

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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ONE HUNDRED AND SECOND LEGISLATURE

Legislative Document

No. 165

H. P. 142

House of Representatives, January 14, 1965

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

JEROME G. PLANTE, Clerk

Presented by Mr. Lund of Augusta.

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD NINETEEN HUNDRED
SIXTY-FIVE

AN ACT Providing for Questionnaires to be Propounded to Prospective Jurors.

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

R. S., T. 14, § 1254-A, additional. Title 14 of the Revised Statutes is amended by adding a new section 1254-A to read as follows:

‘Sec. 1254-A. Questionnaires for prospective jurors. The Attorney General shall, with the advice and consent of a committee designated by the Maine Bar Association, prepare and print and distribute to the jury commissioners of the respective counties a jury questionnaire. The Attorney General and the said committee as often as deemed necessary by the Attorney General shall revise and improve the said jury questionnaire. The questionnaire shall be so drawn that the answers thereto shall assist the jury commissioners and the presiding justices and attorneys in the trial of a case in determining who they deem qualified for service as jurors. The jury questionnaire shall be mailed by the jury commissioners to each prospective juror who shall answer the questions under oath or affirmation and return the jury questionnaire with his answers to the jury commissioners. Any person who shall willfully refuse to answer any question or who shall intentionally answer falsely any question shall be fined as for contempt, not exceeding \$20. Any prospective juror who wishes to be relieved from answering any said question may complain to the District Court or Superior Court which may by order relieve said prospective juror from the obligation of answering any part of the said questionnaire. When the jurors are selected and summonsed, the jury commissioners shall deliver each juror’s questionnaire and answers to the clerk of the Superior Court and the clerk shall have custody of the said jury questionnaire which shall remain confidential, except that the presiding justice and attorneys in the trial of cases shall be permitted to examine each jury questionnaire.

If any person shall disclose the answers to any jury questionnaire to anyone not entitled to examine them, such person shall be fined as for contempt, not exceeding \$20.

When in the trial of a cause a sufficient number of jurors duly drawn and summonsed cannot be obtained, and the court shall cause jurors to be returned from the bystanders from the county at large, each juror so returned shall be furnished a jury questionnaire which shall be answered as in the case of regular prospective jurors. The clerk shall acknowledge the oath or affirmation of each juror so returned and shall have custody of the jury questionnaire as in the case of other jury questionnaires.'