

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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FIFTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE.

SENATE.

No. 54.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND
EIGHTY.

AN ACT to provide for a sealed ballot.

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

SECTION 1. The municipal officers of the several
2 cities, towns and plantations in this state shall on
3 or before the days of election for state and county
4 officers, and also for electors of president and vice
5 president of the United States, to be held in this
6 State hereafter, provide or cause to be provided in
7 every polling place or voting precinct within this
8 state, rooms or apartments not less than four feet
9 square, and of suitable height, with doors for en-
10 trance and departure. Said apartments shall be
11 provided with suitable shelves or boxes to hold
12 envelopes and ballots for the use of the voters who
13 may desire to vote at said elections.

SECT. 2. There shall be two men, one from each
2 of the two principal political parties, appointed by
3 the mayor of cities, selectmen of towns and asses-
4 sors of plantations, for each polling place, whose
5 duty shall be to tend the doors of said apartments,
6 see that but one voter occupies the aforesaid apart-
7 ments at one time. Said voter shall be allowed not
8 more than two minutes therein for the purpose of
9 sealing his ballot.

SECT. 3. The secretary of state shall furnish to
2 each city, town and plantation within this state,
3 envelopes of uniform size and color, and the
4 mayors of cities, selectmen of towns and asses-
5 sors of plantations shall cause to be put into said
6 apartments and keep there a sufficient number of
7 envelopes to accommodate all voters wishing to
8 vote.

SECT. 4. A complete set of votes for all candi-
2 dates to be voted for may be kept in said enclosure
3 or apartments during the day of elections hereto-
4 fore specified, and the officers presiding at said
5 elections at the different polling places in the state
6 shall receive no votes except those that are sealed
7 in envelopes furnished by the state, as specified,
8 nor shall they receive any envelopes with any
9 distinguishing mark upon it, and if any envelope

10 contains more than one ballot, neither ballot shall
11 be counted.

SECT. 5. A penalty for wilfully destroying or
2 taking away more than one ballot or envelope by
3 each person, shall not be less than one dollar nor
4 more than five dollars for such vote or envelope so
5 taken away or destroyed, at the discretion of the
6 court before whom the complaint shall be made.

SECT. 6. The authorities of each city, town and
2 plantation shall provide sealing apartments as here-
[3 tofore specified, not less than one for every two
4 hundred polls in each ward of cities, and in each
5 town and plantation.

SECT. 7. All acts inconsistent with the forego-
2 ing are hereby repealed.

SECT. 8. This act shall take effect when approved
2 by the governor.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, March 5, 1880.

Presented by Mr. THOMPSON, under a suspension of the rules, and on his motion laid on the table to be printed.

C. W. TILDEN, *Secretary.*