name to be
2 registered as a voter in more than one ward or precinct,
3 or who shall cause his name to be registered knowing that
4 he is not a voter in the city, ward or precinct where said
5 registry is made, or who shall falsely personate or attempt
6 to so personate any person for the purpose of registration ;

7 and any person who shall give a false name or false
8 answer to a registrar concerning any matter relating to
9 the registration of voters or to the right of any person to
10 vote, and any person causing any such act or aiding or
11 abetting any person in any manner in either of said acts,
12 shall be punished for each and every such offence by a
13 fine of not less than twenty-five dollars nor more than one
14 hundred dollars and by imprisonment in jail for not more
15 than one year.

SECT. 21. Whenever under this act examinations are
2 authorized or required to be made under oath, such oaths
3 may be administered by either of the registrars.

SECT. 22. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent here-
2 with are hereby repealed.

SECT. 23. This act shall take effect when approved.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
February 6, 1885. }

Reported from Committee on Judiciary, by Mr. HALE, and on his
motion tabled and ordered printed.

NICHOLAS FESSENDEN, *Clerk.*