

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 114

H. P. 106

House of Representatives, January 13, 1965

Referred to Committee on Towns and Counties. Sent up for concurrence and ordered printed.

JEROME G. PLANTE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Hunter of Durham.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-FIVE

AN ACT Relating to Fire Department Officers as Fire Wards.

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

Sec. 1. R. S., T. 25, § 2301, amended. Section 2301 of Title 25 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 2301. Election of fire wards. Each town which does not have an organized fire department, at its annual meeting, may elect as many fire wards as it deems necessary. Each person so chosen shall be notified within 3 days, and shall enter his acceptance or refusal of the office with the town clerk within 3 days after such notice on penalty of \$10, unless excused by the town. If excused, the town shall elect another in his place.'

Sec. 2. R. S., T. 25, § 2302, amended. Section 2302 of Title 25 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 2302. Powers and duties of fire wards and fire department officers at fires. When a fire breaks out in ~~any~~ said town, the fire wards shall immediately attend at the place, and when there, any 3 of them may direct any building to be pulled down or demolished if they judge it necessary to prevent the spread of the fire. In their absence the major part of the municipal or any 2 civil or military officers present, in the order in which they are named, have the same power.

During the continuance of any fire, said fire wards or other fire department officers in charge may require assistance in extinguishing the fire and removing merchandise and furniture, appoint guards to secure the same and to aid in pulling down or demolishing buildings and suppressing disorder and tumult, and generally may direct all operations to prevent further destruction or damage.

Any person refusing to obey their orders forfeits \$10.'

Sec. 3. R. S., T. 25, § 2306, amended. Section 2306 of Title 25 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 2306. Duty of engine companies. Companies of enginemen shall meet once every month, and oftener if necessary, to examine the state of their engines and the appendages thereof. By night or by day without delay, under the direction of the fire ~~wards~~ **department officers**, they shall use their best endeavors to extinguish all fires in the town or in its immediate vicinity.'

Sec. 4. R. S., T. 25, § 2307, amended. Section 2307 of Title 25 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

'Sec. 2307. Discharge of negligent enginemen; replacements. On proof of negligence, the municipal officers may discharge any engineman or member of the company organized under special laws and appoint some other person in his stead. They may select from the enginemen any number for each engine in their town, who shall, under the direction of the fire ~~wards~~ **department officers**, attend fires therein with axes, fire hooks, fire sails and ladders, and perform such further duty as said officers from time to time prescribe.'

Sec. 5. R. S., T. 25, § 2308, amended. The first sentence of section 2308 of Title 25 of the Revised Statutes is amended to read as follows:

'The ~~chief engineer~~ **fire department officers**, engineers, fire wards and other officers appointed for particular localities under special laws have the same power as fire wards to pull down or demolish buildings in order to prevent the spreading of fires and to do other things for the extinguishment thereof.'