

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sixty-Second Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 131.

STATE OF MAINE.

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

AN ACT to regulate the hours of labor, and the employment of Women and Children in Manufacturing Establishments.

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

SECTION 1. Any person or corporation engaged in manufacturing in this State, that requires from persons in his or its employ, under penalty of forfeiture of the whole or a part of the wages earned by them, a notice of intention to leave such employ, shall be liable to the payment of a like forfeiture if he or it discharges, without similar notice, a person in such employ, except for reasonable cause, unless in case of a general suspension of labor in his or its shop or factory; but the recovery of such forfeiture shall not impair the right of any employe to recover damages at common law.

SECT. 2. No minor under eighteen years of age and no woman shall be employed in laboring in any manufacturing establishment more than ten hours in any one day, except when a different apportionment of the hours of labor is made for the sole purpose of making a shorter day's work for one day of the week; and in no case shall the hours of labor exceed sixty in a week. Every employer shall post in a conspicuous place in every room where such persons are employed, a printed notice, stating the number of hours' work required of them each day of the week; and the employment of any such person for a longer time in any day than so stated shall be deemed a violation of this section.

SECT. 3. Whoever, either for himself or as superintendent, overseer, or other agent of another, employs or has in his employment any person in violation of the provision of the preceding section, and every parent or guardian who permits any minor to be so employed, shall be punished by a fine of not less than fifty nor more than one hundred dollars for each offence. A certificate of the age of a minor, made by him and therein certifying that he has no parent or guardian, or made by him and his parent or guardian at the time of his employment in any manufacturing establishment, shall be conclusive evidence of his age upon any trial for a violation of the preceding section.

SECT. 4. No child under ten years of age shall be employed in any manufacturing establishment in this State; and no child under twelve years of age shall be so employed during the hours in which the public schools are in session in the city or town in which he resides. Any parent or guardian, and every owner, superintendent,

7 agent or overseer of such manufacturing establishment
8 who permits such employment, shall for each offence for-
9 feited not less than twenty nor more than fifty dollars, for
10 the use of the public schools of the city or town.

SECT. 5. No child under fifteen years of age shall be
2 so employed, except during the vacations of the public
3 schools, unless during the year next preceding such em-
4 ployment he has for at least four months attended some
5 public or private day school; nor shall such employment
6 continue unless such child in each and every year attends
7 school as herein provided, and no child shall be so em-
8 ployed who does not present a certificate made by or
9 under the direction of the school committee or supervisor
10 of schools, or teacher of such private day school, of his
11 compliance with the requirements of this section.

SECT. 6. Any owner, agent or superintendent of such
2 manufacturing establishment, for each violation of the
3 preceding section, forfeits one hundred dollars, to be re-
4 covered by indictment, half to the county and half to the
5 town where the offence was committed to be added to its
6 school money. Superintending school committees shall
7 inquire into such violations and report them to the county
8 attorney, who shall prosecute the same.

SECT. 7. Nothing in this act shall apply to any manu-
2 facturing establishment the products of which are perish-
3 able and require immediate labor thereon to prevent decay
4 thereof.

SECT. 8. Upon petition of thirty taxpayers of any city
2 or town, where any manufacturing establishment affected
3 by this act exists, the Governor, with the consent of the
4 Council, shall appoint for such city or town one or more

5 Inspectors of Factories, to hold office for the term of two
6 years unless sooner removed for cause. Such officers
7 shall enforce the provisions of sections two to six, both
8 inclusive, of this act; and for this purpose may enter all
9 buildings used for manufacturing purposes and make in-
10 vestigations as to the employment of women and minors
11 as provided in this act. Said inspectors shall receive
12 such compensation as such cities and towns may vote,
13 payable from the treasuries thereof.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
February 19, 1885. }

On motion of Mr. HEATH of Augusta, tabled and ordered printed.

NICHOLAS FESSENDEN, *Clerk*