

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

OF THE

SIXTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1883.

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1883.

PUBLIC LAWS
OF THE
STATE OF MAINE.
1883.

Chapter 121.

CHAP. 121

An Act to provide for greater security against fire in buildings used for public purposes.

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

SECT. 1. Every church, theatre, hall, or other building or structure intended to be used temporarily or permanently for any public purpose, and every school house or school room, public or private, shall have all inner doors, intended to be used for egress therefrom, open outwards.

Inner doors of public buildings shall open outward.

SECT. 2. All outer doors of buildings or structures of the kind mentioned in the preceding section shall be kept open when such buildings or structures are used by the public, unless such doors open outwards ; except that fly doors opening both ways may be kept closed.

Outer doors shall be kept open in certain cases.

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

Suitable fire escapes shall be provided to hotels, etc.

SECT. 4. In towns or parts of towns where there is no organized fire department, it shall be the duty of the municipal officers annually to make careful inspection of the precautions and safeguards provided in compliance with the foregoing requirements, and to pass upon their sufficiency in respect to arrangement and number, and upon their state of repair ; and to direct and order such alterations, additions and repairs as they may adjudge necessary. In towns, cities and villages which have an organized fire department, the duties aforesaid shall be discharged by the board of fire engineers.

Municipal officers and fire engineers shall inspect safeguards and order repairs.

SECT. 5. Such municipal officers or fire engineers shall give written notice to the occupant of such building, room, hall or other place hereinbefore specified, also to the owner thereof, if known, of their determination as to the sufficiency of said precautions and safeguards, specifying in said notice,

—shall give written notice as to sufficiency of safeguards.

CHAP. 121

any alteration, addition or repair which they deem necessary and require. Sixty days shall be allowed after such notice and order, for compliance with the same.

Penalty if owner neglects to comply with order for repairs.

SECT. 6. Any owner or occupant who neglects or refuses within the time so allowed to comply with such order, forfeits fifty dollars, and an additional sum of five dollars a day for every day's continuance of such neglect or refusal; and the building or part of building so occupied shall be deemed to be a common nuisance, without any other proof thereof than proof of its use; and the keeper shall be subject to the penalties provided in case of other nuisances. And said officers may forbid the use of such building for any public purpose until their order has been complied with. And if the owner or occupant of said building lets or uses the same in violation of such order, said owner or occupant forfeits not less than twenty nor more than fifty dollars for each offense.

Municipal officers and engineers shall give certificate of sufficiency of safeguards.

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

—shall return lists of same to town clerks for record.

—fee for inspection.

Certificate, posted in building, evidence of inspection.

SECT. 8. Every person receiving such certificate shall pay to such officers the sum of two dollars therefor, and shall keep such certificate posted in the building affected thereby. Such annual certificate, so posted, is to be taken as prima facie evidence of the inspection of such building, and of its provision with the suitable safeguards and precautions hereinbefore mentioned.

—penalty for neglect to procure or post same.

SECT. 9. Every occupant of such building, who neglects or refuses to procure such certificate, or to have the same posted as aforesaid, forfeits ten dollars for each and every week he so neglects and refuses.

Penalty if officers neglect to perform duty.

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

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

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Fines, how recovered.

SECT. 12. Chapter seventy of the public laws of the year eighteen hundred and seventy-eight, and chapter fifty of the public laws of the year eighteen hundred and eighty-one, are hereby repealed.

Certain acts repealed.

Approved February 14, 1883.

Chapter 122.

An Act to establish the manner of calling meetings of village corporations.

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

The meetings of any village corporation may be notified by the person to whom the warrant is directed by his posting up attested copies thereof, in two or more public and conspicuous places within the limits of the corporation seven days before the meeting, instead of as now provided by the act creating said corporation, provided that such corporation shall first at a legal meeting, designate at what and how many places such notices shall be posted.

Meetings of village corporations how called.

Approved February 14, 1883.

Chapter 123.

An Act regulating the compensation of Clerk of the Judicial Courts in the county of Piscataquis.

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

The clerk of the judicial courts of Piscataquis county shall hereafter receive an annual salary of seven hundred dollars to be paid from the fees of his office only in quarterly payments ; said sum shall be in full compensation for the performance of all duties required of him by law, including those performed by him as clerk of the county commissioners, or by clerk pro tem, appointed by him under section seven of chapter seventy-eight of the revised statutes. He shall render an

Salary of clerk of courts of Piscataquis county, established.