

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIRST LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 1061

H. P. 732

House of Representatives, February 5, 1963

Referred to Committee on Health and Institutional Services. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

HARVEY R. PEASE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Taylor of South Portland.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-THREE

AN ACT to Provide for the Control of Air Pollution.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., c. 25-D, additional. The Revised Statutes are amended by adding a new chapter 25-D, to read as follows:

'Chapter 25-D.

Control of Air Pollution.

Sec. 1. Purpose. It is the general intent and purpose of this chapter to seek to achieve such a reasonable degree of purity of the air resources of the State consistent with, economically reasonable and necessary for the protection of the normal health, the general welfare, the property and people of the State by the creation of an Air Pollution Control Board to perform the adjudicatory functions provided for by this chapter and by granting to the Department of Health and Welfare powers with respect to technical assistance and cooperation with other groups in the field of air pollution. The Department of Health and Welfare shall provide assistance on air pollution matters to towns, cities and counties. It is the intention of this chapter that primary responsibility for the control of the emission of air contaminants into the atmosphere shall rest with the responsible local governmental agency and that affirmative, remedial action by this State shall be taken only in those areas of this State where the control board, after hearing, determines that no local law or regulation is in effect and being enforced adequately.

Sec. 2. Definitions. The following terms as used in this chapter shall, unless the context otherwise requires, have the following meanings:

I. Control board. "Control board" is the Air Pollution Control Board of the State of Maine.

II. Person. "Person" is any individual, partnership, copartnership, firm, company, corporation, association, joint stock company, trust, estate, municipality or any other legal entity, or their legal representative, agent or assigns.

III. Air pollution. "Air pollution" is presence in the outdoor atmosphere of one or more air contaminants in sufficient quantities and of such characteristics and duration as to be injurious to human, plant or animal life or to property, or which unreasonably interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life and property.

IV. Air contaminant. "Air contaminant" is dust, fumes, gas, mist, smoke, or vapor or any combination thereof.

V. Air contaminant source. "Air contaminant source" is any and all sources of emission of air contaminants, whether privately or publicly owned or operated. Without limiting the generality of the foregoing, this term includes all types of business, commercial and industrial plants, works, shops and stores, and heating and power plants and stations, buildings and other structures of all types, including single and multiple family residences, apartments, houses, office buildings, public buildings, hotels, restaurants, schools, hospitals, churches and other institutional buildings, automobiles, trucks, tractors, buses and other motor vehicles, garages and vending and service locations and stations, railroad locomotives, ships, boats and other waterborne craft, portable fuel-burning equipment, incinerators of all types, indoor and outdoor, refuse dumps and piles, and all stack and other chimney outlets from any of the foregoing.

Sec. 3. Air Pollution Control Board. There is hereby created an administrative board to be known as the Air Pollution Control Board of the State of Maine.

The powers and duties of the Air Pollution Control Board shall be vested in a 5-member board. The Commissioner of Health and Welfare shall serve as an ex-officio member of said board. The remaining 4 members shall be appointed by the Governor, one shall be a qualified graduate engineer registered in Maine, others representing the general public. The appointed members' terms of office shall be 4 years except that the terms of those first appointed shall expire as follows: One at the end of one year after date of appointment, one at the end of 2 years after date of appointment, one at the end of 3 years after date of appointment and one at the end of 4 years after the date of appointment as designated by the Governor at the time of appointment. The terms of all members shall continue until their respective successors have been duly appointed, and qualified. If a vacancy occurs in the appointed membership, the Governor shall appoint a member for the remaining portion of the unexpired term created by the vacancy. The Governor may remove any appointed member for cause. The ex-officio member of the control board shall serve without additional compensation. Other members of the control board shall be paid mileage and a per diem of \$20 for each and every day, or part of a day, in actual attendance at any meeting or hearing of the control board.

The control board shall hold at least 4 regular meetings each calendar year at a place and time to be fixed by the board. The control board shall select at its first meeting following the effective date of this chapter, one of its members to serve as chairman and another of its members to serve as vice-chairman. At the first regular meeting in each calendar year thereafter, the chairman and vice-chairman for the ensuing year shall be elected. The Commissioner of Health and Welfare shall appoint from the staff of the Department of Health and Welfare a qualified sanitary engineer registered in Maine as technical secretary of the control board. He shall receive no additional compensation for such services and during the interim between meetings of the control board he shall handle such correspondence, make or arrange for such investigations and surveys and obtain, assemble or prepare such reports and data as the control board may direct and authorize. Special meetings may be called by the chairman or by 2 members of the control board by delivery of written notice at the office of each member of the control board. Three members of the control board shall constitute a quorum.

Sec. 4. Powers and duties.

I. Powers and duties of the Air Pollution Control Board. The duty and power to administer and carry out the adjudicatory provisions of this chapter hereinafter set forth in this section is hereby vested in the Air Pollution Control Board and such board is empowered to:

A. Make investigations, consider complaints and hold hearings.

B. Enter such order or determination as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this chapter. If the control board shall find that the condition of air pollution exists, as that term is defined herein, such order may require the taking of such action as is indicated by the circumstances to cause the abatement of such condition.

C. Adopt and promulgate reasonable rules and regulations consistent with the general intent and purposes of this chapter declared in section 1 and necessary to carry out this chapter. All rules and regulations shall be adopted and promulgated in accordance with the provisions of the statutes of this State concerning the establishment and promulgation of rules and regulations.

D. Bring appropriate action to enforce its final orders or determinations. Such action shall be brought in the name of the Air Pollution Control Board of the State of Maine.

II. Powers and duties of department. The duty and power to assist and cooperate with other groups interested in and affected by air pollution is vested in the Department of Health and Welfare and such department is empowered to:

A. Advise, consult and cooperate with other agencies of the State, towns, cities and counties, industries, other states and the Federal Government, and with affected groups in the prevention and control of new and existing air contamination sources within the State.

B. Encourage and conduct studies, investigations and research relating to air pollution and its causes, effects, prevention, control and abatement.

C. Collect and disseminate information relating to air pollution, its prevention and control.

D. Encourage voluntary cooperation by persons, towns, cities and counties or other affected groups in restoring and preserving a reasonable degree of purity of air within this State.

E. Encourage authorized air pollution agencies of towns, cities and counties to handle air pollution problems within their respective jurisdictions to the greatest extent possible.

F. Provide technical assistance to towns, cities or counties requesting same for the furtherance of air pollution control.

G. Represent the State of Maine in any and all matters pertaining to plans, procedures, or negotiations for interstate compacts in relation to the control of air pollution.

H. Accept and administer grants or other funds or gifts for the purpose of carrying out any of the functions of this chapter.

I. Enter at all reasonable times in or upon any private or public property, except private residences, for the purpose of inspecting and investigating conditions relating to the pollution of the air of this State.

J. Investigate complaints received by it or referred to it by the control board, make such reports to the control board of its investigations as it deems advisable and participate, on behalf of this State, in proceedings or public hearings before the control board.

K. The department is authorized to budget and receive duly appropriated moneys for expenditures to carry out this chapter.

Sec. 5. Jurisdiction. The discharge into the outdoor atmosphere of air contaminants so as to cause air pollution and create a public nuisance is contrary to the public policy of the State of Maine and the provisions of this chapter.

The jurisdiction of the control board to receive and entertain complaints shall be limited to complaints concerning air contaminant sources located in areas in this State where no local air pollution law or regulation consistent with this chapter is in effect or where, after a hearing, the control board determines the local applicable air pollution law or regulation is not being enforced adequately.

Sec. 6. Hearings. The Air Pollution Control Board may hold a hearing with respect to any suspected violation of this chapter upon its own motion, upon complaint filed with the board by any person, and upon complaint filed with the board by the appropriate officer of any town, city or county or of the Department of Health and Welfare.

Notice of hearing, the conduct of such hearing and appeal from any order or decision of the control board shall be in accordance with the Administrative Code.

Sec. 7. Obstruction. It shall be unlawful to refuse to comply with any rule, regulation or order of the control board, or to in any manner hinder, obstruct, delay, resist, prevent or in any way interfere or attempt to interfere with the control board or the Department of Health and Welfare and its personnel in the performance of any duty hereunder, or refuse to permit such personnel to perform their duty by refusing them, after proper identification or presentation of a written order of the control board, entrance at reasonable hours to any premises.

Sec. 8. Ordinances. Nothing in this chapter shall prevent towns, cities or counties from enacting ordinances with respect to air pollution which will not conflict with this chapter and which are designed to effectuate the general intent and purpose expressed in this chapter.'

Sec. 2. Appropriations. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Health and Welfare the sum of \$15,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1964 and the sum of \$15,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1965, to carry out the purposes of this act.