

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

SEVENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

HOUSE.

No. 619

STATE OF MAINE.

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

AN ACT for the preservation and better protection of ballots.

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

Section twenty-five of chapter six of the revised statutes is
2 hereby amended by adding in the sixteenth line after the
3 word "record" the words following: 'and shall be kept by
4 him securely locked in an iron safe whenever such city, town
5 or plantation shall so provide the same for his use as such
6 clerk,' and by adding after the word "ballots" in the nine-
7 teenth line the words following: and any such clerk who shall
8 wilfully and intentionally refuse or neglect to so safely keep

9 secured such ballots, as herein above provided,' so that said
10 section as amended shall read as follows :

'Sect. 25. No person shall take or remove any ballot from
12 the polling place before the close of the polls. If any voter
13 spoils a ballot he may successively obtain others, one at a
14 time, not exceeding three in all, upon returning each spoiled
15 one. The ballots thus returned shall be immediately can-
16 celed, and together with those not distributed to the voters,
17 shall be preserved, and with the check lists used, which shall
18 be certified by the ballot clerks, to be such, shall be secured,
19 sealed, and sent to the several city, town and plantation clerks,
20 and by them be preserved for six months as a public record.
21 The ballots shall be sorted and counted in open town or ward
22 meeting in such manner as to afford the electors ample oppor-
23 tunity to observe the sorting and counting; and when the
24 ballots have been sorted and counted and the results declared
25 and recorded, all the ballots shall, in open meeting, be sealed
26 in a package, which said package, together with the check
27 lists sealed in the same manner as the ballots, shall forthwith
28 be returned to the city, town or plantation clerk, to be pre-
29 served by him as a public record, and shall be kept by him
30 securely locked in an iron safe, whenever such city, town or
31 plantation shall so provide the same for his use as such clerk,
32 for six months, and any warden, ballot clerk, city or town
33 clerk or other person who shall abstract from or in any man-
34 ner tamper with said packages, or who shall in any manner
35 abstract from or tamper with the unused ballots, and any

36 such clerk who shall wilfully and intentionally refuse or
37 neglect to so safely keep secured such ballots, as herein above
38 provided, shall be punished by a fine not less than two hun-
39 dred nor more than one thousand dollars, or by imprison-
40 ment for not less than ninety days nor more than two years.'

STATE OF MAINE.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Augusta, March 18, 1907.

Reported by Mr. SMITH from Committee on Judiciary, and ordered
printed under joint rules.

E. M. THOMPSON. *Clerk.*