

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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SEVENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

HOUSE NO. 143

House of Representatives, Feb. 11, 1915.

Ordered, That five hundred copies be printed and that the same be referred to the Committee on Judiciary.

Committee on Reference.

Presented by Mr. Robinson of Bangor.

STATE OF MAINE

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

AN ACT to amend Chapter 129 of the Public Laws of 1913, entitled An Act to create a Public Utilities Commission, prescribe its powers and duties, and provide for the regulation and control of Public Utilities.

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

Section 1 of chapter 129 of the public laws of 1913 is here-
2 by amended by inserting after the words "assistant clerk"
3 in the thirteenth line thereof, the words 'also a chief inspec-
4 tor of utilities who shall be a practical railroad man,' so that
5 said section when amended shall read as follows:

'Section 1. The Governor with the advise and consent of
7 the Council shall appoint three commissioners, one of whom

8 he shall designate as chairman, which said commissioners
9 shall be jointly known as the Public Utilities Commission.
10 Said commission shall adopt and have a seal and be provided
11 with any office at the State House in which its records shall
12 be kept. Under the direction of the Governor and Council
13 said commission may expend such sums of money as may
14 be necessary for the purchase of books, maps, stationery,
15 office furniture and supplies for procuring statistics and in-
16 formation and for defraying expenses incidental to the dis-
17 charge of its duties. A statement of such expenses shall
18 accompany its annual report. Said commission shall appoint
19 a clerk and an assistant clerk; also a chief inspector of
20 utilities who shall be a practical railroad man, who shall per-
21 form such duties as the commission may require. The clerk
22 shall keep a full and minute record of the proceedings of
23 the commission which shall be open to public inspection at
24 all times. The assistant clerk shall assist the clerk in the
25 performance of his duties, and in the absence of the clerk
26 shall have the same powers as the clerk.

No member or employee of said commission shall have any
28 official or professional connection or relation with or hold
29 any stock or securities in any public utility as herein defined,
30 operating within the State of Maine, nor shall he render any
31 professional service against any such public utility, nor shall
32 he be a member of a firm which shall render any such ser-
33 vice. No commissioner shall hold any other office of profit
34 or trust under the government of the United States or of
35 this state except the office of justice of the peace or notary

36 public, nor shall he serve on or under any committee of any
37 political party. Any wilful violation of the provisions of
38 this act by any commissioner shall constitute sufficient cause
39 for his removal by the Governor with the advice and consent
40 of the Council.

Section 2 of chapter 129 of the public laws of 1913 is here-
42 by amended by inserting after the words "fifteen hundred
43 dollars" in the fifth line thereof the words 'and the salary
44 of the chief inspector of utilities shall be left to the discre-
45 tion of the Public Utilities Commission," and also in insert-
46 ing after the word "clerks" in the sixth line thereof, the
47 words, 'the chief inspector of utilities,' so that said section
48 when amended shall read as follows:

'Sect. 2. The annual salary of each member of said com-
50 mission shall be, for the chairman five thousand dollars, and
51 for each other member four thousand five hundred dollars;
52 the salary of the clerk shall be twenty-five hundred dollars;
53 and the salary of the assistant clerk shall be fifteen hundred
54 dollars; and the salary of the chief inspector of utilities shall
55 be left to the discretion of the Public Utilities Commission;
56 and the commissioners, their clerks, the chief inspector of
57 Public Utilities, and all employees shall receive actual ex-
58 penses when travelling on official business. The chairman
59 of the commission first appointed shall hold office for seven
60 years, and the other members shall hold office for five years
61 and three years respectively; and the terms of the two latter
62 shall be designated by the Governor when making the ap-

63 pointments. Each member thereafter shall hold office for
64 seven years. Any vacancy occurring in said commission
65 shall be filled in the same manner as by original appointment,
66 but such appointment shall be only for the unexpired portion
67 of the term in which such vacancy occurs.'