

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sixty - Third Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 161.

STATE OF MAINE.

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

AN ACT regulating the Hours of Labor and establishing a
Bureau of Industrial Statistics and Labor.

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

SECTION 1. Ten hours of actual labor are a legal day's
2 work, and no person shall be employed in laboring in any
3 manufacturing or mechanical business or establishment in
4 this State more than ten hours in any one day, *provided*
5 *however*, that such person, not a minor under eighteen
6 years of age, may, by special agreement *in each case* be
7 employed a longer time for such additional compensation
8 as may be agreed upon between employer and employe,
9 *provided* also that a different apportionment of the hours
10 of labor per day may be made as to minors between
11 twelve and eighteen years of age, but shall never exceed
12 sixty hours in any one week, and *provided further*, that the
13 foregoing prohibitions shall not apply to those establish-

14 ments the materials and products of which require im-
15 mediate labor thereon to prevent decay or damage thereof.

SECT. 2. Every employer shall post in a conspicuous
2 place in every room in such establishment where such
3 persons are employed, a notice printed in plain, large type
4 stating the time of beginning and stopping work in the
5 forenoon and afternoon. It shall not be a violation of
6 this act that the motive power in any manufacturing or
7 mechanical business or establishment is set in motion be-
8 fore the time fixed for the beginning of work.

SECT. 3. No child under twelve years of age shall be
2 employed in any manufacturing or mechanical business or
3 establishment. No child between the ages of twelve and
4 fifteen years shall be so employed unless during the year
5 next preceding such employment he has, for at least six-
6 teen weeks, attended some public or private school. A
7 certificate of the parent or guardian as to the age of the
8 child, and of the teacher, superintendent or school com-
9 mittee as to the time of school attendance shall be con-
10 clusive evidence in behalf of the employer upon any
11 prosecution for any violations of the provisions of this act.
12 And it shall be the duty of such committee, superintend-
13 ent or teacher to furnish such certificates in accordance
14 with the fact upon request and without charge. The provi-
15 sions of this section shall not take effect till January first,
16 eighteen hundred and eighty-eight.

SECT. 4. It shall be lawful for any person, firm or cor-
2 poration engaged in any manufacturing or mechanical
3 business to contract with adult or minor employes to give
4 one week's notice of intention on such employes' part to
5 quit such employment under a penalty of forfeiture of

6 one week's wages. In such case the employer shall be
7 required to give a like notice of intention to discharge the
8 employe; and on failure shall pay to such employe a sum
9 equal to one week's wages. No such forfeiture shall be
10 enforced when the leaving of the employe, or the dis-
11 charge by the employer is for a lawful cause, nor when
12 there is a general suspension of business by the employer.

SECT. 5. Any employer, superintendent, overseer or
2 other agent of an employer violating any of the provi-
3 sions of the four preceding sections, and any one who
4 falsely makes and utters such certificate as to age or at-
5 tendance at school with an intention to evade the provi-
6 sions of this act shall be punished by a fine of not less
7 than ten nor more than fifty dollars.

SECT. 6. There is hereby established a separate and
2 distinct department which shall be called the Bureau of
3 Industrial Statistics and Labor, the object of which shall be
4 to collect, assort, systematize and present, in annual re-
5 ports to the Governor, to be by him transmitted to the
6 Legislature, statistical details relating to all departments
7 of industry and labor in the State especially in their re-
8 lations to the commercial and industrial condition of the
9 people, and to the permanent prosperity of the produc-
10 tive industries in the State.

SECT. 7. The Governor shall with the advice and con-
2 sent of the Council appoint immediately after this act
3 goes into effect some suitable person for a term of two
4 years, and removable for cause, who shall be designated
5 Commissioner of Industrial Statistics and Labor with an
6 office in such place as shall be designated by the Governor.

7 It shall be the duty of such commissioner to carry out
8 and enforce the provisions of this act. He shall receive
9 an annual salary of twelve hundred dollars, and is hereby
10 authorized to employ such assistance and incur such ex-
11 pense in the discharge of his duties not exceeding fifteen
12 hundred dollars per annum as the Governor and Council
13 shall approve.

SECT. 8. Such commissioner shall have power to take
2 and preserve evidence, examine witnesses under oath and
3 administer the same, inquire into the immediate causes of
4 all disturbances between employers and employes, and in
5 the discharge of his duty may enter, at reasonable hours
6 when open for business, any factory, workshop, mine or
7 other place where labor is employed. All State, county,
8 city and town officers are hereby directed to furnish to
9 such commissioner upon his request all statistical informa-
10 tion in reference to industries, labor and violations of this
11 act which shall be in their possession as such officers.

SECT. 9. There is hereby appropriated out of any money
2 in the State treasury the sum of five thousand and four
3 hundred dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary
4 for the ensuing two years for the purpose of carrying out
5 the provisions of this act. The commissioner shall re-
6 ceive his salary in monthly installments, and the expenses
7 of the bureau shall be paid on the vouchers presented by
8 the commissioner after they have been audited and ap-
9 proved by the Governor and Council.

SECT. 10. A copy of the first five sections of this act
2 shall be posted in a conspicuous place in every room in
3 such establishment. Copies for this purpose shall be

4 furnished by the Secretary of State on application in be-
5 half of the owner of such establishment.

SECT. 11. All acts and parts of acts inconsistent with
2 this act are hereby repealed.

SECT. 12. This act shall take effect July 1, 1887.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
February 23, 1887. }

Reported from Committee on Labor by Mr BRYANT of Pittsfield;
ordered printed under joint rule.

NICHOLAS FESSENDEN, Clerk.