

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIFTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

No. 44.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-THREE.

AN ACT to amend chapter twenty-six of the revised statutes, relating to fires.

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

SECTION 1. Section twenty-nine of chapter twenty-six of the revised statutes is amended so as to read as follows :

4 *Sect. 29.* Whenever any building or vessel in port
5 or their contents are wholly or partially destroyed by
6 fire, originating on the premises, unless the cause
7 thereof shall be clearly accidental, it shall be the duty
8 of the mayor of the city or the municipal authorities
9 of the town or plantation where the fire occurs, to give
10 notice thereof at once to the sheriff of the county or
11 his deputy, and said sheriff or deputy shall thereupon

12 immediately summon three good and lawful men to
13 appear at the place of the fire at a time to be fixed as
14 soon as possible to inquire when, how and by what
15 means the fire originated; and in case of the non
16 appearance of the person so summoned the officer
17 shall appoint some other person to complete said
18 number, and it shall be the duty of all persons so
19 summoned to appear and act under such summons un-
20 less excused for reasonable cause.

SECT. 2. Sections thirty, thirty-one, thirty-two and
2 thirty-three of said chapter, are amended by substitu-
3 ting the words "sheriff or deputy" in the place of
4 "judge or justice" whenever those words occur
5 therein.

SECT. 3. The fees of the officer shall be the same as
2 prescribed for the coroner in cases of inquest upon
3 dead bodies, and the fees of the jurors shall be two
4 dollars each for the inquest, with travelling fees the
5 same as witnesses in court.

SECT. 4. This act shall take effect when approved.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, February 19, 1873.

Reported from the Committee on Mercantile Affairs and Insurance, by Mr. HUMPHREY of Cumberland, and laid over to be printed under the Joint Rule.

SAMUEL W. LANE, *Secretary.*