

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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Sixty-Seventh Legislature.

HOUSE.

No. 133.

STATE OF MAINE.

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

AN ACT in relation to the Inspection of Buildings, so as to
lessen the danger from fires.

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

SECTION 1. In every town and city of more than two
2 thousand inhabitants, the municipal officers shall annually
3 in the month of April appoint an inspector of buildings,
4 who shall be a man skilled in the construction of build-
5 ings. The municipal officers shall define the limits within
6 which the inspector of buildings shall have jurisdiction,
7 which shall include the thickly settled portion of each
8 such city, and of each village in each such city or town.

SECT. 2. It shall be his duty to inspect each new build-
2 ing during the process of construction, so far as may be
3 necessary to see that all proper safeguards against the
4 catching or spreading of fire are used, that the chimneys

5 and flues are made safe, and that proper cut-offs are
6 placed between the timbers in the walls and floorings where
7 fire would be likely to spread ; and may give such direc-
8 tions in writing to the owner or contractor as he deems
9 necessary, concerning the construction of such building so
10 as to render the same safe from the catching and spread-
11 ing of fire.

SECT. 3. It shall be his duty to inspect all buildings
2 while in process of being repaired, and see that all reason-
3 able safeguards are used against the catching and spreading
4 of fire, and that the chimneys and flues are made safe ; and
5 he may give such directions in writing to the owner as he
6 deems necessary concerning such repairs, as to render such
7 building safe from the catching and spreading of fire.

SECT. 4. It shall be his duty at least once in three
2 years, and oftener when required by the municipal officers,
3 to inspect chimneys, flues, funnels, stoves, furnaces, boil-
4 ers and boiler connections, and heating apparatus in all the
5 buildings within his jurisdiction, in which fire is kept or
6 used, to ascertain if the same are safe against fire. He
7 may give such directions in writing as he may deem
8 necessary to the owner of said building to make changes
9 in the construction or situation of such chimneys, flues,
10 funnels, stoves, furnaces, boilers, boiler connections and
11 heating apparatus, so as to make the same safe as afore-
12 said. And the municipal officers may require such inspec-
13 tion of any particular building at any time.

SECT. 5. An inspector of buildings in the performance
2 of his official duty may enter any building for the purposes
3 of making the inspection required by this act.

SECT. 6. An appeal in writing may be taken from any order or direction of the inspector of buildings to the municipal officers, whose order thereon shall be final.

SECT. 7. No new building shall be occupied until the inspector of buildings has given a certificate that the same has been built in accordance with the provisions of this act, and so as to be safe from fire; if the owner permits it to be so occupied without such certificate, he shall be liable to a fine of ten dollars for each week he permits such building to be so occupied, to be recovered by complaint or indictment.

SECT. 8. If the owner of any building neglects or refuses for more than thirty days to comply with any direction of the inspector of buildings given as aforesaid, concerning the repairs on any building, as provided in section three, or to make such changes in the construction or situation of chimneys, flues, funnels, stoves, furnaces, boilers, and boiler connections, and heating apparatus, as may be required by such inspector of buildings, under the provisions of section four, or as he may be confirmed by the municipal officers on appeal, he shall be liable to a fine of ten dollars for each week he so neglects or refuses, to be recovered by complaint or indictment.

SECT. 9. Any owner or occupant of a building, who refuses to permit an inspector of buildings to enter his building or wilfully obstructs him in the inspection of such building as required by this act, shall be liable to a fine of not less than one nor more than twenty dollars, to be recovered by complaint or indictment.

SECT. 10. Municipal courts and trial justices shall have jurisdiction of the offences named in sections seven-eight and nine.

SECT. 11. Towns and cities may make by-laws not
2 inconsistent with this act, defining more particularly the
3 duties of such inspector of buildings, and the rules and
4 regulations by which he is to be governed.

SECT. 12. Municipal officers shall determine the com-
2 pensation or salary of the inspector of buildings.

SECT. 13. This act shall take effect when approved.

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, }
February 15, 1895. }

Reported by Mr. HUTCHINSON of Auburn, from Committee on
Mercantile Affairs and Insurance, and ordered printed under joint rules.

W. S. COTTON, *Clerk.*