

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sixty - Third Legislature.

SENATE.

No. 8.

STATE OF MAINE.

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

AN ACT relating to the Hours of Labor and the
Employment of Children in Manufacturing and Me-
chanical Establishments.

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

SECTION 1. No person except firemen, watchmen
2 and engineers shall be employed in laboring in any
3 manufacturing or mechanical establishment or bus-
4 iness, more than ten hours in any one day, *provided*,
5 that the foregoing prohibition shall not apply when
6 a different appointment of the hours of labor is
7 made for the sole purpose of making a shorter day's

8 work for one day of the week; and also when it is
9 necessary to make repairs to prevent interruption
10 of the ordinary running of machinery, or to do any
11 other thing necessary to prevent a cessation of the
12 ordinary course of business, and also when the
13 employment is to make up for lost time on some
14 previous day of the same week in consequence of
15 the necessary stopping of machinery upon which
16 such person is employed or dependent for employ-
17 ment. Nothing in this Act shall apply to any man-
18 ufacturing establishment, the materials and prod-
19 ucts of which are perishable and require immediate
20 labor thereon to prevent decay thereof. Whoever,
21 either for himself, or as superintendent, overseer,
22 or other agent of another, employs, or has in his
23 employment any person in violation of the provis-
24 ions of this section shall be punished by a fine of
25 not less than one hundred dollars for each offense.

SECT. 2. No child under 15 years of age shall
2 be employed in any manufacturing or mechanical
3 establishment in this State.

SECT. 3. Any corporation, owner, superintendent
2 or agent of the owner of such an establishment,
3 violating the provision of section two, shall forfeit
4 the sum of one hundred dollars for each offense.

5 A certificate of the age of a minor made by him
6 or by his parents or guardian at the time of his
7 employment, shall be conclusive evidence of his age
8 in behalf of the hirer, upon any prosecution for a
9 violation of the provision of section two. And
10 whoever falsely makes and utters such a certificate
11 with an intention to evade the provisions of section
12 two, shall be subject to a fine of not less than
13 twenty-five dollars nor more than one hundred dol-
14 lars or by imprisonment in the county jail not less
15 than thirty days nor more than ninety days.

SECT. 4. No person, firm or corporation engaged
2 in any manufacturing or mechanical business, shall
3 require from any person in his or its employment
4 a penalty for failure to give a notice of intention to
5 leave such employment.

SECT. 5. Every employer shall post in a conspic-
2 uous place in each room where any person is em-
3 ployed, a notice printed in large, plain type, stating
4 the time of commencing and stopping work, the
5 time of starting and stopping machinery, and the
6 time to be taken for dinner.

SECT. 6. A commissioner of labor shall be
2 elected by the people within thirty days from the
3 enactment of this bill, who shall receive a salary

4 of eight hundred dollars a year, and shall hold his
5 office for two years, or until his successor is chosen,
6 unless sooner removed by the Governor. It shall
7 be the duty of the commissioner of labor to en-
8 quire into any violations of this Act. And said
9 commissioner shall, in addition to his salary pro-
10 vided by law, be allowed his reasonable expenses.

SECT 7. All bills for expenses of the commis-
2 sioner of labor shall be audited by the Council.
3 For the purpose of inquiring into any violation of
4 the provision of this Act and enforcing the penal-
5 ties thereof, such commissioner may enter any me-
6 chanical or manufacturing establishment between
7 the hours of six A. M. and nine P. M., and make
8 investigation concerning such violations. Such
9 investigations shall be conducted with as little inter-
10 ruption as possible to the prosecution of the busi-
11 ness of such establishment. Whoever interferes
12 with said commissioner in the performance of his
13 duties as prescribed in this Act, shall be fined one
14 hundred dollars. Said commissioner shall have
15 power to summons witnesses and the same shall be
16 paid one dollar and fifty cents per day and actual
17 travelling expenses. Any person who shall enter
18 a complaint for violation of any part of this Act

19 shall receive one-half of the fine collected, the other
20 half shall be paid into the State Treasury.

SECT. 8. This Act shall take effect when ap-
2 proved.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, January 21, 1887.

Presented by Mr. WEYMOUTH, and, on his motion, laid on table to be printed.

C. W. TILDEN, *Secretary.*