

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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STATE OF MAINE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
AUGUSTA

April 24, 1936

G. Howard Noyes, Chairman  
Board of Selectmen  
Stonington, Maine

Dear Sir:

In response to your letter of April 15, I am pleased to inform you that the distinction between an inn and a boarding house, or lodging house, is that the former is for the accommodation of all persons who choose to come and who are in a condition fit to be received, without any prior or express agreement as to the duration of their stay; while the latter is for the accommodation of such persons as the proprietor chooses to receive under a contract for a certain period of time and at a certain rate.

The distinction between an innkeeper and the keeper of a boarding house or a lodging house, is that the latter, not having made a profession of willingness to serve the public, is at liberty to choose his guests, and to make special arrangements with them; while an innkeeper is pledged to entertain all travelers of good conduct and with means of payment.

Very truly yours,

Deputy Attorney General

SLF H