

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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# Sixty-Ninth Legislature.

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HOUSE.

No. 278.

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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IN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

March 7, 1899.

*Ordered,* That with a view to the equalization of taxation  
2 in this State, and ascertaining the just proportional part of  
3 the public burdens which should be borne by the various  
4 classes of property, rights, and franchises held and exercised  
5 in the State which may not be the subject of State, county  
6 and municipal taxation according to their respective fair  
7 values, the committee upon taxation be and hereby is author-  
8 ized and directed to inquire into the expediency of amending  
9 the statutes so that a tax shall be assessed upon property  
10 situated in unincorporated places at a rate equal to the aver-  
11 age of state, county and municipal taxation; of changing the  
12 method of taxation of steam and street railroads so that the  
13 franchise tax paid by such railroads in addition to the State,  
14 county and municipal taxation on property owned by them  
15 shall at all times be equal to their just and proportional part

16 of the revenue to be raised; of taxing such portion of the  
17 capital of corporations organized and doing business in this  
18 State, as is not invested in property which is subject to and  
19 pays municipal taxes in some of the cities or towns of this  
20 State; of providing for an annual franchise tax upon the  
21 capital stock of corporations organized under the laws of  
22 this State, but doing business elsewhere; of changing the  
23 statutes in relation to the taxation of the stock and deposits  
24 of trust companies organized under the laws of this State;  
25 of changing the method of taxation of telegraph, telephone  
26 and express companies, and of assessing a tax upon all sleep-  
27 ing and parlor car companies and car trusts doing business  
28 in this State so that a just proportion of the State revenue  
29 may be collected from these sources; of amending the stat-  
30 utes so as to require the filing with the assessors of every  
31 town and city an inventory under oath, of all taxable property  
32 of the several inhabitants thereof, and of inquiring into the  
33 amount of taxes paid by foreign and domestic life and fire  
34 insurance companies and by savings banks and all other cor-  
35 porations not hereinbefore enumerated and whether the same  
36 is fair and reasonable; and said committee is authorized and  
37 directed after the inquiry herein provided for to report to  
38 the legislature on the whole subject matter of this order by  
39 bill, or otherwise.



STATE OF MAINE.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Augusta, March 7, 1899.

Ordered printed and distributed, on motion of Mr. PHILBROOK of  
Waterville

W. S. COTTON, *Clerk.*