

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sixty - Third Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 174.

STATE OF MAINE.

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

AN ACT for the Protection of Political Nominating Conventions and Primary Political Meetings or Caucuses from Disturbance and Fraud.

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

SECTION 1. Whoever, by rude or indecent behavior, or
2 in any way wilfully or unlawfully disturbs or interrupts
3 any public primary political meeting or caucus, or public
4 convention, lawfully assembled in any hall or other place
5 of meeting, for the purpose of nominating or proposing
6 candidates for any public office, or for the choice of dele-
7 gates to conventions or other meetings called for such pur-
8 pose, or creates a disturbance in any hall, walk or corri-
9 dor adjacent, or leading to the room where such caucus
10 or convention is held, shall be punished by imprisonment
11 for not more than thirty days, or by fine of not less than
12 five nor more than ten dollars.

SECT. 2. Whoever, not being a voter in the ward to
2 voters of which such meeting or caucus by the call there-
3 for is limited; or whoever, being a voter in such ward,
4 but not included in the description of those persons invited
5 to such meeting or caucus by the call therefor, shall vote,
6 or attempt to vote, or otherwise wilfully or unlawfully par-
7 ticipate in such meeting or caucus; or whoever shall wil-
8 fully and knowingly give in, or attempt to give in, more
9 than one vote or ballot upon any question submitted to
10 said meeting or caucus, or in any balloting that may be
11 taken therein, shall be punished by imprisonment for not
12 more than thirty days, or by fine of not less than five
13 nor more than ten dollars.

SECT. 3. Any officer of any such caucus or of any
2 public convention so assembled for the purpose aforesaid
3 or any person selected thereby or under the authority
4 thereof, or any person assuming to act therein for the
5 purpose of ascertaining or declaring the result of any
6 vote or balloting that may be there had, who shall wil-
7 fully and knowingly prevent any person from voting
8 therein, having a right under the law and the terms of the
9 call for such meeting so to do; or who shall wilfully
10 authorize or permit any person to vote therein, not enti-
11 tled by law or the terms of the call to participate in such
12 meeting, or who shall knowingly and wilfully receive
13 from any person more than one vote upon any question or
14 in any single balloting therein; or who shall participate
15 in, or wilfully and knowingly permit any false counting
16 or declaring of any vote or balloting in said meeting,
17 shall for such offence be punished by imprisonment for

18 not more than thirty days or by fine of not less than ten
19 nor more than twenty dollars.

SECT. 4. Whenever the right of any person to vote in
2 any such primary meeting, or caucus or convention, is
3 challenged for reasonable cause by three or more persons
4 present in such meeting, of whose right to participate
5 therein the presiding officer has no doubt, such challenged
6 person shall not vote unless the presiding officer shall,
7 notwithstanding such challenge, be satisfied of his right
8 and shall authorize him so to do, until all present, whose
9 right to vote in such meeting is unchallenged, have had
10 an opportunity to vote; after which, and prior to the
11 declaration of such vote, the question of the right of
12 any person or persons so challenged, to vote, shall be
13 submitted by the presiding officer to such meeting, and
14 the challenged vote or votes shall then be received, if such
15 meeting shall so determine, and not otherwise. And if
16 any person whose right to vote in such meeting has been
17 thus challenged, shall, after such challenge, and prior to
18 such determination of his right so to do, vote upon the
19 question of receiving his own vote, or upon any other
20 question in said meeting or caucus, he shall be subjected
21 to the penalty prescribed in the preceding section.

SECT. 5. The provisions of this act shall be applicable
2 only to cities of more than twenty-five thousand inhabi-
3 tants.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
February 24, 1887. }

Reported from Committee on Judiciary by Mr. DOW of Portland;
ordered printed under joint rule.

NICHOLAS FESSENDEN, Clerk.