

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

The following document is provided by the  
**LAW AND LEGISLATIVE DIGITAL LIBRARY**  
at the Maine State Law and Legislative Reference Library  
<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>



Reproduced from scanned originals with text recognition applied  
(searchable text may contain some errors and/or omissions)

---

---

# Sixty-Fifth Legislature.

---

---

HOUSE.

No. 1.

---

---

## STATE OF MAINE.

---

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

---

AN ACT to provide for Printing and Distributing Ballots at the  
Public Expense and to Regulate Voting for State and City  
Elections.

---

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

SECT. 1. All ballots cast in elections for national, State, dis-  
2 trict and county officers in cities and towns after the first day of  
3 September in the year eighteen hundred and ninety-two and all  
4 ballots cast in municipal elections in cities after that date, shall  
5 be printed and distributed at public expense, as hereinafter pro-  
6 vided. The printing of the ballots and cards of instructions to  
7 voters shall in municipal elections in cities be paid for by the  
8 several cities respectively, and in all other elections the printing  
9 of the ballots and cards of instruction, and the delivery of them  
10 to the several cities and towns, shall be paid for by the State.  
11 The distribution of the ballots to the voters shall be paid for by  
12 the cities and towns respectively.

The term "State election," as used in this act, shall apply to  
14 any election held for the choice of a national, State, district or

15 county officer, whether for a full term or for the filling of a  
16 vacancy, and the term "State officer" shall apply to any person  
17 to be chosen by the qualified voters at such an election. The  
18 term "city election" shall apply to any municipal election so held  
19 in a city, and the term "city officer" shall apply to any person  
20 to be chosen by the qualified voters at such an election.

*Nominations of Candidates.*

SECT. 2. Any convention of delegates, and any caucus or  
2 meeting of qualified voters, as hereinafter defined, and individual  
3 voters to the number and in the manner hereinafter specified,  
4 may nominate candidates for public office, whose names shall be  
5 placed upon the ballots to be furnished as herein provided.

SECT. 3. Any convention of delegates representing a political  
2 party which, at the gubernatorial election next preceding, polled  
3 at least one per cent. of the entire vote cast in the State for  
4 governor, or in the electoral district or division thereof for which  
5 the nomination is made, and any caucus called and held by such  
6 a political party in any such electoral district or division, may  
7 for the State, or for the district or division for which the con-  
8 vention or caucus is held, as the case may be, by causing a cer-  
9 tificate of nomination to be duly filed, make one such nomination  
10 for each office therein to be filled at the election. Every such  
11 certificate of nomination shall state such facts as may be required  
12 as above for its acceptance, and as are required in section five of  
13 this act; shall be signed by the presiding officer and by the Sec-  
14 retary of the convention or caucus, who shall add thereto their  
15 places of residence; and shall be sworn by them to be true to the  
16 best of their knowledge and belief, and a certificate of the oath  
17 shall be annexed to the certificate of nomination.

SECT. 4. Nominations of candidates for any offices to be  
2 filled by the voters of the State at large may be made by nom-  
3 ination papers signed in the aggregate for each candidate by not

4 less than one thousand qualified voters of the State. Nomina-  
5 tions of candidates for electoral districts or divisions of the State  
6 may be made by nomination papers signed in the aggregate for  
7 each candidate by qualified voters of such district or division,  
8 not less in number than one for every one hundred persons who  
9 voted at the next preceding gubernatorial election in such dis-  
10 trict or division, but in no case less than fifty. In the case of a  
11 first election to be held in a town or ward newly established, the  
12 number of fifty shall be sufficient for the nomination of a candi-  
13 date who is to be voted for only in such town or ward; and in  
14 the case of a first election in a district or division newly estab-  
15 lished, other than a town or ward, the number of fifty shall be so  
16 sufficient. Each voter signing a nomination paper shall make  
17 his signature in person, and add to it his place of residence, and  
18 each voter may subscribe to one nomination for each office to be  
19 filled, and no more. The nomination papers shall before being  
20 filed be respectively submitted to the clerks of the cities or  
21 towns in which the signers purport to be qualified voters, and  
22 each clerk to whom the same is submitted shall forthwith certify  
23 thereon what number of the signatures are names of qualified  
24 voters both in the city or town for which he is a clerk and in the  
25 district or division for which the nomination is made; one of  
26 the signers to each such separate paper shall swear that the  
27 statements therein are true, to the best of his knowledge and  
28 belief, and the certificate of such oath shall be annexed.

SECT. 5. All certificates of nomination and nomination papers  
2 shall, besides containing the names of candidates, specify as to  
3 each (1) the office for which he is nominated; (2) the party or  
4 political principle which he represents, expressed in not more  
5 than three words; (3) his place of residence, with street and  
6 number thereon, if any. In the case of electors of president  
7 and vice president of the United States, the names of the candi-  
8 dates for president and vice president may be added to the party  
9 or political appellation.

SECT. 6. Certificates of nomination and nomination papers for the nomination of candidates for State or county offices shall be filed with the Secretary of State at least fourteen days, exclusive of Sundays, previous to the day of the election for which the candidates are nominated. Such certificates and papers for the nomination of candidates for the offices of mayor and all other offices in cities shall be filed with the city clerks of the respective cities at least ten days, exclusive of Sundays, previous to the day of such election.

SECT. 7. The certificates of nomination and nomination papers being so filed, and being in apparent conformity with the provisions of this act, shall be deemed to be valid, unless objection thereto is duly made in writing. Such objections or other questions arising in relation thereto in the case of nominations of State or County officers shall be considered by the Secretary of State and the Adjutant General and Attorney General, and the decision of the majority of these officers shall be final. Such objections or questions arising in the case of nominations of city officers shall be considered by the municipal officers, and their decision shall be final. In case such objection is made, notice shall forthwith be mailed to the candidates affected thereby, addressed to their residences as given in the certificates of nomination or nomination papers.

SECT. 8. In case a candidate who has been duly nominated under the provisions of this act, shall die before the day of election, the vacancy may be supplied by the political party or other persons making the original nomination, in the manner therein provided for such nomination; or, if the time is insufficient therefor, then the vacancy may be supplied, if the nomination was made by a convention or caucus, in such manner as the convention or caucus has previously provided for the purpose. or, in case of no such previous provision, then by a regularly elected general or executive committee, representing the political party

11 or persons holding such convention or caucus. The certificates  
12 of nomination made for supplying such vacancy shall state, in  
13 addition to the other facts required by this act, the name of the  
14 original nominee, the date of his death, and the measures taken  
15 in accordance with the above requirements for filling the vacancy ;  
16 and it shall be signed and sworn to by the presiding officer and  
17 secretary of the convention or caucus, or by the chairman and  
18 secretary of the duly authorized committee, as the case may be.  
19 The name so supplied for the vacancy shall, if the ballots have  
20 not been printed for the office already, be placed on the ballots,  
21 instead of the original nomination ; or, if the ballots have been  
22 printed, new ballots containing the new nomination shall, when-  
23 ever practicable, be furnished.

SECT. 9. Any person whose name has been presented as a  
2 candidate may cause his name to be withdrawn from nomination,  
3 by request in writing, signed by him and acknowledged before  
4 an officer qualified to take acknowledgments of deeds and filed  
5 with the Secretary of State ten days, exclusive of Sundays, or  
6 with the proper city clerk seven days, exclusive of Sundays, as  
7 the case may be, previous to the day of election, and no name so  
8 withdrawn shall be printed upon the ballots, provided that the  
9 political party or other persons making the original nomination,  
10 may fill the vacancy in the same manner as provided in case of  
11 death of nominee, and file certificate of nomination with the  
12 Secretary of State, within seven days, exclusive of Sundays, or  
13 with the proper city clerk, within five days, exclusive of Sunday,  
14 as the case may be, previous to the day of election. No nomina-  
15 tion published and posted as herein provided shall be subsequently  
16 omitted as invalid.

SECT. 10. All certificates of nomination and nomination papers  
2 when filed shall be opened under proper regulations to public inspec-  
3 tion, and the Secretary of State and the several city clerks shall  
4 preserve the same in their respective offices not less than one year.

*Form of Ballots.*

SECT. 11. Every general ballot, or ballot intended for the use  
2 of all voters, which shall be printed in accordance with the pro-  
3 visions of this act, shall contain the names, residences, together  
4 with street and number, if any, and the party or political desig-  
5 nation of all candidates whose nominations for any office specified  
6 in the ballot have been duly made and not withdrawn in accord-  
7 ance herewith, and shall contain no other names. Except that in  
8 the case of electors of president and vice president of the United  
9 States the names of the candidates for president and vice presi-  
10 dent may be added to the party or political designation. The  
11 names of candidates for each office shall be arranged under the  
12 designation of the office in alphabetical order, according to sur-  
13 names, except that the names of candidates for the offices of  
14 electors of president and vice president shall be arranged in  
15 groups, as presented in the several certificates of nomination or  
16 nomination papers. There shall be left at the end of the list of  
17 candidates for each different office, as many blank spaces as there  
18 are persons to be elected to such office in which the voter may  
19 insert the name of any person, not printed on the ballot, for  
20 whom he desires to vote as candidate for such office. When-  
21 ever the approval of a constitutional amendment or other question  
22 is submitted to the vote of the people, such questions shall be  
23 printed upon the ballot after the list of candidates.

The ballots shall be so printed as to give to each voter a clear  
25 opportunity to designate by a cross mark [X] in a sufficient  
26 margin at the right of the name of each candidate, his choice of  
27 candidates and his answer to the questions submitted, and on the  
28 ballot may be printed such words as will aid the voter to do this,  
29 as "vote for one," "vote for three," "yes," "no," and the like.

The ballot shall be not less than four inches in width and not  
31 less than six inches in length. Before distribution the ballots

32 shall be so folded in marked creases that their width and length  
33 when folded shall be uniform. On the back and outside, when  
34 folded shall be printed "Official Ballot for," followed by the  
35 designation of the polling place for which the ballot is prepared,  
36 the date of the election, and a fac-simile of the signature of the  
37 Secretary of State or city clerk who has caused the ballot to be  
38 printed. Except as otherwise herein provided, ballots shall be  
39 printed in accordance with the existing provisions of law.

SECT. 12. All ballots when printed shall be folded as herein-  
2 before provided and fastened together in convenient numbers in  
3 books or blocks, in such manner that each ballot may be detached  
4 and removed separately. A record of the number of ballots  
5 printed and furnished to each polling place shall be kept and pre-  
6 served by the Secretary of State and the several city clerks for  
7 the term of one year.

SECT. 13. There shall be provided for each voting place, at  
2 which an election is to be held, two sets of such general ballots,  
3 each of not less than seventy-five for every fifty and fraction of  
4 fifty voters therein, and it shall be the duty of the clerks in each  
5 city or town in which an election for State or county officers is  
6 to be held to certify to the Secretary of State fourteen days  
7 previous to any such election, the number of qualified voters in  
8 each city or in each town.

*Information of Voters.*

SECT. 14. The Secretary of State in case of a State election,  
2 and the several city clerks, in case of city elections, shall prepare  
3 full instructions for the guidance of voters at such elections, as  
4 to obtaining ballots, as to the manner of marking them, and the  
5 method of gaining assistance, and as to obtaining new ballots in  
6 place of those accidentally spoiled, and they shall respectively  
7 cause the same, together with copies of sections twenty-nine,  
8 thirty, thirty-one and thirty-two of this act to be printed in large,



9 clear type, on separate cards, to be called cards of instructions ;  
10 and they shall respectively furnish the same and the ballots for  
11 use in each such election. They shall also cause to be printed  
12 on tinted paper, and without the fac-simile endorsements, ten or  
13 more copies of the form of the ballot provided for each voting  
14 place at each election therein, which shall be called specimen  
15 ballots and shall be furnished with the other ballots provided for  
16 each such voting place.

SECT. 15. The Secretary of State shall, six days at least pre-  
2 vious to the day of any election of State or county officers, trans-  
3 mit to the clerks in each city and town in which such election is  
4 to be held, printed lists containing the names, residences, and  
5 party or political appellations of all candidates nominated as  
6 herein provided for such election and to be voted for at each poll-  
7 ing place in each such city and town respectively, substantially  
8 in the form of the general ballot to be so used therein ; and the  
9 clerks shall immediately cause the lists for each town or ward,  
10 as the case may be, to be conspicuously posted in one or more  
11 public places in such town or ward. The Secretary of State shall  
12 likewise cause to be published prior to the day of any such election,  
13 in at least two newspapers, if there be so many, published in  
14 each county, representing, so far as practicable, the political  
15 parties which, at the preceding election, cast the largest and next  
16 largest number of votes, a list of all the nomination made as  
17 herein provided and to be voted for in such county, so far as may  
18 be, in the form in which they shall appear upon the general  
19 ballots.

SECT. 16. The city clerk of each city shall four days at least  
2 prior to the day of any city election therein, cause to be conspic-  
3 uously posted in one or more public places in each ward of such  
4 city a printed list containing the names, residences, and party or  
5 political appellations of all candidates nominated, as herein pro-  
6 vided, and to be voted for in such ward, substantially in the  
7 form of the general ballot to be so used therein ; and he shall like-

8 wise cause to be published, prior to the day of such election, in  
9 at least two newspapers, if there be so many, published in such  
10 city, representing the political parties which cast at the preceding  
11 election the largest and next largest number of votes, a list of  
12 all the nominations made, as herein provided, and to be voted  
13 for in such city, so far as may be, in the form in which they shall  
14 appear upon the general ballots.

*Delivery of Ballots to Cities and Towns.*

SECT. 17. The Secretary of State shall send, separately and  
2 at different times or by different methods, the two sets of general  
3 and special ballots, together with the specimen ballots, and cards  
4 of instruction printed by him, as herein provided, to the several  
5 city and town clerks, so as to be received by them, one set 48  
6 hours at least previous to the day of election, and the other set  
7 24 hours at least previous thereto. The same shall be sent in  
8 sealed packages, with marks on the outside clearly designating  
9 the polling place for which they are intended and the number of  
10 ballots of each kind enclosed; and the respective city and town  
11 clerks shall on delivery to them of such packages return receipts  
12 therefor to the Secretary. The Secretary shall keep a record of  
13 the time when, and the manner in which the several packages are  
14 sent, and shall preserve for the period of one year the receipts of  
15 the city and town clerks.

SECT. 18. The two sets of ballots together with the specimen  
2 ballots and cards of instruction printed by the city clerks, as  
3 herein provided, shall be packed by them in separate sealed  
4 packages, with marks on the outside clearly designating the poll-  
5 ing places for which they are intended, and the number of ballots  
6 of each kind enclosed.

SECT. 19. The several city and town clerks shall send to the  
2 election officers of each voting place before the opening of the  
3 polls on the day of election one set of ballots so prepared, sealed

4 and marked for such voting place, and a receipt of such delivery  
5 shall be returned to them from the presiding or senior election  
6 officer present, which receipt, with a record of the number of  
7 ballots sent, shall be kept in the clerk's office for one year. At  
8 the opening of the polls in each polling place the seals of the  
9 packages shall be publicly broken, and the packages shall be  
10 opened by the presiding election officer, and the books or blocks  
11 of ballots shall be delivered to the ballot officers hereinafter pro-  
12 vided for. The cards of instruction shall be immediately posted  
13 at or in each voting shelf or compartment provided in accordance  
14 with this act for the marking of the ballots, and not less than  
15 three such cards and not less than five specimen ballots shall be  
16 immediately posted in or about the polling rooms, outside the  
17 guard rails. The second set of ballots shall be retained by the  
18 respective clerks until they are called for or needed for the pur-  
19 poses of voting, and, upon the requisition in writing of the pre-  
20 siding election officer of any voting place, the second set of  
21 ballots shall be furnished to such voting place in the manner  
22 above provided as to the first set.

SECT. 20. In case the ballots to be furnished to any city or  
2 town or voting place therein, in accordance with the provisions  
3 of this act, shall fail for any reason to be duly delivered, or in  
4 case after delivery they shall be destroyed or stolen, it shall be  
5 the duty of the clerk of such city or town to cause other ballots  
6 to be prepared substantially in the form of the ballots so wanting  
7 and to be furnished; and upon receipt of such other ballots from  
8 him, accompanied by a statement under oath that the same have  
9 been so prepared and furnished by him, and that the original  
10 ballots have so failed to be received or have been so destroyed  
11 or stolen, the election officers shall cause the ballots so substituted  
12 to be used in lieu of the ballots wanting as above.

*Additional Election Officers.*

SECT. 21. The municipal officers of cities, towns and plantations shall biennially in the month of May appoint clerks for each polling place. For each polling place in cities and towns four clerks, and for each polling place in plantations, and for each island ward of the city of Portland and for the island district of the town of Cumberland and for every town of less than one hundred votes two clerks shall be appointed. Said clerks shall equally represent each of the political parties which cast the largest number of votes in the State election next preceding their appointment. Each of said officers shall be sworn to the faithful performance of his duties, and shall hold office for two years from the date of his appointment, and until a successor is appointed and qualified, or he is removed. Such election officers shall attend at the times and places designated for meetings in their respective wards, towns or plantations for the election of any national, State, county or ward officers, and for the determination of any question submitted to the qualified voters of any city by lawful authority, and shall receive such reasonable compensation for each day's actual service as the municipal officers of their respective cities, towns and plantations may determine. No person shall be eligible to the position of election officer in any ward, town or plantation where he is a candidate to be voted for.

Two of the clerks in each polling place shall be detailed to act as ballot clerks. The two ballot clerks thus detailed and appointed in each polling place shall have the charge of the ballots therein, and shall furnish them to the voters in the manner hereinafter set forth.

A duplicate list of the qualified voters in each ward, town or plantation shall be prepared for the use of the ballot clerks, and all the provisions of law relative to the preparation, furnishing and preservation of check lists shall apply to such duplicate lists.

*Voting Shelves or Compartments.*

SECT. 22. The municipal officers in each city, town or plantation, shall cause the polling places therein to be suitably provided with a sufficient number of voting shelves or compartments, at or in which voters may conveniently mark their ballots so that in the marking thereof they may be screened from the observation of others, and a guard rail shall be so constructed and placed that only such persons as are inside said rail can approach within six feet of the ballot boxes, and of such voting shelves or compartments. The arrangement shall be such that neither the ballot boxes nor the voting shelves or compartments shall be hidden from view of those just outside the said guard rail. The number of such voting shelves or compartments shall not be less than one for every one hundred voters qualified to vote at such polling place, and not less than three in any town, and not less than five in any ward of a city. No persons other than the election officers and voters admitted as hereinafter provided, shall be permitted within said rail, except by authority of the election officers for the purpose of keeping order and enforcing the law. Each voting shelf or compartment shall be kept provided with proper supplies and conveniences for marking the ballots.

*Preparation of Ballots.*

SECT. 23. Any person desiring to vote shall give his name, and, if requested so to do, his residence, to one of the ballot clerks, who shall thereupon announce the same in a loud and distinct tone of voice, clear and audible, and if such name is found upon the check-list by the ballot officer having charge thereof, he shall likewise repeat the said name, and the voter shall be allowed to enter the space enclosed by the guard-rail, as above provided. The ballot clerk shall give him one, and only one ballot, and his name shall be immediately checked on said list.

Besides the election officers, not more than four voters in excess  
11 of the number of voting shelves or compartments provided shall  
12 be allowed in said enclosed space at one time.

SECT. 24. On receipt of his ballot the voter shall forthwith,  
2 and without leaving the enclosed space, retire alone to one of the  
3 voting shelves or compartments so provided and shall prepare his  
4 ballot by marking in the appropriate margin or place, a cross [X]  
5 opposite the name of the candidate of his choice for each office  
6 to be filled, or by filling in the name of the candidate of his  
7 choice in the blank space provided therefor, and making a cross  
8 [X] opposite thereto; and, in case of a question submitted to  
9 the vote of the people, by marking in the appropriate margin or  
10 place, a cross [X] against the answer which he desires to give.  
11 Before leaving the voting shelf or compartment the voter shall  
12 fold his ballot, without displaying the marks thereon, in the  
13 same way it was folded when received by him, and he shall keep  
14 the same so folded until he has voted. He shall vote in the  
15 manner now provided by law before leaving the enclosed space,  
16 and shall deposit his ballot in the box with the official endorse-  
17 ment uppermost. He shall mark and deposit his ballot without  
18 undue delay and shall quit said enclosed space as soon as he has  
19 voted. No such voter shall be allowed to occupy a voting shelf  
20 or compartment already occupied by another, nor to remain  
21 within said enclosed space more than ten minutes, nor to occupy  
22 a voting shelf or compartment for more than five minutes in case  
23 all of such shelves or compartments are in use, and other voters  
24 are waiting to occupy the same. No voter not an election officer  
25 whose name has been checked on the list of the ballot officers,  
26 shall be allowed to re-enter said enclosed space during said elec-  
27 tion. It shall be the duty of the presiding election officer for the  
28 time being to secure the observance of the provisions of this  
29 section.

SECT. 25. No person shall take or remove any ballot from  
2 the polling place before the close of the polls. If any voter

3 spoils a ballot he may successively obtain others one at a time,  
4 not exceeding three in all, upon returning each spoiled one. The  
5 ballots thus returned shall be immediately cancelled, and together  
6 with those not distributed to the voters, shall be preserved and  
7 with the check-list used by the ballot clerks, which shall be certi-  
8 fied by them to be such, shall be secured in an envelope, sealed,  
9 and sent to the several city and town clerks, as required by law  
10 in the case of the ballots cast, and the other check-list used.

SECT. 26. Any voter who declares to the presiding election  
2 officer that he cannot read, or that by blindness or other physical  
3 disability he is unable to mark his ballot, shall, upon request,  
4 receive the assistance of one or two of the election officers in  
5 the marking thereof, and such officer or officers shall certify on  
6 the outside thereof that it was so marked with his or their assistance,  
7 and shall thereafter give no information regarding the same.  
8 The presiding officer may, in his discretion, require such declara-  
9 tion of disability to be made by the voter under oath before him,  
10 and he is hereby qualified to administer the same.

SECT. 27. If a voter marks more names than there are persons  
2 to be elected to an office, or if for any reason it is impossible to  
3 determine the voter's choice for an office to be filled, his ballot  
4 shall not be counted for such office. No ballot without the offi-  
5 cial endorsement shall, except as herein otherwise provided, be  
6 allowed to be deposited in the ballot box, and none but ballots  
7 provided in accordance with the provisions of this act shall be  
8 counted. Ballots not counted shall be marked "defective" on  
9 the back thereof, and shall be preserved, as required by section  
10 twenty-five.

*Time of Opening and Closing the Polls.*

SECT. 28. Meetings for the election of National, State,  
2 County and Municipal Officers may be opened as early as six  
3 o'clock a. m., and in no case shall the polls be kept open later

4 than five o'clock p. m., and notice of the time of opening and  
5 closing shall be given in the warrant calling the meeting.

*Penalties.*

SECT. 29. A voter who shall, except as herein otherwise  
2 provided, allow his ballot to be seen by any person with an  
3 apparent intention of letting it be known how he is about to vote,  
4 or who shall make a false statement as to his inability to mark  
5 his ballot, or any person who shall interfere, or attempt to in-  
6 terfere with any voter when inside said enclosed space, or when  
7 marking his ballot, or who shall endeavor to induce any voter  
8 before voting to show how he marks or has marked his ballot,  
9 shall be punished by fine of not less than five dollars, nor more  
10 than one hundred dollars; and election officers shall report any  
11 person so doing to the police officer in charge of the polls, whose  
12 duty it shall be to see that the offender is duly brought before  
13 the proper court.

SECT. 30. Any person who shall, prior to an election, wilfully  
2 deface or destroy any list of candidates posted in accordance  
3 with the provisions of this act, or who, during an election, shall  
4 wilfully deface, tear down, remove or destroy any card of instruc-  
5 tion or specimen ballot printed or posted for the instruction of  
6 voters, or who shall, during an election, wilfully remove or des-  
7 troy any of the supplies or conveniences furnished to enable a  
8 voter to prepare his ballot, or shall wilfully hinder the voting of  
9 others, shall be punished by fine of not less than five dollars nor  
10 more than one hundred dollars.

SECT. 31. Any person who shall falsely make or wilfully deface  
2 or destroy any certificate of nomination or nomination paper, or  
3 any part thereof or any letter of withdrawal; or file any certifi-  
4 cate of nomination or nomination paper or letter of withdrawal,  
5 knowing the same or any part thereof to be falsely made; or  
6 suppress any certificate of nomination or nomination paper, or



7 any part thereof which has been duly filed ; or forge or falsely  
8 make the official endorsement on any ballot ; or wilfully destroy  
9 or deface any ballot, or wilfully delay the delivery of any ballots,  
10 or shall take or remove any ballot outside of the inclosure pro-  
11 vided for voting before the close of the polls, shall be punished  
12 by fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, or by imprisonment  
13 in the jail not more than one year, or by both such fine and  
14 imprisonment.

SECT. 32. Any public officer upon whom a duty is imposed by  
2 this act, who shall wilfully neglect to perform such duty, or who  
3 shall wilfully perform it in such a way as to hinder the objects of  
4 this act, shall be punished by a fine of not less than five, nor more  
5 than one thousand, dollars, or by imprisonment in jail for not  
6 more than one year, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

---

## STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }  
January 14, 1891. }

Presented by Mr. CLASON of Gardiner, and on his motion tabled, and  
ordered printed, pending reference to committee.

W. S. COTTON, *Clerk.*