

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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DOCUMENTS

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THE LEGISLATURE

OF THE

STATE OF MAINE,

DURING THE SESSION

A. D. 1891.



AUGUSTA:  
BURLEIGH & FLYNT, PRINTERS TO THE STATE.  
1892.

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# Sixty-Fifth Legislature.

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SENATE.

No. 199.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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

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AN ACT relating to the salary of the chairman of  
the Railroad Commissioners and the Clerk of the  
Board.

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

SECTION 1. Commencing with January first,  
2 1891, the salary of the chairman of the Board of  
3 Railroad Commissioners, shall be twenty-five hun-  
4 dred dollars per annum, and that of the clerk shall  
5 be fifteen hundred dollars per annum.

## STATEMENT OF FACTS.

The Railroad Commissioners of Maine receive \$2,000 annually, and the clerk of the Board, \$1,200. The bill referred herewith, provides that the chairman shall have \$2,500, and the clerk, \$1,500. The salaries of the other members of the Board, remaining the same as now provided.

The legal opinions and decisions of the Board, numbering from twenty-five to thirty, and averaging nearly two thousand words each, are drawn by the chairman. None of the decisions of the Board, which have been appealed to the Supreme Judicial Court, have as yet been reversed by that tribunal. The duties of the commissioners, have been greatly increased by new legislation, and to that extent, that nearly all their time, (in fact all their time, when necessary preparation is considered,) to meet the requirements of their office.

The duties of the clerk are continuous, and largely increased by the legislation of the present legislature relating to the manner that railroads are to make their annual returns.

The following statement will show that there is but one state in the Union (Dakota,) that pays so little for railroad supervision, as does the State of Maine.

New York pays commissioners \$8,000 each, six clerks \$3,000 each, and one clerk \$4,000, an accountant \$3,000, and an inspector \$3,000. Massachusetts pays \$4,000 to the chairman, \$3,500 to others, and \$2,500 each to two clerks. Dakota, commissioners, \$2,000, clerk, \$1,500. Alabama, commissioners, \$3,500 for chairman, \$3,000 for others, and clerk, \$1,800. Georgia, commissioners, \$2,500, clerk, \$1,500. Illinois, commissioners, \$3,500, clerk, \$1,500. California, commissioners, \$4,000, clerk, \$2,400. Iowa, commissioners, \$3,000, clerk, \$1,500. Kansas, commissioners, \$3,000, clerk, \$1,500. Michigan, \$2,500, clerk, \$1,800. Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, commissioners, \$2,500, clerk, \$1,800. New Hampshire, commissioners, chairman, \$2,500, others, \$2,000, clerk, \$2,200.

It will be seen that, by the foregoing, that the salaries of the commissioners and clerk are below nearly all the states in the Union.

The salaries of the commissioners and clerk, and all expenses arising from the discharge of their duties, are paid by a separate tax from all other taxes, assessed upon the railroads in the State.

Therefore the passage of this bill cannot in any way add to the burdens of taxation.

STATE OF MAINE.

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IN SENATE, March 14, 1891.

Reported by Mr. MOORE, from Committee on Railroads, Telegraphs  
and Expresses, and laid on table to be printed under joint rules.

KENDALL M. DUNBAR, *Secretary.*