

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE

SENATE

NO. 489

In Senate, March 14, 1913.

*Reported by Senator Wing from Committee on Mercantile
Affairs and Insurance and ordered printed under joint rules.*

W. E. LAWRY, Secretary.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT relating to fire inspectors and removal of fire hazards.

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

Section 1. Each town at its annual meeting shall elect at
2 least one fire ward, who shall be a fire inspector and shall
3 perform the several duties prescribed by this act; if more
4 than one fire ward is elected by any town, one of said fire
5 wards shall be designated as fire inspector of said town and
6 the other fire wards shall, under the direction of the fire in-
7 spector, assist in performing the duties imposed upon said
8 fire inspector by this act. Fire inspectors shall receive rea-
9 sonable compensation for their services to be determined
10 by the town. In towns and cities having an organized fire

11 department, the chief of such fire department shall perform
12 the duties of fire inspector under this act. The municipal
13 officers may authorize such fire inspectors to perform the
14 duties imposed upon them by sections forty-six, forty-seven
15 and forty-nine of chapter twenty-eight and when so author-
16 ized said fire inspectors shall have all the powers and shall
17 perform all the duties prescribed by said sections forty-six,
18 forty-seven and forty-nine of said chapter twenty-eight.
19 Such fire inspectors shall furnish the insurance commissioner
20 with such information as he may require and shall perform
21 such inspections as the insurance commissioner may direct.

Sect. 2. The insurance commissioner, his deputy, or the
2 fire inspector, upon the complaint of any person, or whenever
3 he or they shall deem it necessary, may inspect or cause to
4 be inspected all buildings and premises within their juris-
5 diction. Whenever any of said officers shall find any build-
6 ing or other structure which, for want of repairs, or by rea-
7 son of age or dilapidated condition, or from any other cause,
8 is especially liable to fire, and which is so situated as to en-
9 danger other property, and whenever such officer shall find
10 in or around any building combustible or explosive matter
11 or inflammable or other conditions dangerous to the safety
12 of such buildings, he or they shall order the same to be re-
13 moved or remedied, and such order shall forthwith be com-
14 plied with by the owner or occupant of such premises or
15 buildings. If such order is made by any fire inspector, such
16 owner or occupant may, within twenty-four hours, appeal

17 to the insurance commissioner, who shall, within ten days,
18 review such order and file his decision thereon, and his de-
19 cision shall be final and shall be complied with within such
20 time as may be fixed in said order or decision or the insur-
21 ance commissioner.

Sect. 3. If any person fail to comply with the order of
2 any officer under this section or of the decision of the insur-
3 ance commissioner on review, and within the time fixed, then
4 such officer is hereby empowered and authorized to cause
5 such building or premises to be forthwith repaired, torn
6 down or demolished and such materials removed and all
7 dangerous conditions remedied, as the case may be, at the
8 expense of the town in which such property is situated, and
9 if the owner thereof, within thirty days after notice in writ-
10 ing of the amount of such expense, fail, neglect or refuse to
11 repay said town the expense thereby incurred, a special tax
12 may be assessed by the town against the real estate on which
13 said building was located for the amount of such expenses
14 **and such amount shall be included in the next annual war-**
15 **rant of the treasurer to the collector of said town for col-**
16 **lection and shall be collected in the same manner as state,**
17 county and municipal taxes are collected.