

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ACTS AND RESOLVES

OF THE

SIXTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE.

1885.

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PUBLIC LAWS  
OF THE  
STATE OF MAINE.

1885.

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**Chapter 286.**

An Act to establish a State Board of Health.

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

SECT. 1. A state board of health is hereby established, consisting of seven members, as follows: six members who shall be appointed by the governor, with the advice and consent of the council, and a secretary, as hereinafter provided. The terms of office of the six first appointed by the governor shall be so arranged that the term of one shall expire on the thirty-first day of January of each year for six years, and each vacancy so created shall be filled for a term of six years. If any vacancy among these members shall occur otherwise, a new member shall be appointed for the unexpired term by the governor, with the advice and consent of the council. At their first meeting, or as soon as a competent and suitable person can be obtained, the members appointed by the governor shall elect a secretary, who shall, by virtue of such election, become a member of the board, and its executive officer. The board may elect one of their own number secretary, in which case his term of office as a member by appointment of the governor shall expire, and the governor, with the advice and consent of the council, shall appoint another member to complete the full number of the board.

State board of health established.

—members of, how appointed.

—tenure.

—vacancies, how filled.

—secretary, how appointed.

SECT. 2. The state board of health shall have the general supervision of the interests of health and life of the citizens of the state. They shall study the vital statistics of the state, and endeavor to make intelligent and profitable use of the collected records of deaths and of sickness among the people; they shall make sanitary investigations and inquiries respecting the causes of disease and especially of communicable diseases and epidemics, the causes of mortality, and the effects of localities, employments, conditions, ingesta, habits, and circumstances on the health of the people; they shall investigate the causes of disease occurring among the stock and domestic animals in the state, and the methods of remedying the same; they shall gather such information in respect to all these matters as they may deem proper for diffusion among the people; they shall, when required or when they shall deem it best, advise officers of the government, or

—duties of board.

CHAP. 286

other boards within the state, in regard to the location, drainage, water supply, disposal of excreta, heating and ventilation of any public institution or building; they shall from time to time examine and report upon works on the subject of hygiene for the use of the schools of the state; they shall have general oversight and direction of the enforcement of the statutes respecting the preservation of health; and they shall, in the month of January, make report to the legislature of their doings, investigations, and discoveries during the year ending on the thirty-first day of December, with such suggestions as to legislative action as they may deem necessary.

—report.

—meetings of.

—quorum.

—president, how chosen.

SECT. 3. The board shall meet quarterly at the state capital, and at such other places and times as they may deem expedient. A majority shall be a quorum for the transaction of business. They shall choose annually one of their number to be their president, and may adopt rules and by-laws subject to the provisions of this act. They shall have authority to send the secretary, or a committee of the board, to any part of the state, when deemed necessary to conduct an investigation within the scope of their prescribed work.

Tenure of secretary.

—duties of

SECT. 4. The secretary shall hold his office as long as he shall faithfully discharge the duties thereof, but may be removed for just cause at a regular meeting of the board, a majority of the members voting therefor. He shall keep his office at the state capital, and shall perform the duties prescribed by this act, or required by the board. He shall keep a record of the transactions of the board; shall have the custody of all books, papers, documents, and other property belonging to the board, which may be deposited in his office; shall, as far as practicable, communicate with other state boards of health, and with the local health committees within this state; shall keep and file all reports received from such committees and all correspondence of the office appertaining to the business of the board. He shall, as far as possible, aid in obtaining contributions to the library and museum of the board. He shall prepare blank forms of returns, and such instructions as may be necessary, and forward them to the clerks of the several health committees throughout the state. He shall collect information concerning vital statistics, knowledge respecting diseases, and all useful information on

the subject of hygiene, and, through an annual report, and otherwise, as the board may direct, shall disseminate such information among the people.

SECT. 5. The secretary shall receive an annual salary which shall be fixed by the state board of health. The board shall quarterly certify the amount due him, and on presentation of said certificate the governor shall draw his warrant on the state treasurer for the amount. The members of the board shall receive no compensation for their services, but their traveling and other necessary expenses while employed on the business of the board shall be allowed and paid.

—salary of.

Expenses of members allowed.

SECT. 6. The sum of three thousand dollars per annum, or as much thereof as may be deemed necessary by the state board of health, is hereby appropriated to pay the salary of the secretary, meet the contingent expenses of the office of the secretary, and the expenses of the board, which shall not exceed the sum hereby appropriated. Said expenses shall be certified and paid in the same manner as the salary of the secretary.

Annual appropriation for.

SECT. 7. It shall be the duty of the health committee in each town and city in the state, at least once in each year, to report to the state board of health its proceedings, and such other facts required, on blanks and in accordance with instructions received from said state board. It shall also make special reports whenever required to do so by the state board of health.

Health committees of towns and cities to report to board.

SECT. 8. In order to afford to this board, better advantages for obtaining knowledge important to be incorporated with that collected through special investigations and from other sources, it shall be the duty of all officers of the state, the physicians of all incorporated companies, and the president or agent of any company chartered, organized, or transacting business under the laws of this state, as far as is practicable, to furnish to the state board of health any information bearing upon public health which may be requested by said board for the purpose of enabling it better to perform its duties of collecting and distributing useful knowledge on this subject.

Certain officers and others required to furnish information to.

SECT. 9. The secretary of the state board of health shall be the superintendent of vital statistics. Under the general direction of the secretary of state he shall collect these

Secretary shall be superintendent of statistics.

## CHAP. 287

statistics, and prepare and publish the report required by law relating to births, marriages and deaths.

Secretary of state to provide room for meetings of board.

SECT. 10. The secretary of state shall provide a suitable room for the meetings of the board at the state capital, and office-room for its secretary.

SECT. 11. This act shall take effect when approved.

Approved February 27, 1885.

### Chapter 287.

An Act to restore and increase the salary of the County Attorney of the County of Piscataquis.

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

Salary of attorney for Piscataquis county, increased.

SECT. 1. The salary of the county attorney of the county of Piscataquis, from and after the first day of January, in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-five, is hereby established at the sum of two hundred and fifty dollars per annum, payable in quarterly payments, instead of the sum now allowed by law.

SECT. 2. This act shall take effect when approved.

Approved March 3, 1885.

### Chapter 288.

An Act establishing the salary of the Register of Probate for the County of Androscoggin.

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

Salary of register of probate Androscoggin county, established.

SECT. 1. The register of probate for the county of Androscoggin shall receive an annual salary from the treasury of said county of five hundred dollars, payable quarterly on the first days of January, April, July, and October in each year, beginning on the first day of April, eighteen hundred and eighty-five, instead of the salary now provided by law.

SECT. 2. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with this act are hereby repealed.

Inconsistent acts repealed.

Approved March 3, 1885.