

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NO. 376

In Senate, Feb. 25, 1913.

Came from the House referred to the Committee on Mercantile Affairs and Insurance, and on motion by Senator Wing of Franklin, laid on the table for printing, pending reference in concurrence.

W. E. LAWRY, Secretary.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to amend sections twenty, twenty-eight, and thirty-four of chapter twenty-eight of the Revised Statutes, relating to Prevention of Fires, and Inspection of Buildings.

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

Section 1. Section twenty of chapter twenty-eight of the
2 revised statutes is hereby amended by inserting after the
3 word "officers" in the first line of said section the words
4 'and board of engineers in towns where such a board ex-
5 ists;' by inserting after the word "officers" in the fifth and
6 ninth lines of said section the words 'or board,' so that said
7 section as amended shall read as follows:

'Sect. 20. In every town, the municipal officers and board
9 of engineers in towns where such a board exists, may make
10 regulations, in conformity to which shall be kept in the
11 town or transported from place to place all gunpowder,
12 petroleum, coal-oils, burning fluids, naphtha, benzine and all
13 other explosive and illuminating substances, which such
14 officers or board adjudge dangerous to the lives or safety
15 of citizens; and no person shall keep any such article in
16 any other quantity or manner than is prescribed in such
17 regulations under a penalty of not less than twenty, nor
18 more than one hundred dollars for each offense; all such
19 articles may be seized by any of said officers or board as
20 forfeited; and within twenty days after such seizure may
21 be libeled according to law.

Sect. 2. Section twenty-eight of said chapter twenty-
2 eight is hereby amended by inserting after the word "offi-
3 cers," in the second and ninth lines of said section the
4 words, 'or board of engineers,' so that said section as
5 amended shall read as follows:

'Sect. 28. He shall at least once in three years, and oftener
7 when required by the municipal officers or board of engi-
8 neers, inspect chimneys, flues, funnels, stoves, furnaces,
9 boilers and boiler connections, and heating apparatus in all
10 the buildings within his jurisdiction, in which fire is kept
11 or used, to ascertain if the same are safe against fire. He
12 may give such directions in writing as he may deem neces-
13 sary to the owner of said building to make changes in the

14 construction or situation of such chimneys, flues, funnels,
15 stoves, furnaces, boilers, boiler connections and heating
16 apparatus, so as to make the same safe as aforesaid. And
17 the municipal officers or board of engineers may require
18 such inspection of any particular building at any time.'

Sect. 3. Section thirty-four of said chapter is hereby
2 amended by inserting after the word "officers" in the first
3 line, the words 'or board of engineers;,' by inserting after
4 the "officers" in the fourth line the words 'or board;'
5 by inserting after the word "officers" in the eleventh line,
6 the words 'and board of engineers;,' and by inserting after
7 the word "officers" in the fifteenth line the words, 'or board
8 of engineers' so that said section as amended shall read as
9 follows:

'Sect. 34. The inspector of buildings and the municipal
11 officers or board of engineers of any city or town may at
12 all reasonable hours, for the purpose of examination, enter
13 into and upon all buildings and premises within their juris-
14 diction. Whenever any of said officers or board of engi-
15 neers shall find in any building or upon any premises com-
16 bustible material or inflammable conditions dangerous to
17 the safety of such buildings or premises, they shall order
18 the same to be removed or remedied, and such order shall
19 be forthwith complied with by the owner or occupant of
20 said buildings or premises; provided, however, that if the
21 said owner or occupant shall deem himself aggrieved by
22 such order when made by the inspector of buildings, he may

23 within twenty-four hours, appeal to the municipal officers
24 and board of engineers, and the cause of the complaint shall
25 be at once investigated by the direction of the latter, and
26 unless by their authority the order above named is revoked,
27 such order shall remain in force and be forthwith complied
28 with by said owner or occupant. The inspector of build-
29 ings, or the municipal officers and board of engineers shall
30 make, or cause to be made, an immediate investigation as
31 to the presence of combustible material or the existence of
32 inflammable conditions in any building or upon any prem-
33 ises under their jurisdiction, upon complaint of any person
34 having an interest in said buildings or premises or prop-
35 erty adjacent thereto. Any owner or occupant of buildings
36 or premises, failing to comply with the order of the authori-
37 ties above specified, shall be punished by a fine of not less
38 than five dollars for each day's neglect.'