

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sixty-Second Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 96.

STATE OF MAINE.

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

AN ACT to establish a State Board of Health.

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

SECTION 1. A State board of health is hereby
2 established, consisting of seven members, as fol-
3 lows: six members who shall be appointed by the
4 Governor, with the advice and consent of the
5 Council, and a secretary, as hereinafter provided.
6 The terms of office of the six first appointed by the
7 Governor shall be so arranged that the term of one
8 shall expire on the thirty-first day of January of
9 each year for six years, and each vacancy so cre-
10 ated shall be filled for a term of six years. If any
11 vacancy among these members shall occur other-
12 wise, a new member shall be appointed for the un-

13 expired term by the Governor, with the advice and
14 consent of the Council. At their first meeting, or
15 as soon as a competent and suitable person can be
16 obtained, the members appointed by the Governor
17 shall elect a secretary, who shall, by virtue of such
18 election, become a member of the board, and its
19 executive officer. The board may elect one of their
20 own number secretary, in which case his term of
21 office as a member by appointment of the Gov-
22 ernor shall expire, and the Governor, with the
23 advice and consent of the Council, shall appoint
24 another member to complete the full number of the
25 board.

SECT. 2. The State board of health shall have
2 the general supervision of the interests of health
3 and life of the citizens of the State. They shall
4 study the vital statistics of the State, and endeavor
5 to make intelligent and profitable use of the col-
6 lected records of deaths and of sickness among
7 the people; they shall make sanitary investigations
8 and inquiries respecting the causes of disease, and
9 especially of communicable diseases and epidemics,
10 the causes of mortality, and the effects of localities,
11 employments, conditions, ingesta, habits, and cir-
12 cumstances on the health of the people; they shall
13 investigate the causes of disease occurring among

14 the stock and domestic animals in the State, and
15 the methods of remedying the same; they shall
16 gather such information in respect to all these
17 matters as they may deem proper for diffusion
18 among the people; they shall, when required or
19 when they shall deem it best, advise officers of the
20 government, or other boards within the State, in
21 regard to the location, drainage, water supply, dis-
22 posal of excreta, heating and ventilation of any
23 public institution or building; they shall from time
24 to time examine and report upon works on the
25 subject of hygiene for the use of the schools of
26 the State; they shall have general oversight and
27 direction of the enforcement of the statutes re-
28 specting the preservation of health; and they shall,
29 in the month of January, make report to the legis-
30 lature of their doings, investigations, and discov-
31 eries during the year ending on the thirty-first day
32 of December, with such suggestions as to legisla-
33 tive action as they may deem necessary.

SECT. 3. The board shall meet quarterly at the
2 State capital, and at such other places and times as
3 they may deem expedient. A majority shall be a
4 quorum for the transaction of business. They shall
5 choose annually one of their number to be their
6 president, and may adopt rules and by-laws subject

7 to the provisions of this act. They shall have
8 authority to send the secretary, or a committee of
9 the board, to any part of the State, when deemed
10 necessary to conduct an investigation within the
11 scope of their prescribed work.

SECT. 4. The secretary shall hold his office as
2 long as he shall faithfully discharge the duties
3 thereof, but may be removed for just cause at a
4 regular meeting of the board, a majority of the
5 members voting therefor. He shall keep his office
6 at the State capital, and shall perform the duties
7 prescribed by this act, or required by the board.
8 He shall keep a record of the transactions of the
9 board; shall have the custody of all books, papers,
10 documents, and other property belonging to the
11 board, which may be deposited in his office; shall,
12 as far as practicable, communicate with other State
13 boards of health, and with the local health com-
14 mittees within this State; shall keep and file all
15 reports received from such committees and all
16 correspondence of the office appertaining to the
17 business of the board. He shall, as far as possible,
18 aid in obtaining contributions to the library and
19 museum of the board. He shall prepare blank
20 forms of returns, and such instructions as may be
21 necessary, and forward them to the clerks of the

22 several health committees throughout the State.
23 He shall collect information concerning vital statis-
24 tics, knowledge respecting diseases, and all useful
25 information on the subject of hygiene, and, through
26 an annual report, and otherwise, as the board may
27 direct, shall disseminate such information among
28 the people.

SECT. 5. The secretary shall receive an annual
2 salary which shall be fixed by the State Board of
3 Health. The board shall quarterly certify the
4 amount due him, and on presentation of said cer-
5 tificate the governor shall draw his warrant on the
6 state treasurer for the amount. The members of
7 the board shall receive no compensation for their
8 services, but their traveling and other necessary
9 expenses while employed on the business of the
10 board shall be allowed and paid.

SECT. 6. The sum of three thousand dollars per
2 annum, or as much thereof as may be deemed
3 necessary by the State Board of Health, is hereby
4 appropriated to pay the salary of the secretary,
5 meet the contingent expenses of the office of the
6 secretary, and the expenses of the board, which
7 shall not exceed the sum hereby appropriated. Said
8 expenses shall be certified and paid in the same
9 manner as the salary of the secretary.

SECT. 7. It shall be the duty of the health committee in each town and city in the State, at least once in each year, to report to the State Board of Health its proceedings, and such other facts required, on blanks and in accordance with instructions received from said State board. It shall also make special reports whenever required to do so by the State Board of Health.

SECT. 8. In order to afford to this board better advantages for obtaining knowledge important to be incorporated with that collected through special investigations and from other sources, it shall be the duty of all officers of the State, the physicians of all incorporated companies, and the president or agent of any company chartered, organized, or transacting business under the laws of this State, as far as is practicable, to furnish to the State Board of Health any information bearing upon public health which may be requested by said board for the purpose of enabling it better to perform its duties of collecting and distributing useful knowledge on this subject.

SECT. 9. The secretary of the State Board of Health shall be the superintendent of vital statistics. Under the general direction of the secretary of state, he shall collect these statistics, and pre-

5 pare and publish the report required by law relating
6 to births, marriages and deaths.

SECT. 10. The secretary of state shall provide a
2 suitable room for the meetings of the board at the
3 State capital, and office-room for its secretary.

SECT. 11. This act shall take effect upon its
2 approval by the governor.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
February 14, 1885.

Reported from Committee on Judiciary, by Mr. HALE; ordered
printed under joint rule.

NICHOLAS FESSENDEN, *Clerk.*