

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NO. 145

In Senate, Feb. 28, 1911.

Introduced in House Feb. 27 by Mr. Skehan of Augusta and on motion of Mr. Gorrell of York laid on table for printing pending reference.

W. C. HANSON, Secretary.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to constitute nine hours a day's work for public employees.

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

Section 1. The service of all laborers, workmen and
2 mechanics, now or hereafter employed by the state or by
3 any county, city or town therein, or by any contractor or
4 sub-contractor for or upon any public works of the state,
5 or of any county, city or town therein is hereby restricted
6 to nine hours in any one calendar day, and it shall be un-
7 lawful for any officer of the state, or of any county, city or
8 town therein, or for any such contractor or sub-contractor
9 or other person whose duty it shall be to employ, direct or

10 control the service of such laborers, workmen or mechanics
11 to require or permit any such laborer, workman or mechanic
12 to work more than nine hours in any one calendar day, ex-
13 cept in cases of extraordinary emergency. Danger to prop-
14 erty, life, public safety or public health only shall be con-
15 sidered cases of extraordinary emergency within the mean-
16 ing of this section. In cases where a Saturday half holiday
17 is given the hours of labor upon the other working days of
18 the week may be increased sufficiently to make a total of
19 fifty-four hours for the week's work. Threat of loss of
20 employment or to obstruct or prevent the obtaining of em-
21 ployment or to refrain from employing in the future, shall
22 each be considered to be "requiring" within the meaning of
23 this section. Engineers shall be regarded as mechanics
24 within the meaning of this act. Provided, that if a petition
25 for such vote, signed by one hundred or more registered
26 voters of a city, or twenty-five legal voters of a town, is
27 filed with the city or town clerk, respectively, thirty days or
28 more before an annual election, such city or town may vote
29 to make eight hours a day's work under the same conditions
30 as provided for a nine-hour workday under this act.

Sect. 2. Every contract, excluding contracts for the pur-
2 chase of material or supplies, to which the state, or any coun-
3 ty, city or town therein is a party, which may involve the
4 employment of laborers, workmen or mechanics, shall con-
5 tain a stipulation that no laborer, workman or mechanic
6 working within this state, in the employ of the contractor,
7 sub-contractor or other person doing or contracting to do

8 the whole or a part of the work contemplated by the con-
9 tractor, shall be requested or required to work more than
10 nine hours in any one calendar day, and every such contract
11 which does not contain this stipulation shall be null and void.

Sect. 3. Any agent or official of the state or of any county,
2 city or town therein or any contractor or sub-contractor or
3 any agent or person acting on behalf of any contractor or
4 sub-contractor who violates any provision of this act shall
5 be punished by a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars or
6 by imprisonment for six months or both such fine and im-
7 prisonment for each offence.

Sect. 4. This act shall not apply to the preparation, print-
2 ing, shipment and delivery of ballots to be used at a caucus,
3 primary, state, city or town election, nor during the sessions
4 of the general court to persons employed in legislative print-
5 ing or binding; nor shall it apply at any time to persons em-
6 ployed in any state, county or municipal institution, on a
7 farm, or in the care of the grounds, in the stable, in the
8 domestic or kitchen and dining-room service or in store-
9 rooms and offices.

Sect. 5. At any trial arising under the provisions of this
2 act, evidence that laborers, workmen or mechanics have
3 worked or are working over nine hours in any one calendar
4 day shall be prima facie evidence of the violation of the pro-
5 visions of this act.

Sect. 6. All laws, acts and parts of acts inconsistent here-
2 with are hereby repealed.