

# MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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NEW DRAFT.

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# SEVENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE

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HOUSE.

No. 181

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## STATE OF MAINE.

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

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AN ACT relative to the use of the Cinematograph.

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*Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine, as follows:*

Section 1. No cinematograph or similar apparatus, involving the use of a combustible film more than ten inches in length, shall be kept, used or exhibited in any building, place of public assemblage or place or building used for entertainment, whether such place or building has been licensed for public entertainment or not unless a license or permit shall have been first obtained from the municipal officers of the city or town in which said cinematograph or similar apparatus is kept or exhibited, and said cine-

10 matograph or similar apparatus shall be placed in an en-  
11 closure or booth consisting of a steel frame covered with  
12 asbestos-wood and constructed and located in accordance  
13 with the specifications hereinafter provided, and the en-  
14 trances and exits or fire escapes connected with such public  
15 building, place of public assemblage or place or building  
16 erected in accordance with the specifications hereinafter set  
17 forth.

Sect. 2. Any person desiring to keep, exhibit or use any  
2 cinematograph or similar apparatus in any place or building  
3 described in section one of this act shall make application  
4 to the municipal officers of the city or town in which such  
5 place or building is located for a permit or license to keep,  
6 exhibit or use such cinematograph or similar apparatus  
7 therein, and upon receipt of said application the municipal  
8 officers of said city or town shall inspect or cause to be  
9 inspected the enclosure or housing provided for such cine-  
10 matograph or similar apparatus and shall also inspect or  
11 cause to be inspected any such cinematograph or similar  
12 apparatus, and shall also inspect the entrances and exits  
13 or fire escapes. If, as a result of such inspection they are  
14 convinced that the specifications hereinafter provided are  
15 fully complied with, and such cinematograph or similar  
16 apparatus is found to be in a safe and suitable condition  
17 to be stored, exhibited or used, and that the entrances and  
18 exits or fire escapes of such public buildings, place of public  
19 assemblage, or place or building, that they may issue a

20 permit or license to the person desiring to keep, use or  
21 exhibit, such cinematograph or similar apparatus, which  
22 license or permit shall state the name of the makers, trade  
23 name and number, and the serial number of such cinemato-  
24 graph and the place in which it is to be kept, used or ex-  
25 hibited. A fee for such license shall be fixed by the municipi-  
26 pal officers. No license or permit shall be granted under this  
27 section for any cinematograph or similar apparatus operated  
28 by oxyhydrogen gas, so called, or by lime light.

Sect. 3. No person shall operate any cinematograph or  
2 similar apparatus in any city or town until he has received  
3 a license or permit so to do from the municipal officers there-  
4 of. No such license to operate a cinematograph or similar  
5 apparatus shall be granted to any person under eighteen  
6 years of age nor until the applicant shall have satisfied the  
7 municipal officers that he is thoroughly skilled in the me-  
8 chanical and electrical apparatus or devices used in the  
9 operation of a cinematograph or similar apparatus. Such  
10 license to operate shall continue for one year and the fee  
11 therefor shall be fixed by the municipal officers.

Sect. 4. The construction of the booth or enclosure for  
2 any such cinematograph or similar instrument must conform  
3 substantially to the following specifications: All booths, or  
4 enclosures, must be at least seven feet high and the floor  
5 space to vary according to the number of machines used  
6 in said booth or enclosure. At least forty-eight square feet  
7 of floor space shall be provided for one machine and twenty-

8 four square feet for each additional machine. The material  
9 used in the construction of such booths or enclosures shall  
10 be steel or asbestos-wood sheets supported by a skeleton  
11 frame of structural steel; the asbestos-wood sides and tops  
12 shall not be less than one-quarter inch thick, and the floor  
13 space not less than three-eighths of an inch thick. Said  
14 structural steel frame shall be made of angles of tee shape  
15 not less than one and one-half inches by one and one-half  
16 inches by three-sixteenths of an inch. The door of said  
17 booth or enclosure shall be made of asbestos-wood and iron  
18 and shall be so contrived that it shall be kept closed at all  
19 times. Said booth shall also be provided with a ventilator  
20 pipe not less than twelve inches in diameter leading to the  
21 outer air, or to a chimney, with an electric fan installed so  
22 as to create at all times when the machine or machines are  
23 in operation a forced draft through said ventilator for the  
24 purpose of carrying off all gases and smoke which may  
25 arise from accidental ignition of the film. Shutters made  
26 of one-quarter inch asbestos-wood shall be provided for clos-  
27 ing the windows in the booth or enclosure which must be  
28 so contrived as to close automatically in case of accidental  
29 ignition of the film. The enclosure or housing provided for  
30 such cinematograph, moving picture machine, or other sim-  
31 ilar apparatus, shall be located above the main floor of the  
32 hall, room or building where such cinematograph, moving  
33 picture machine, or similar apparatus is located. There  
34 shall be a sufficient number of exits or fire escapes leading

35 into a street, lane, or passageway, with no obstruction to  
36 free exit.

Sect. 5. Any person keeping, using or operating any cine-  
2 matograph or similar apparatus contrary to the provisions  
3 of this act shall be punished by a fine of not less than twen-  
4 ty-five dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, to be  
5 recovered on complaint or indictment to the use of the city  
6 or town in which any such violation occurs.

Sect. 6. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent herewith are  
2 hereby repealed.







STATE OF MAINE.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Augusta, Feb. 11, 1909.

Reported by Mr. GRANT from Committee on Mercantile  
Affairs and Insurance and ordered printed under joint rules.

E. M. THOMPSON, *Clerk*.