

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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EIGHTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 317

H. P. 835 House of Representatives, Feb. 4, 1931.

Referred to Committee on Legal Affairs and 500 copies ordered printed. Sent up for concurrence.

CLYDE R. CHAPMAN, Clerk.

Presented by Mr. Jack of Lisbon.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND THIRTY-ONE

AN ACT Relating to the Counting and Sealing of Ballots.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:

Section eighteen of Chapter eight of the Revised Statutes is hereby amended by striking out the whole section and substituting in place thereof the following:

‘Sect. 18. Counting and sealing of ballots. R. S. c. 7, Sec. 18. The ballots shall be sorted and counted in open town or ward meeting by duly constituted officials sworn to do their duty by town or city clerks, and in such capacity shall be known as public officials, who shall not have been in the employ of any of the parties, or their agents, to the referendum or election for six months prior to the election, each official signing and filing a sworn statement of his count with the name of the official written or stamped on the ballots counted by said official. The counting of said ballots to be done in such manner as to afford the electors present ample opportunity to observe the sorting and counting, and the result shall be declared and recorded in open town or ward meeting. When the ballots have been so sorted and counted and the result so declared and recorded, all the ballots and sworn statements of said officials shall in open meeting be sealed in a package, which said package with the check-lists sealed in the same manner as the ballots shall forthwith be returned to the city, town, or

plantation. In case two or more kinds of official ballots are used at any election each kind shall be sealed in a separate package. All ballots and check-lists, and sworn statements of said officials, shall be so sealed that the packages and check-lists cannot be opened or examined without first breaking the seal; and the sealed packages of ballots cast at any state election or at any election of electors of president and vice-president of the United States shall have an indorsement of substantially the following tenor indorsed thereon or securely affixed thereon: "This package contains the ballots cast at an election for _____ held in the _____ of _____ (or in ward _____ of the city of) _____ on the day of 19 _____; said ballots were sorted, counted, the result declared and recorded, and this package sealed in open meeting in accordance with section eighteen of chapter eight of the Revised Statutes." Such endorsement shall be signed by the town, plantation, or ward clerk and by a majority of the selectmen of towns and the assessors of plantations, or by the wardens in cities or voting precincts. The ballots and check-lists and sworn statements of said officials returned to the city clerk after any city election and all other ballots returned to him, which he is not required to forward to the secretary of state according to the provisions of section forty-seven, shall be preserved by him as a public record for six months.'