

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE

SENATE.

No. 15

STATE OF MAINE.

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD ONE THOUSAND NINE
HUNDRED AND FIVE.

AN ACT in relation to desertion from the military service of
the United States and from the militia of this State.

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

Every deserter from the military service of the United
2 States, or from the militia of this State, when called forth by
3 the governor, or, in time of invasion, insurrection or rebel-
4 lion, by the President of the United States, shall be deemed
5 to have voluntarily relinquished his right to vote at all elec-
6 tions, and shall not be entitled to participate in elections in
7 this State until he shall have returned to the command from
8 which he deserted, made good the time lost in desertion, and
9 served out the term of his original enlistment.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF,
WASHINGTON.

December 27, 1904.

Hon. John F. Hill, Governor of Maine, Augusta, Maine:

DEAR SIR: Will you pardon me for inviting your attention to the suggestion in the matter of a remedy for the offense of desertion in time of peace, which was contained in my annual report for this year, a copy of which was mailed to you on November 28, 1904.

Governor Durbin of Indiana has asked me to furnish him with the draft of a clause of legislation calculated to carry the idea into effect, and has suggested that such a draft be furnished the executives of other states and territories.

It gives me great pleasure to enclose the draft of a clause which, if generally adopted, will be calculated to apply a remedy to existing conditions, and will enable a considerable number of men now absent in desertion to return to their commands and to re-establish their standing and reputation as soldiers, and thus become entitled to an honorable discharge from the military service.

I find that in many, if not most, of the states, the statutes regulating suffrage operate, in the case of certain offenses, to deprive the offender of the elective franchise. When such laws exist, new causes of disqualification are sometimes added to an existing statute by legislative amendment, and the enclosed draft is believed to be well adapted to that form of enactment. If I can further serve you in this matter I am sure that you will command me freely at any time: and I remain, as always,

Faithfully yours,

ADNA R. CHAFFEE,
Lieutenant General, Chief of Staff.

STATE OF MAINE.

IN SENATE, January 20, 1905.

Presented by Mr. MORSE of Waldo, and on motion by same Senator,
laid on table to be printed pending reference.

KENDALL M. DUNBAR, *Secretary*.